

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 1986 HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC. 1630 NW 19, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

THE BIRTH OF A NEW BUSINESS

by Nancy R.

Louise Bass is incurable. These last few lazy days of summer find her busy working with a commercial designer, a sign painter, an artist here and an artist there. She is incurable with a passion that consumes most of us at least once in our lives—Louise is putting the final touches on the new beginnings of her own business.

You might say "Incurable Collector" best describes Louise. It is also the name of her new store. Touted as distinctively different fine artistic endeavors, Incurable Collector is the beginning of a dream come true-her masterwork.

Incurable Collector opens September 2, at Iglesia, located at N.W. 49 and Western. The collectibles inside Louise's store are contemporary and functional artworks of pottery, jewelry and paintings. It's funky and off-the-wall and it possesses the incurable collector's eye for good taste. "The art I select for the shop came from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, New York, Florida and, of course, Oklahoma," Louise said. "I'm so determined to give people affordable art they'd die to own, that if they can't find what they want in my store, I'll search until I find it for them!"

A native Oklahoman, Louise is a self-described "freck-led Anglo," who always seems to have a song in her heart and who is an artist in her own right. A musician with a degree in organ performance from OCU, she has earned a living as an organist and choirmaster for several OKC area churches and continues to serve as the chapel organist at Casady School.

"To me there is a great parallel between the starving artist and the starving musician," she said. "I enjoy creating something that is full of high energy or peaceful and mellow. Visual art can do the same thing."

"Incurable Collector is a place that is creative-full of energy and life. It is also mine," Louise added with a laugh.

Determined to be a successful businesswomen, Louise would like to see more women brave the business world and try owning/operating their own businesses. (In fact, Iglesia houses four retail stores, all owned by women.) "Women have so much potential and moxie," she said. "There are many businesswomen within the community already--we, as women should support them." Here, Hear.

According to Louise, Incurable Collector is not a place where the patrons will be intimidated when they walk in the door. "You don't have to have money to come visit me. That makes me uncomfortable-that makes you uncomfortable. This store is my attempt at finding freedom and relaxation." Louise added that being creatively and emotionally fulfilled and challenged are high priorities in her life. "Being satisfied in these areas spells success to me. They money comes second," she said. "Anyone who's a musician will know that."

Nevertheless, tough economic times are knocking on the doors of many Oklahomans' households these days and a person has to wonder why anyone would want to open a new retail business.

"Why wait?" Louise retorted. "I'm not exactly in a high income bracket as it is. The economy will eventually get better and the tough times will make me stronger in the long run. Besides, if I did fail, the failure would be in other peoples' eyes-not mine."

Beginning Tuesday, September 2, Incurable Collector will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Current plans for the store include quarterly happenings which will likely feature an artist. The first such event is slated for September 21 and will spotlight the recent works of Bernadette Martinez.

DON'T FORGET

The Most Exciting Event in September

CASSELBERRY/DUPREE

Sunday, Sept. 7, 4:00 p.m. Civic Center Little Theatre, OKC

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage the exchange of information, personal opinions on issues of concern to the Oklahoma women's community, and your stories and experiences.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters according to space limitations. Letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed by the author(s). Include your address and phone number. If you wish to be published anonymously, indicate so, but include your name, etc., for our information, in case the editor has questions.

Mail or deliver your letters to HSR, Inc., 1630 N.W. 19, Okla. City, OK 73106. Deadline is the 15th of each month.

To Those of You Who Will Listen and Hear:

It is with a deep sense of regret and a great loss of the respect that I did have for this small society called prison that I cry my heart out.

On June 26, 1986, a dear friend, Christian sister, singer and pianist escaped this environment. Could her escape have been avoided? Yes. For quite some time mary Hill suffered from something that made her shake spontaneously and fall from her bed to the floor.

It being that I am not a physician, I cannot say what she suffered from. But what I can say is that had the situation been different, had we not been incarcerated and restricted to the boundaries, mary would have been taken to the hospital and given the medical attention she needed from qualified physicians.

I remember checking on Mary one night especially, after she had already had a bout with this thing that caused her to stretch her hands out and throw her head back. Ironically, I was to witness her as she fell from her bed, knocking her TV set over, during which time I waited patiently for her door to open so that I could assist her if at all possible.

Mary's death could have been avoided. And it breaks my heart to know that deep inside these people were trying to kill her. I'm sorry to say this, but I can only go by the obvious. May God be my witness. Had these authorities in this fine institution not been trying to kill Mary, she would have received proper medical attention.

There isn't any logic to back up why Mary was never taken to the hospital, even after falling out of bed and bleeding from her mouth. Even after bearing scars on her neck from the fall. These are things seen with the naked eye; but not once was she treated as normal people would treat one who is suffering.

On one occasion I was awakened late at night. On that night she was lying on the floor. Although I went to help, I was told by the officers that what they were doing was their job. My reply was, "Well, get her up off the damn floor!" But, sadly, when I awoke the next morning she still lay on the floor.

Please hear me, these are events leading up to her death.

Unfortunately for Mary, on Tuesday, June 24, 1986, I was told by one of the girls that something was wrong with Mary. Upon entering her room, I encountered a bed with soiled linen, with the smell of urine. Also, blood near the place where she lays her head and crust-blood on the side of her mouth.

Is it not true that if one is suspected of bleeding internally that the best medical care possible is required? Mary bled internally, her cries were ignored. On Wednesday, June 25, 1986, I asked Mary, "How are you doing?" Mary sat on the edge of her bed, barely able to keep her head up, whispering these words, "I need some attention, I need some attention." I responded to her plea for help by going outside the quad door and telling the control room officer. The officer's reply to me was, "Oh, she'll be all right."

Now, please, will somebody tell me who is responsible, why did she die? The only explanation I can come up with is that her death was caused by the same group of individuals who house and feed me.

This must never happen again.

Respectfully.

Laurel V. Mitchell, #93665 Mabel Bassett Correctional Center

(EDITORS' NOTE: If this letter inspires you to become involved with our forgotten sisters, here are some ways you can help:

*Educate yourself about the realities of incarceration, the needs of women in prison and how you can help. Suggested reading, Ann Jones' Women Who Kill.

*Lodge your concerns with the Warden of MBCC and/or Larry Meachum, Director of the Department of Corrections.

*Become a volunteer at MBCC and help women on a one-to-one basis.

*Ask your legislator to get concerned about incarcerated women and what is happening in our correctional facilities.

*Contact your local halfway house and battered women's shelter to see what they are doing to help and how you might become involved.)

FALL MEANS RE-TREAT YOURSELF

As hot as it feels as this is written and read, we know that Fall will be here and that means it's time for Herland's semi-annual re-charging, re-juvenating Re-treat.

Start making your plans TODAY for the weekend of October 24-26, at Sequoyah State Park, on Ft. Gibson Reservoir. Located near Tahlequah and 160 miles from Oklahoma City, this park offers almost any recreation one could wish for--horse-back riding, boat rentals at the marina, a swim beach (it may be too cold, though), an 18-hole golf course, hiking trails, a nature center and a tennis court.

The nearby area teems with history, from the Ft. Gibson Stockade, the Five Civilized Tribes Museum at Muskogee, to Tsa-la-gi, the Murrell Home and the Cherokee Cultural Arts Center at Tahlequah. You might even work in a float trip on the nearby Illinois River.

The group camp offers cabins with cots and a fully equipped kitchen facility and dining hall. Herland will again provide coffee, but you should bring your own food for the weekend through Sunday breakfast (checkout time is Sunday noon), plus our tradition night of sharing food for Saturday night. Also, bring a bedroll or sleeping bag, pillow, towels, toilet articles, flashlights, musical instruments, toys, cameras, fishing equipment, comfortable shoes. Bring arts and crafts for exhibit or sale, plus networking information.

For those who do not wish to semi-rough it in the group camp, Western Hills Lodge is close.

The Saturday night concert has not been finalized, but you can count on its being spectacular. Also, anyone wishing to conduct a workshop, please contact Herland as soon as possible. We would like to have some idea about workshops before arriving at the park. If there is a workshop topic you would like to see addressed, also contact someone at Herland.

You may check in any time after 4:00 p.m. on Friday. The park is located just east of Wagoner (50 miles east of Tulsa) on SH-51. When you send in your complete registration, you will be sent a map on how to get to the group camp.

HSR must have an approximate count on attendees, so send the pre-registration form below and your check for \$15 per person by October 15 to Herland Sister Resources, Inc., c/o Kris Marek, 1137 N.W. 31, Oklahoma City, OK 73118. On site registration will be \$20. If you have special needs, such as non-smoking or non-alcoholic sleeping space, please indicate so on your form.

There are a few scholarships available for those wishing to attend who cannot afford the \$15 fe. Also, anyone wishing to sponsor an attendee on scholarship, please contact HSR. You may indicate either of these items on the pre-registration form.

You won't want to miss out on all the fun, so send in your form early and secure your place.

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Name(s)			
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HERBALIST TO HOLD OKC WORKSHOP

Herland received the ad concerning healing with herbs, along with a letter, saying that Jane Case, herbalist, will be in Oklahoma City, Sept. 27, to do a training workshop. She has spent the past six years, educating people how to use herbs and vitamins for healing, and writes of having recently met a woman who works with California AIDS victims one week each month, with astounding results so far.

If you are interested, write to her at the address listed in the ad.

Beverly K. Evons, M.S.W.

1010 NW 45
Oklahoma City
521-8241



HERLAND HAS A PLAN!

Herland did it! We have written a three-year plan. After being germinated at the Spring Retreat's brainstorming session, the plan has taken form and is in effect to direct our efforts and emphasis. The actual plan is 10 pages long, but here are some of the highlights.

Five priorities are: 1) Monthly events to broaden base of support; 2) Coordination of activities and events; 3) Outreach to identifiable groups; 4) Expanding newsletter resources; 5) Coordinators for specific tasks and events.

There are also short, medium and long-term goals. You may pick up a copy of the entire plan at Herland or by calling Laura at 672-4141, review it and see where you can help. Herland is made of all of us, and the committee welcomes your comments and additions.

Get involved. The next three years are going to be those of growth and expansion, but only you can make that happen.

HERLAND LAUNCHES BLDG. FUND DRIVE

Herland Sister Resources, Inc., has been exploring all the possibilities of expanding its space, from the proposed stock investment venture, to asking for contributions to move into a larger leased space. But, to date, none has brought forth enough money and interest to make the big move.

Now, we have an opportunity to focus all of these efforts into one plan--namely, it is a matching-fund plan, whereby an anonymous benefactor will match the funds raised in the following ratio: first \$10,000, Herland, \$5000, Angel, \$5000; second \$10,000, Herland, \$3333, Angel, \$6667; third \$10,000, Herland, \$2500, Angel, \$7500. What this means is that, for the first time, we have a more serious incentive to launch an organized drive to raise funds for the much-needed space. These funds are to be used for purchase only.

The donation prospects are still sweetened by Herland's non-profit status, which makes every dollar you donate to HSR tax-deductible. The final word is not in on the new tax bill, but few people we know don't need more charitable contributions.

The space Herland is seeking will be large enough to house the present store space, the library, plus have a number of offices which can be rented to feminist organizations. Also, we are seeking a climate-controlled space which has a room that can be used for coffeehouses/small concerts and events. Bathroom facilities are a high priority.

Think about the services Herland has provided the community during the last year and a half—a monthly newsletter that informs you of what's new and what's going on, two successful (and fun) retreats, three big-name concerts, monthly coffeehouses, two nationally-known authors who spoke and shared at Herland, a lending library, referral services, workshops that addressed needs of many in the community, plus fun and fellowship. What other organizations do you belong to that are giving as much to you? And asking as little in return?

The time has come to make a commitment to the ideals and purposes set forth in Herland's bylaws, for, without your financial support, we cannot grow. You can make a monthly pledge, or a lump sum contribution. And remember, every dollar you can give will be matched. You will receive a receipt, plus a tax letter for contributions over \$100. Thank you from all the Herland Collective.

HERLAND BUILDING FUND

Name	Miles Bu		
Address			
City	ST	Zip	
Amt.\$	214 4.7.14		
I pledge \$building fund	per month to	ward the	
Mail to: HSR Bu	ilding Fund,	1630 N.W.	19,
Oklahoma City, OK	73106.		



CLASSIFIED ADS

HOME FOR RENT, N.W., 2 bed, heat, air, furnished or unfurnished. Call 672-4141.

HERLAND NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR LAWN MAINTENANCE. Check with person working weekends or call 672-6459.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS:

Rates: 1-20 words, \$2.50, 1 time 21-30 words, \$3.50, 1 time



FALL CLEANING GARAGE SALE

to benefit

Building Fund for Herland Sister Resources, Inc.

Saturday, September 13 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 14 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

It's time for Herland's annual garage sale. This is an opportunity for you to help yourself and Herland.

There are two ways you can participate:
1) bring your items to Herland, 1630 N.W.
19, and donate 25% of your sales to Herland. (You save licensing costs and hassle, while helping launch the building fund for HSR); or 2) donate your items to Herland—it's tax deductible.

Come and browse the days of the sale.

For more information, contact Laura at 672-4141, if there are special items you are looking to buy, if you'd like to make a donation, or volunteer.

Loral C. Reeves C.P.A.

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\$10

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1630 N.W. 19th Street Oklahoma City, OK 73106

HSR NEWSLETTER GETS NEW EDITORS

Since before Herland became a Collective, its newsletter has been capably edited every month by Elaine Barton, who has now decided to put her time and energies into new projects.

The Collective has decided to form an editorial board, made up of Board members and others who wish to work on the newsletter. So far, the editorial board is comprised of Laura C., Ketta M., Ginger McG. and Marian H. If you can read and/or write, you can be a part of the only news disseminating project of its type in the state.

Herland needs your ideas and your time, but with enough people helping, the time will not be a major commitment.

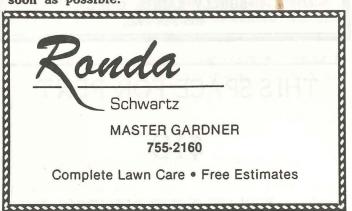
For more information, call Laura, 672-4141, or Marian, 521-8434.

MCC TO HOST FALL FESTIVAL

Save Sunday, October 12, for Fall Festival '86! Mary Reynolds, lead singer of the Sisters of Swing, head the list of entertainers, along with Mary Black and Donna DeSalvo. There will also be entertainment of all kinds from the gay and lesbian community.

The Festival will be held at Spencer, in a beautiful outdoor setting, from 2-9 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and picnic lunches and plan to spend the day. Tickets are only \$3 each and will be on sale at Christ the King MCC, 1900 N.W. 12, at Herland, 1630 N.W. 19, and at Oasis Community Center, as well as other locations around the City. You won't want to miss this great way to end a busy summer.

Christ the King MCC is still looking for entertainers and people who would like to set up arts and crafts booths. If you are interested in participating, please call MCC at 521-8352, leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.



ROSY'S BAR & GRILL TO PLAY IN KC

Rosy's Bar & Grill, the Kansas City string band which has been entertaining women for ten years, is playing September 24 at Jamie's Lounge, in the River Quay, corner of 6th and Walnut, Kansas City, Mo.

Willow Productions is presenting the local artist series the last Wednesday of every month, at 8:00 p.m., with tickets \$3 at the door.

Their album, "Rosy's Bar & Grill," can be ordered from Herland.

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announces

Sunday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.

Open to the Public

1630 N.W. 19, OKC

Group for Lesbians

WHO ARE CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT or love someone who is

For Information, Call

Bette Kelley, M.Ed., CADC

(Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor) 405-949-2301

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

**As an addict of National Public Radio who also sends them a small donation, I receive the monthly program guide. But the one for August 1986 was different.

Monday night, the program "Horizons," August 18--"Meg Christian: Face the Music." Unfortunately I did not have this in time to put a notice in the August newsletter.

There was no new music, but that was not what was important. The dialogue with Meg was along the lines of her workshop at the NWMF two years ago at Bloomington, with her speaking with such calm determination about spirituality and her addressing her problem with alcohol.

But, even as a person who has met Meg and cooked health food for her, I learned something new from this program. She was almost ready to graduate from college with a degree in English, when she switched to music, and became one of the few music graduates with major concentration in guitar. (I said in a 1980 poem, after her concert here, that she played chords my musically-trained ear had never heard before.)

My objection to her recordings the past few years have been that, by adding more instruments and voices, the unequalled guitar of Meg Christian is not as discernible. But, the voice, the range of subjects and treatment thereof, have grown so. She attributes it to her discovery of herself through meditation. (Continued on page 7)

A remarkable fact about this interview, conducted by a man, was that she said, "I love women," and this was not the focal point of the show. It was one of the things discussed, but not THE thing.

What a refreshing attitude.

Copies of the 30-minute tape may be obtained by writing to Horizons, NPR, c/o KOSU, Stillwater, OK 74078.

**Herland received political literature, addressed to us, on purpose, from candidates who must have gotten our name and address out of the Gayly. Encouraging, but surprising.

**Can you believe it? "Desert Hearts" is actually playing Oklahoma City. Catch it at the Bijou, if you haven't already seen it.

**Casselberry/DuPreé's new album, "City Down," rated this July review in the Los Angeles Times: "Any album that moves from Dory Previn's 'Did Jesus Have a Baby Sister' to the Eagles' 'Take It to the Limit' deserves a listen--and you'll be amply rewarded for your time. This female duo deals in a rich, inviting blend of gospel, country, reggae and African chants on topics that range from apartheid to feminism." Don't miss your chance to catch them live, September 7, at the Civic Center Little Theatre. Both their albums will be on sale in the lobby.





Kelley Mattocks 340-4301

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For more information, call YWCA, 232-7681



5TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN ARTS CELEBRATION

Women musicians, creative writers, performers and artists are invited to enter the 5th Annual Women in the Arts Festival, to be held Saturday, September 27, 1986, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., on the campus of OSU, Stillwater.

Sound equipment will be provided for musicians, if needed. Poets and writers of shorts works are invited to give readings of their works during the exhibition and sale. Dancers, mimes, humorists are also invited to perform during the day's events. Artists are invited to exhibit their works for free, or to exhibit and sell for a \$15 fee. All media are welcomed, but organizers ask that there be no pre-molded ceramics.

Sponsored by the local NOW chapter, the OSU Women's Council and Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council, the festival is being held in conjunction with "Aggie Fest," a promotion of Oklahoma arts and entertainment.

This year's celebration will be held at a new location, on the beautiful grounds between Old Central and the Seretean Center.

Fill out and send the application below by Sept. 17, to Mendi Spencer, 030 Student Union, OSU, Stillwater, OK 74078-0675. For more information, phone 405-624-5314.

Application, OSU Women in the Arts Deadline, September 17, 1986

Name	
Address	
Telephone	Media
Exhibit Only (free)	
Exhibit and Sales (\$15 fee)	1 - 11
(Make checks payable t	to Women in the Arts)

"DESERT HEARTS" PURE DESSERT

by A. Vann

A movie reviewer for one of our local newspapers indicated that the movie "Desert Hearts" would have been revolutionary in the 1950s, but was old hat in the 1980s. He called attention to the technical flaws--poor sound quality and choppiness. I. too, saw the technical difficulties the first time I saw the film, and I was troubled by unresolved questions I had about two of the characters and their relationship to the main characters, Vivian and Kay. Was the relationship between Silver and Kay simply one of an older woman serving as confidante to a younger one or was it something more? The movie didn't answer the question. The relationship between Vivian and Walter left similar questions, with their having casual contact in some of the early scenes, but then suddenly he is behaving like a betrayed lover.

For the life of me, I can't figure out what was old hat about this film. I can't remember countless films about lesbians. I can't remember countless "coming out" films that catch the struggle and poignancy of discovering a side of yourself you never knew existed. I can't remember countless films where sex between women was a natural part of the story. When I think back over love scenes between women, I remember a disembodied hand carressing the body of Susannah York in "The Killing of Sister George." I remember the slow motion and nearly passionless sex in "Lianna," and so the realistic, natural sexual

activity of "Desert Hearts" was both unusual and highly effective. Since none of Mariette Hartley's ("Two Kinds of Love") stiffness existed between the two women in this film, I found myself wondering if the actresses were, in fact, lesbians.

A second phenomenon that suggested to me that the movie was not as old hat as the reviewer led us to believe was that both times I saw the film, heterosexual couples got up and left when it became apparent that a relationship was developing between the two women. Usually the kiss in the rain did it.

This has the flavor of a small film about an ordinary happening (divorce) in an ordinary life. But it is the smallness and ordinariness of the film that provides part of the satisfaction. For anyone who has been revolted by the caricatures of lesbians in porno films (I know somone who swears we are always shown wearing bright red lipstick and licking our lips with a suggestive drooping of the eyelids when we aren't portrayed as diesel dykes), this film is pleasing because we know who the characters are before we ever get into the sexual aspects of the relationship. I had the sense that these were real women, living through a situation-one that caused confusion, panic and pain. Both faced real risks-leaving behind what was comfortable in order to grow.

This is a film I would willingly see several more times, especially if it would encourage other women film makers to explore this genre in greater depth.

JOIN US

YOUR ANNUAL DONATION HELPS SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF HSR, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING THE OKLAHOMA WOMEN'S COMMUNITY

Your donation, regardless of classification, entitles you to a 10% discount on store stock, concert tickets, workshops and advertising; a monthly newsletter; use of the lending library and resources, and MORE.

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Upon receipt of your annual donation, you will receive your Friends of Herland card, to be presented for store and concert discounts, and a receipt for your tax purposes.

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