

The HERLAND VOICE

August, 1994

FEMALE CANDIDATE FOR OK GOVERNOR

Anthea Maton, President, Metro OKC NOW

On Monday, July 18th, Metro OKC NOW gave the Oklahoma grassroots community and the general public a chance to meet and talk with Bernice Shedrick. Shedrick, currently a high-ranking State Senator, is hoping to be the first female Governor of Oklahoma.

In the friendly setting of the Harvey House Cafe and Bookstore, a small group, who made up for their paucity of numbers with the quality of questions posed, took advantage of the opportunity for access to her. Members of several groups participated -- the ACLU, NOW, OGLPC, OKC Bikers (yes, really), Simply Equal, and the Orchestra League. Three other candidates for public office also attended; Fanny Bates for Oklahoma County Commissioner, Jerry Wilson for Oklahoma County Assessor, and Jeffrey Tollett running for US Congress in the 6th District.

Shedrick came across well, speaking easily of her plans for the Governor's seat. When it came to question time, she answered clearly and carefully. Her record suggests she will be extremely supportive of individual rights, and she stressed that she believes everyone should be treated fairly and equally. She said she is making the bid because she wants to restore the public's faith in their governor. "I want people to know when their Governor tells them something, they can take it to the bank," she said. "I don't expect everyone to agree with me 100 percent of the time, but I want them to know they can trust me 100 percent of the time."

Shedrick said her campaign would focus on three primary issues: crime prevention, economic development and jobs, and better opportunities in the areas of education and health care.

Her record includes backing the Equal Rights Amendment, solid support for reproductive choice, and leadership in education.

Shedrick has won the support and endorsement of National NOW and as such will receive some funding. She also carries the support and financial blessing of EMILY's List, a major national organization whose role is to provide money to help in the election of Democratic women candidates. While unable to officially endorse Shedrick (it is incredibly complicated and expensive to set up a PAC which is needed if support is official), members of Oklahoma NOW are putting their support behind Shedrick, volunteering at campaign headquarters and elsewhere. □

OPERATION RESCUE AND RESCUE AMERICA FAIL IN LITTLE ROCK

Nancy Dwyer

During the week of July 6 through July 9, Operation Rescue and Rescue America attempted to close women's clinics in Little Rock, Arkansas. Their impetus was two-fold: to save the "unborn" and to thumb their noses at President Clinton in his home state.

These groups failed in two respects. First, the clinics remained open. Second, according to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, local churches refused to give support to these hate groups, which are usually associated with violent tactics. Judging by the small number of anti-choice demonstrators, they failed to garner the support of local people. It was estimated that anti-choice protestors were outnumbered 3 to 1 by pro-choice demonstrators.

Little Rock police arrested 30 anti-choice demonstrators on Friday, July 8, charging them as trespassers, a misdemeanor offense. It is still unclear whether those arrested will face federal charges under the recently signed Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance law (FACE). Failure to file federal charges leads one to wonder how serious police and local officials are in protecting the rights of women.

Representatives of Oklahoma NOW traveled to Little Rock to support the patients' choices in having abortions and to aid the Arkansas Liberty Alliance, by keeping the clinics open.

As a member of NOW and a participant in this defense of the clinics, I would like to offer some of my thoughts about "choice." As I stood in the lines defending two different clinics and following anti-choice protestors to Baptist Hospital and Dr. Stover's house, I had opportunities to question the actions and contradictions of the so-called "pro-life" movement. (continued page 6)

BREAK-IN AT HERLAND

For the second time in three months, Herland has been the target of burglars. Our air conditioner, some cash, CDs, and other items for sale have been taken. While insurance will help some, the actual loss to Herland is over \$500.

We need your help to recover from this loss. Replacement of the air conditioner is greatly needed to make Herland a more comfortable space during the Oklahoma summer. Please consider making an extra contribution to help Herland through this crisis.

ST. SYBIL

Sybil yields her space this issue to letters from readers and her honorable colleague and good friend, Margaret. She wishes only to remind Paul that she did say, very clearly, "It's not all men, but it's always men."

Dear Herland Voice,

I'm sorry to be having to write this letter, yet I feel I must. After reading your July issue I felt both hurt and deeply disappointed on two different fronts. Firstly, I'm very active in OGLPC, which I have seen as somewhat of a sister organization, I believe we have more than demonstrated friendship of Herland and support for its values and goals, and I wonder if any other gay/lesbian organization has joint fundraisers with Herland. We also have several members in common and yet no mention was made of our participation in the pride opening ceremonies nor of our participation and support of the Pride Summit. I doubt that many other organizations have contributed more financially or have more consistently had representation at its planning meetings. I have a difficult time believing that both omissions were accidental oversights especially since some organizations mentioned were far less frequently in attendance than we. Other members of OGLPC some of whom are also members of Herland Sister Resources have expressed their shock to me about this also.

Secondly to St. Sybil: I'm afraid she has let her halo slip quite a bit in the July issue, and I'm hoping (I'm afraid against hope) that the Margaret that wrote the letter is not the Margaret I have considered a friend.

Yes, I am a male and I am by no means writing this in response to say that women have been uncaring in the AIDS struggle, I know that women have been in the forefront of the struggle, nor do I have any wish to say that women are too powerful (OGLPC by-laws for example have co-equal male and female co-chairs who alternate presiding at meetings) or that women have achieved too much parity in the world. Nor would I ever say that our social institutions have gone anywhere near far enough to achieve social, job or legal equalities for women.

I believe that I personally am as much of a feminist as a man can be, in the same way that straight people can support gay and lesbian issues and rights but can't really know what it's like for us, or that whites no matter how supportive of African American rights cannot fully understand what it is to be "black."

Where I take issue and yes even hurt and offense is that both the letter and the response said why do all men hate women - "us." I do not hate women and I am and have been a strong advocate for equal rights for women. I have with both time and money supported pro-choice issues and attended rallies. I have been involved in the Herland Legal Defense Fund. I lobby at the state capitol on gay and lesbian issues and there have been occasions in which no women's organization's representative was present and I was the lone voice of concern on legislation of vital importance to women. I have resigned in protest from organizations that discount women and their rights. I have appeared both in print and electronic media in support of women's rights and concerns and virtually daily do something positive about the problem. I have close women friends both lesbian and straight and believe that these are relationships of both friendship and equality.

It seems to me that this "all men" response devalues any efforts that any men make to help in the struggle and further polarizes people rather than encouraging solutions.

I have preached that for a woman to be a feminist by no means implies that she hates men (sure some do but as I say the one thing is not implicit to the other) but that she respects herself and demands better for all women.

I had followed with interest and I might add gladness that Herland Sister Resources had instituted policies of more inclusiveness toward men and transgendered persons. Does this column represent that or is there no real commitment to that goal or has there been a policy change? Is Herland a separatist feminist organization after all?

I know and understand that men have rained violence and abuse on women since the beginning of time and that many men still do. And I understand the anger and hurt that can engender. I do however believe that Herland and its publication have a leadership responsibility to its members and readers to help bridge the gap and heal the hurts, not to pander to the worst fears of its readership.

It also seems to me that this kind of response even devalues women, encourages an attitude of hopelessness and glorifies victimhood. If all men hate women and nothing that any man does to change things matters and the hatred of women by men is so big and unchanging that women can only suffer under it what other conclusion can I draw.

I believe that women have been a powerful force for change in the attitudes of men toward themselves and toward women and that lesbians have been a powerful force for change in the gay/lesbian community and have impacted the white gay male consciousness. Granted it's not a complete victory and that not enough has changed, but big changes come by small steps and I hope you won't choose to encourage divisions and blaming.

Please don't tar me with the same brush you use on men who abuse and discount women. I am hurt and disappointed.

Paul Thompson, Male Co-Chair OGLPC

Dear Paul - and Batch, David, Brett, Cam, et al;

Yes, I am the Margaret you consider a friend, and I value your friendship also. I know personally many men who are kind, caring, and want to be fair, and a few who are acutely aware of sexism and are actively pro-feminist. The "all men" was meant to include straight men with gay in the overall misogyny game, since I had been talking about gay men earlier in the letter to Sybil. It was also a bit of exaggeration, of hyperbole, and I never dreamed that it would be taken personally by someone like you, Paul, who does valuable work for women's rights and works hard to be feminist.

I am glad that Herland is working with OGLPC, Simply Equal and other mixed-gender groups; the article was not intended to be divisive; it was written much as your letter was written, out of hurt and disappointment; and I think it needed saying. Women are constantly being told that our depressions and problems are personal, and that we should pull up our socks and get on with our lives; I think we need reminders and affirmation from time to time that in actuality most of our problems are not personal, they are indeed political, a result of a systematic institutionalized oppression and of general male misogyny.

No, I don't think my letter and Sybil's response devalued women or encouraged an attitude of hopelessness and glorification of victimhood. I hope you aren't reading too much Paglia, are you, Paul? She's an opportunistic predator, if you ask me.

Now let me ask you, who were hurt and offended sufficiently by one article in the Herland Voice that you wrote a long letter, to imagine how women feel about the kind of garbage we have to put up with daily; and please let us complain about it, ok? Honest to goddess, the struggle is earnest enough that we don't need our friends taking umbrage at hearing the truth.

Keep the faith,

Margaret

□

JUSTICE

by Vivien Ng

Everybody is talking tough these days--every politician, that is. Just the other day, I opened a campaign letter from one of the candidates in the Oklahoma gubernatorial race. I thought John Wayne had come back from the dead to haunt me: "Two strikes and you're out!" the would-be governor growled at phantom felons. Crime is the number one issue, screamed yet another national poll. Well, if crime is on everyone's mind, then why hasn't Congress passed the Crime Bill, the bill that Janet Reno crisscrossed the country to lobby for? The hangup, we know, is over a provision in the House bill that allows death row inmates to use racial statistics in their appeals. Sounds fair to me, but conservatives in Congress are dead set against it, because "if we allow that, death penalty as we know it will be gone." Exactly. What does this tell us about "justice" in the U.S., the land of the free and home of the brave?

When I think about "justice," it is never in the barbaric sense of an eye-for-an-eye. I prefer the humanistic formulation by Carter Heyward, lesbian feminist Christian priest and teacher. She once wrote these profound words: "We must begin to see that love is justice. Love does not come first, justice later.... Where there is no justice--between two people or among thousands--there is no love. And where there is no justice/love, sexuality is perverted into violence and violation, the effects of which most surely include rape, emotional and physical battering, relationships manipulated by control, competition, and contempt, and even war itself."

When we understand that love is justice, we understand at the same time that the "I'm okay, you're okay" mode of social interaction is superficial if not dysfunctional. "I'm okay, you're okay" deliberately papers over differences that exist between and among us. It's vanilla. It's "see no evil, therefore no evil." But differences are not evil, only that we have been brought up to think so. Audre Lorde called racism, sexism, heterosexism, and homophobia "forms of human blindness." These forms of human blindness, in her opinion, "stem from the same root--an inability to recognize the notion of difference as a dynamic human force, one which is enriching rather than threatening to the defined self, when there are shared goals." She taught us that, "[W]e have all been programmed to respond to human differences between us with fear and loathing.... Too often, we pour the energy needed for recognizing and exploring difference into pretending those differences are insurmountable barriers, or that they do not exist at all."

This year, when we turn the pages of queer publications, we can't avoid reading editorial upon editorial about "why can't we get along for the good of the community?" Like many lesbians and gay people of color, I think that it's the wrong question to ask. "Why can't we get along?" is a code for "Why

do we always have to talk about racism, sexism, and classism? Why can't we just be queer?" "Why can't we get along?" is a blindfold, a master's tool.

How do we build a justice-seeking society? We need first to learn from past mistakes. Take the case of Lambda Legal Defense Fund and their choice of "Miss Saigon" for their fundraiser, even though Asian lesbians and gay men protested the sexist and racist content of that Broadway musical. Lambda refused to drop "Miss Saigon" because they said that they had already sold all the tickets. Look at all this money that we have raised for our causes, they said. But as the women of the Combahee River Collective stated it so well: "In the practice of our politics we do not believe that the end always justifies the means. Many reactionary and destructive acts have been done in the name of achieving 'correct' political goals."

How do we build a justice-seeking society? We do so by never sacrificing principles for the sake of expediency. □

ACTIVISTS GATHER IN NORMAN FOR SUMMIT

Over 100 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered activists and straight allies from across Oklahoma gathered at University of Oklahoma for the Oklahoma Pride Summit. The summit gave attendees the opportunity to share their work and vision through panels, workshops and recreation. Summit organizers agreed the Summit was a success in achieving the goal of bringing together a variety of individuals and organizations to build a more unified gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender movement in Oklahoma.

Peri Jude Radecic, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Robert Bray, Fight The Right Media Coordinator for NGLTF, and Mandy Carter, Director of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum served as national resource persons for the three-day event.

All expressed enthusiasm for the Pride Summit and its goals. Radecic commented, "The impact of this conference happens at several different levels -- personal impact, strengthen the movement in Oklahoma and nationally. This conference was the only statewide conference of its kind this year and it will serve as a model to other states." Carter observed, "To have such a gathering is truly historical. I have seen conferences and gatherings like this before in other states, but there's something about it happening in the heartland that restores my faith that our movement is on track." □

CORRECTION

In the July *Voice*, the Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus was mistakenly omitted from the organizers of the Oklahoma Pride Summit. We regret and apologize for the error. OGLPC and its members were an important part of the Oklahoma Pride Summit. □

Debra K. Browning, R.Ph. D.D.S.

*Dental Care for the Entire Family
Safe Dentistry for Incest Survivors*

Suite 902

Meridian Medical Tower

19921 North Meridian

755-4099

Office Hours by Appointment

RADICAL RIGHT FAILS TO QUALIFY IN 8 OUT OF 10 STATES

OREGON AND IDAHO FACE INITIATIVES THAT LEGALIZE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAY PEOPLE

Radical Right wing groups in Missouri and seven other states failed to qualify ballot measures that would have legalized discrimination against gay people. Initiatives in two states, Oregon and Idaho, qualified for the ballot. While the Oregon measure has been struck from the ballot by a state judge, that ruling is being appealed.

Radical Right groups in Arizona, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, and Washington failed to gather the required signatures by deadlines that ranged from January 31st to July 11th. The initiative in Florida was ruled invalid by that state's Supreme Court in March, 1994. An announced initiative effort in Ohio never materialized, but the group announced plans for a project attacking politicians who have been supportive of equal rights for gay people.

Jeanie Keeny, spokesperson for GLAAD/KC, told a news conference on Friday, July 8, "This is a day that makes me proud to be a lifelong lesbian citizen of Missouri--proud because Missouri is the Show Me state, and proud because Missourians are sending a message from the heartland to the nation."

"We are relieved, but not relaxed," said Sue Hyde, Fight the Right Project Coordinator for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) at a briefing held by representatives of four national gay and lesbian groups in Washington, D.C. "The failure of the Radical Right to qualify in eight states is positive, but it should not send the 'all clear signal'."

Mandy Carter of the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum said, "National radical groups have divided communities by trying to institutionalize discrimination. Their cynical strategy is best challenged by the truth. People of color communities are an important part of the effort to expose the discriminatory agenda of the Radical Right."

Nicole LeFavour, an official with the Idaho Campaign for Human Dignity, the group that will be opposing that state's discriminatory measure noted that the Idaho initiative barely qualified. "The Idaho anti-gay group fell far short of its goal of 100,000 signatures and squeaked past with only a few thousand to spare," said LeFavour.

Oregon's ballot measure was struck down as unconstitutional by Marion County (Or.) Circuit court in April 1994.

"The courts continue to tell us that citizens cannot vote lesbians and gay men out of constitutions," said Suzanne Goldberg, a staff attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Still, the Radical Right continues to promote these unconstitutional assaults, and we will continue to battle against them in court." □

2109 S. Air Depot
Midwest City, OK 73110

(405)737-0496

Air Depot Animal Hospital

Call for APPOINTMENT

JOY HUSKA, D.V.M.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING FOCUSES ON HARASSMENT OF CAMP SISTER SPIRIT

Jackson, Miss. (July 6, 1994)...A U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee held an oversight hearing in Jackson, Mississippi July 6 focusing on the events surrounding the conflict in Ovett, Mississippi, the location of the feminist retreat Camp Sister Spirit run by the lesbian couple Brenda and Wanda Henson. The Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee hearing was chaired by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and also led by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).

In their testimony, Brenda and Wanda Henson summarized the harassment, threats and violent incidents that have been committed against them since November 1993. The Hensons' testimony also featured several instances in which they say Mississippi officials did not respond to requests for assistance or intervention or were directly antagonistic toward the Hensons. The Hensons implored federal officials to protect them and ensure their basic civil rights.

"We do not seek tolerance and acceptance," said Wanda Henson. "We seek equality under the law and freedom from oppression, intimidation, and harassment. We seek justice and a legal system that is capable and willing to defend our rights."

Both James Hendry and Rev. John Allen stated during their testimony that the harassment and incidents against the Hensons are unsubstantiated and they implied or overtly stated that the Hensons created the campaign against them for publicity. While Allen's testimony focused on his moral opposition to the Hensons' lesbianism and the "gay and lesbian agenda," he did not outline any specific goals except that the Hensons "experience the life-changing redemption found in a genuine faith surrender to Jesus Christ."

Only one Mississippi official directly implicated by the Hensons participated in the hearing. Jim Ingram, Commissioner of Public Safety answered questions from Reps. Frank and Nadler, stating that he felt local law enforcement officers were protecting the Hensons to the best of their ability and were upholding the law.

Two representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice testified at the hearing: William Yeomans, Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division and Ozell Sutton, Southeast Regional Director of the Community Relations Service (CRS). Yeomans testified that "at present, none of the nation's civil rights laws provide explicit protection on the basis of sexual orientation...The Department of Justice is limited to enforcement of the laws as written. Our jurisdiction reaches only so far as Congress chooses to extend it." □

Published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Newsletter Committee: Margaret Cox, Deborah Fox, Vivien Ng, Pat Reaves

Circulation: 1200

Advertising Rates: Business card \$15; 1/4 page \$35; 1/2 page \$60; full page \$100

The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Articles reflect the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously. Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request. *The Voice* is printed on recycled paper.

FINDING HER VOICE: THE SAGA OF WOMEN IN COUNTRY MUSIC

Jill Garner

This month I'd like to depart from my review of music and instead review a book *about* music that I bought recently. **Finding Her Voice: The Saga of Women in Country Music**, is a history of women in country music through many styles and times. Starting with Appalachian mountain women, the book then weaves us through the Depression, 19th century show business, southern gospel, folk, country rock, bluegrass, modern country music, and much more. Authors Mary Bufwack and Robert Oermann bring the "silenced voices" to life, and touch on the poverty, sexual exploitation, subjugation, and stifled opportunities that are the basis of women's place in country music.

Country music has long been a voice for the working class but it has been a particularly rich source to learn about the lives of women. "The women in this book carry the music and culture of the ordinary mothers, grandmothers, and matriarchs who worked in the field, the women who bore children and watched them die without medical assistance, the women who made homes from practically nothing, the women who worked in the textile mills, the women who sold their bodies to survive." In a world where women's history has largely been ignored and destroyed, Bufwack and Oermann say country music is a window into the lives and stories of working class women. Throughout its history, country music has been an avenue for women to express their pain, disenfranchisement, anger and despair, as well as their joy and liberation.

Each chapter in the book explores the music within the social context of the world around it--war, oppression, women's liberation--and how the music was shaped and influenced by what was happening in the lives of the people who made it. The book is an attempt to "explain why songs happen when they do."

The beginning chapter gives us a glimpse of the poverty-stricken, often violent, and sometimes very short lives of Appalachian women. Generations of women have kept the songs alive and they are filled with the reality of their everyday lives. Violence and sexuality were prevalent themes in the songs. Many women endured repeated pregnancies and often died during childbirth. Songs warning women against men's sexual urges were frequent and one of the most common sentiments in the songs extols the virtues of staying single. "Seven long years I've been married, And I wish I'd lived an old maid."

I have been introduced to hundreds of singers/songwriters through this book, and I'm not even finished yet. A lot of talented musicians I have enjoyed but who are not part of the "mainstream" are mentioned in the book. Cathy Fink, Cheryl Wheeler, Laurie Lewis, and Ranch Romance are artists I was excited to read about. I'm looking forward to hearing several of the Oklahomans I read about also. Delia Bell, a native of Hugo, was brought to national attention in 1983 by Emmy Lou Harris. During the 1970s she was widely known on the bluegrass festival circuit and recorded more than a dozen

albums with her band. Another Oklahoman, Becky Hobbs from Bartlesville, has merged honky-tonk with a popular rockabilly stage show and has also scored a lot of attention as a songwriter in Nashville.

"Eighties Ladies and Beyond," the last chapter in the book, shares with us the stories of the current women of country. I loved learning about the history of many women who appeared to be "overnight successes, as well as many singers I have not had the chance to listen to yet. Suzy Bogguss traveled for five years by herself in a trailer playing in town squares and convincing bar owners to let her play in their clubs for \$50. She booked all her own shows, sold her own cassettes and hung her own promotional posters in the early days. So many of these women had many challenges to overcome in the business and their careers and I was struck by their strength, determination, and ultimately their success, whether they made it "big" or just reached their personal goals and are doing what they love. I'm anxious to listen to the new singers I've read about in this book but I've also gained a new respect for the many established and rising stars too. I want to go back and discover them again now that I've learned what they've come through and overcome to pursue the dreams they have.

To order the book, call Herland at 521-9696. □

LETTERS TO HERLAND

Dear Friends,

Before leaving Oklahoma I want to convey my deep appreciation to Herland. When I moved here in March 1992 I had been out 1-1/4 years and my community involvement had been with an AIDS resource and education organization in a midwestern university town of 75,000. Herland provided the opportunity to both expand and focus my lesbian energy -- expand by broadening the spectrum of lesbians and gays in my life, thus deepening my understanding of the diversity of our community; focus by offering an environment in which I could contribute directly to the lesbian community, giving and receiving simultaneously. Through my involvement with Herland I have learned a great deal about cooperation, responsibility, and patience. I've also learned the not-so-small lesson that it is okay to ask for help when you need it. And the friendships I share with Herlanders remain in my heart, wherever my feet take me.

Thank you Herland for offering me a chance to grow. I know you have been a vital part of many women's lives, and you can count on my continued support so that your positive energy touches as many as possible.

Renee McBride

Nancy Schneider M.S.W.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

individual,
couple, and
group therapy

2233 W. LINDSEY
SUITE 109
NORMAN, OK 73069

(405) 364-2545
PAGER: (405) 791-8792

MILDREN SUPPORTS GAY/ LESBIAN RIGHTS

(reprinted with permission from the Tulsa Family News)

At a recent Tulsa County Democratic Party event, candidates for governor responded to questions from the *Tulsa Family News* about civil rights protections for lesbian and gay Oklahomans.

Lt. Governor Jack Mildren's campaign literature emphasizes his commitment to traditional values of family and church, hard work and integrity. But this ex-college and professional football player was emphatic in saying he believes in a level playing field for all Oklahomans. He stated he was not aware that lesbian and gay citizens had no legal protections but stated, "if that's so then the laws and rules need to be changed." When asked if he would issue an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation for state employees, he responded by asking, "doesn't that follow from what I just said?" □

LITTLE ROCK (continued from page 1)

Over and over I wondered "when will this one battle end?"

Occasionally these self-proclaimed religious people would exclaim how Jesus loved me, at the same time they spoke of their own hatred of gays, lesbians, and feminists. What can you expect from people who wear "Intolerance is a Beautiful Thing" on their t-shirts.

I found one ray of hope during the three days in Little Rock. Heterosexual women and men, lesbians and gays and people of all religions and races stood TOGETHER outside the clinics. Sometimes with arms interlocked, we sang and chanted together. Most often we simply remained quiet and emotionless -- determined not to validate the rhetoric of the protestors.

Each of these distinct groups could not possibly have been there solely to protect the rights of women to choose abortion. Rather, I believe each understood the bigotry of the "religious right."

If given the opportunity, the religious right would attempt to end all of our choices and distort truth. These fanatics are attempting to force teachers in Florida to teach children that the United States is superior to all past and present nations and cultures. They continually write and occasionally pass legislation that would end our rights to employment, housing and child custody, disguising it as lesbians and gays wanting special rights. You should have seen how they mocked the Buddhist while he was praying outside one clinic. Can no one be free and happy?

Is there any difference between the violent actions and hatred of the religious right, the Neo-Nazis and the KKK. Those of us standing together know that there is no difference -- hate is hate.

I urge you not to confuse "pro-choice" with only abortion rights. The agenda of the anti-choice groups reaches far beyond this one issue. Just as in Little Rock, we must stand together. We must stop these hate-mongers and their goal of dividing us through apathy and cynicism. □

ON THE ROAD TO BEIJING

On September 9-10, the Oklahoma Women's Network will host "Women Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: On the Road to Beijing and the 21st Century," an official regional preparatory meeting for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of State are sponsoring a series of regional meetings, "to bring American women together to identify what has worked and what is needed for the advancement of the majority of women," said Karen Nussbaum, Director of the Women's Bureau.

The local theme is "Rethinking Women and Work for the 21st Century." The U.S. workforce of the 21st century will be made up of a majority of women and "minorities." The Oklahoma Women's Network intends to bring this fact home to working women in Oklahoma and in our region and mobilize ourselves to take leadership roles in the inevitable process of designing work and the workplace for women.

For information contact: Women's Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Federal Bldg, Suite 731, 525 Griffin St., Dallas, TX 75202. (212)767-6985. □

BULLETIN BOARD

It has been reported that Operation Rescue and Rescue America will be descending on Mississippi in early August. If anyone would like more information about Mississippi and possible later actions in Missouri and Oklahoma City, please contact Nancy Dwyer through Herland.

Look for selections from the *Herland Voice* on a new computer bulletin board, The American Dream BBS. Log-on to 359-7755 to check out this new service.

A coalition of more than 60 national and local organizations has produced an organizing guide titled *How to Win: A Practical Guide to Defeating the Radical Right in Your Community*. The manual includes articles on a wide range of topics, from organizing broad-based coalitions and monitoring school board activity, to using polling data and delivering an effective speech. The task force is charging a \$25 fee for the 150 page manual that will cover printing and mailing, and will include the information on disk. Contact: PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1012 14th St, NW Ste 700 Washington, DC 20005 Phone (202)-638-4200 Fax: (202)-638-0243 E-mail: PFLAGNTL@AOL.COM

Rebecca R. Cohn, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Norman, OK
321-2148

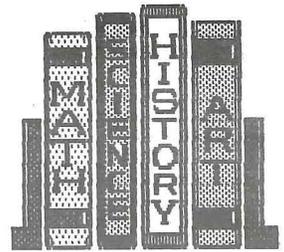
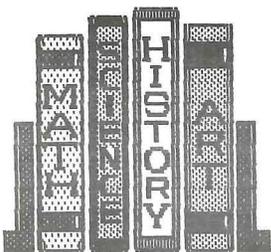
Individual,
Couples & Family
Therapy

August 1994

Doc Herland says: Celebrate August 26 - WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY - Commit an Outrageous Act or Everyday Rebellion &/or go catch PEGGY JOHNSON at Medina's Coffee House & sing the Mountain Song with her!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Cleveland Count NOW 7 pm Norman Public Library	4	5	6 Remember Hiroshima; Work for Peace
7 Roger Lienke's band with Terry and Elyse at VZD's	8 Herland Legal Defense Fund Meeting 6:30 at Herland	9	10	11	12	13  Lucy Stone 1918 - 1993
14	15	16 PRIMARY ELECTION # Metro OKC NOW 6:30 pm Harvey House NW 63rd	17	18	19	20
21  Herland Board Meeting 4:30 pm	22	23	24	25	26 PEGGY JOHNSON at a new location!!!! Medina's Coffee House on the Paseo 9:30 - 1 pm	27
28	29  NEWSLETTER PARTY 6:30, Herland	30	31	<p>HELP RWANDAN PEOPLE - Emergency Relief Aid - Send donations to: Oxfam America 26 West Street, Boston, MA 02111-1206 Donations are tax-deductible Advertisement paid by private party</p>		

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
2312 N.W. 39th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112
405/ 521-9696
Hours: Saturdays 10 - 6; Sundays 1 - 6





2312 N.W. 39th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Permit No. 861