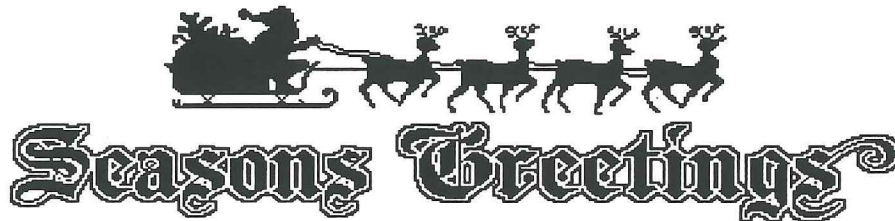


The HERLAND VOICE

December, 1994



Christmas

by Deborah Fox

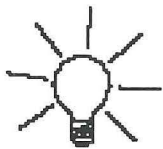
Christmas - Consumerist Extravaganza or Holy Celebration? For many, the meaning of Christmas has gotten lost in the frenzy of shopping or the depression of not having the means to shop. Many people at this time of year worry more than ever about bills and finances and many are anxious for Christmas to be over with. I worry about my son having a "good" Christmas and feel pressure to make it "good" by buying lots of toys to pile under the tree for him. If there isn't a lot to put under the tree many people will feel bleak and depressed. I wonder if anybody even likes Christmas anymore! Christmas has become a mere consumerist extravaganza.

But what is Christmas really? Barbara Walker tells us in her *Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets* that for its first three centuries, the Christian church knew no birthday of its savior and that in the 4th century there was much argument about adoption of a date. Most pagan Mysteries celebrated the birth of the Divine Sun Child at the Winter Solstice. It was only in the 4th century that the roman church adopted December 25th as Jesus' birthday because the people were used to calling it a god's birthday. Trappings such as Yule logs, gifts, lights, mistletoe, holly, carols, feasts, and processions were altogether pagan. They were drawn from worship of the Goddess as mother of the Divine Sun Child. Christmas trees evolved from the pinea silva, pine groves attached to temples of the Great Mother.

So alas, when we dig deep enough we find the original meaning of Christmas was the celebration of the cycles of our Great Mother Earth and the rebirth of the sun, when at Winter Solstice (the longest night of the year), night would stop increasing and daylight would begin to increase. It is the promise of Spring. The promise that life will be born anew in Her never-ending cycles of birth, death and rebirth.

Rather than allow this Holy Season Celebration of the Earth to be undermined by a Capitalist ideology running with the bit, which is literally destroying the Earth, it is time to remember and re-invent ways to celebrate this Season that are in harmony with preserving the Earth and all life upon Her.

Goddess Bless ye merry gentlewomen. Happy Holidays!



Need a Gift Idea?

There is a limited supply of cookbooks remaining if you are looking for a unique gift. *Family Cookin'* is now available at a special sale price of five dollars and all proceeds benefit the Herland Legal Defense Fund.

We also have a great selection of books that would make ideal gifts. Herland is open for business Saturdays, 10 - 5 and Sundays, 1 - 5 for your convenience.



ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

Wow! What an election. I feel as if a cosmic pachyderm just stomped all over me. What happened, and are things as bad as I'm thinking they are?

Worriedly,
Iwanna Puque

Dear Iwanna,

You're in good company, lots of people are scared these days. "The times...they are a 'changin'", and people are rightfully alarmed at the direction of the change. To tell the truth, the times hadn't really gotten all that good, and now it appears they're getting worse - at least for the poor, the marginal, the minorities, the uncommon and unconventional - for those who might be expected to look to the Rainbow Coalition or rainbow flag with pride.

Today I hear a lot of talk that "the times" are scarily similar to the early days of Hitler's ascendance. Is this true? Well yes, it kind of is. There are disturbing parallels. Today, just as there was then, there is a lot of generalized hate and intolerance being directed at inappropriate targets. For instance, people are frightened of drive-by shootings and gangs and random violence. Not knowing what to do about it, they do the easy thing: they direct their hate at groups they know aren't going to shoot back. Inoffensive, non-threatening non-mainstream groups become the enemy, the culprit, the scapegoat - gays and lesbians, welfare moms, illegal aliens and the homeless (who I saw referred to in the conservative press recently as "vicious bums").

Gays and lesbians, we are told, as if it should disqualify them from civilized treatment, *are wealthy and upper-middle class*. [OK, a brief time out for chortles from our readers.] In other words, *not like us hardworking normal people who have to work for a living. Gays and lesbians are bleeding heart liberals, say the empty brains of the religious right, and they are taking over our schools and universities. Richer than they should be, with more power and better jobs than they deserve* - a lot of this kind of talk, directed at Jews, was in the air in Germany in the thirties, and was parroted in the United States by apologists for the Nazis.

Is the number of illegitimate births skyrocketing, and are fathers abandoning their children? Well, *what do you expect when gays and lesbians are out demonstrating for sexual license and special rights?* I know, Iwanna, it doesn't make a lick of sense, it doesn't follow at all, and of course lesbians and gays don't want any special rights, but it's an easy lie that gets believed. It's a whole lot easier than trying to do a little zero-based problem solving, and lesbians and gays are an easy target.

A very easy target. Easy and visible. Lesbians and gays have been coming out of the closet like crazy in recent years. Was it maybe *really* crazy? Has the rushing to come out been like lemmings racing to the sea or clowns pouring out of a fire

engine? Are you in trouble? Should you go back in? Are repressive laws going to become widespread and accepted? Should you start hoarding guns and food for the revolution?

No. No. Yes. No. Yes. Maybe. If lesbians and gays become the principal scapegoat for the ills of this country, then who knows? Who knows what trouble the world is in? Remember the purpose of the scapegoat; it is not enough to tie one's sins and illnesses to its back - it must be driven out into the wilderness; eliminated from society.

The major change in the world since the days of the Holocaust is the tremendous advance in technology, which renders government infinitely more efficient in certain areas, and allows for almost total government intrusion into personal privacy. The requirement of mandatory identification cards as proposed by California's Proposition 187 does *not* augur well for personal freedom. More and more in America there appears a willingness to sacrifice personal freedom and the freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution for short-term and short-sighted results. The framers of the Constitution, and the Supreme Court justices who have interpreted it, are as distressed at the sight of a vicious felon going free on a technicality as much as anybody else; but they know that far more dangerous than even Willie Horton or Oliver North is an unfettered government.

So, Iwanna. Things are bad, and getting worse, and if worse comes to worst I know that people like you will rise to the challenge and fight back. Beats there a lesbian heart so femme, or even a gay male heart so nelly, that it never once wanted to parachute behind enemy lines with the OSS, or stand with Nathan Hale, or fight with Guatemalan guerrillas like Jennifer Harbury? I think not. But for heaven's sake, for everyone's sake, please do everything in your power to keep it from coming to that.

Love & kisses, (but don't tell
the Morals Police),

Sybil

Rebecca R. Cohn, Ph.D. Clinical Psychology

Norman, OK
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Individual,
Couples & Family
Therapy

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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.



MUSIC REVIEW

by Jill Garner

COVER GIRL

by Shawn Colvin

I first heard of Shawn Colvin on National Public Radio News several years ago. Her first album, *Steady On*, had just been released and I liked what I heard. I still like the album although there's not really any song on it that just grabs me. Colvin's second album, *Fat City*, pulled me in even less. It's pleasurable enough but too produced and flashy, not an album to rave about. However, *Cover Girl*, Colvin's latest, is such an album. When I saw her perform a couple of years ago, I knew then what draws me to her music is simply her voice and her guitar and that's what you get with her latest release, nothing flashy. The album, some of it recorded live, gives me the feeling that I'm in a small club ten feet from the stage, mesmerized by Colvin and her guitar, completely lost in her songs and secure in the knowledge that with music that makes me feel this good, all is right with the world.

As the title implies, these are not Colvin's songs but she chose them well. She does do an old Police song written by Sting, *Every Little Thing (He) Does is Magic*, but that's my least favorite song, probably because it was well known. So many of the other songs though are Colvin at her best. The highlight of the album is Colvin and Mary Chapin Carpenter on Greg Brown's *One Cool Remove*. Their voices blend smoothly together on this sad song that will make you happy anyway because it's beautiful. Another shining point is *If These Walls Could Speak* written by Jimmy Webb and it's one of the best songs I've heard. Also, *Someday*, a longing to leave a small town written by Steve Earle, is hopeful and sad at the same time. "You go to school and you learn to read and write, So you can walk into the county bank and sign away your life." Roly Salley's *Killing the Blues* is another one of my favorites along with Bob Dylan's *You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go*. Despite, in my opinion, Dylan's lack of much singing ability, he's one of the great songwriters and I love some of the lines in this song. "Purple clover, Queen Anne's lace, Crimson hair across your face, You could make me cry but you don't know."

Colvin makes some great song choices and really shows off her talent at making these songs her own. She wrote in the liner notes that she didn't choose any songs by women for this album because she finds it harder to bring something new to women's work that has influenced her. She did well though and if you haven't heard Shawn Colvin and want to, I recommend this album as your introduction.

For those of you who are already serious fans, Colvin will be in Dallas December 8 at Deep Ellum Live. Maybe I'll see you there.

Suzanne Westenhoefer - Lesbian Comedienne Extraordinaire

Suzanne is finally coming to Oklahoma City! With her own HBO special and shows all over the country, Westenhoefer will bring her funny and very "out" act to the Comedy Corner in Bricktown December 5. She's rapidly gaining widespread attention with shows across the country and has made numerous talk show appearances (Geraldo, Sally Jesse Raphael, Joan Rivers). The milestones in her career that she cites are first openly Gay comic to do Caroline's Comedy Hour, or to play a regular/non-gay night at Catch a Rising Star. She and comedian Bob Smith were also the first Gay comics to have their own HBO specials. When she's not performing, Westenhoefer regularly does time as a guest lecturer in public schools sex-ed programs, answering questions about homosexuality, trying to make the world a better place for Gay youth.

Come out on December 5th and help support the Comedy Corner for bringing Gay comedians to OKC. They recently hosted the Gay Freedom Comedy Jam Tour twice and now we have another opportunity to prove to them that Gay entertainers can be popular and profitable. Help support Gay comedy in Oklahoma and have a very "gay" time in the process. For ticket information call the Comedy Corner at 235-2332.

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30pm.
Sunday High Mass 10:30am.
Wednesday Low Mass 7:00pm.

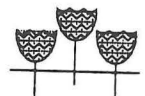


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Sisters!

While pondering what to get who this holiday season, please think of us! Herland Sister Resources is always in need of donations. Your generosity helps us to reach out to many others in our community. As always, donations of any amount are genuinely appreciated!

Happy Holidays!

Bill of Rights Day

On Sunday, December 11, 1994, the ACLU of Oklahoma will celebrate the end of its 30th year of defending individual liberty. Oklahoma City's Clarion Hotel at 4535 N. Lincoln Boulevard will be the site of the final 30th birthday bash. Registration is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m.; the banquet and program will take place between 1 and 5 p.m.

In addition to dinner, the Bill of Rights Day will feature the presentation of the Angie Debo Award to Don Ed Payne, and the Fran Morris Civil Liberties in Media Award to its namesake, Fran Morris, tireless advocate for the rights of children.

The highlight of the day's program will be the keynote speech by the witty and irreverent syndicated columnist, Molly Ivins. A three time Pulitzer Prize finalist, Ivins, is the author of two books: *Molly Ivins Can't Say That, Can She?* and *Nothin' But Good Times Ahead*. Tickets purchased before December 1 are \$50; after December 1, \$75.


Dykes To Watch Out For



Solstice Party

Come celebrate the Winter Solstice with present and past Herland Board Members. Herland is hosting a Pot Luck Thursday, December 22, 1994, from 6 - 9 p.m., and we hope to have as many of our old Board Members there as possible. We'll have music and hot cider and cold drinks, and all the good food that our community can bring together.

Herland will have been operating as a non-profit corporation for ten years this month. Come help us honor our past Board Members and celebrate these ten years. It will be a fun and joyful occasion!



ACLU of OKLAHOMA

1411 Classen, Suite 318 405-524-8511
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma

311



DECEMBER

1994












Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Health Tips from Ms. Magazine:

1. "Lactose intolerant? Get the recommended 800 mg of calcium per day via nondairy sources like tofu, spinach, kale, broccoli, sardines, shrimp, and fortified orange juice."
2. "Secondhand smoke may leech vitamin C from your body. If you live or work with a smoker, increase your intake of strawberries, red peppers, orange juice and other C-laden foods."

1	2	3 OK State NOW Meeting Noon at Harvey House in OKC
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4	5  Joan Didion born 1934	6	7  Cleveland County NOW Willa Cather 1873 - 1947	8	9	10  Emily Dickinson 1830-1886
11 ACLU Bill of Rights Day 12:30pm at the Clarion Hotel in OKC Molly Ivins!!	12	13	14	15	16  Margaret Mead 1901 - 1978	17  PEGGY JOHNSON at LaBaguette in Norman 9 - Midnight
18  Herland Board Meeting 4:30 pm	19	20	21	22  HERLAND'S Winter Solstice Party 6 - 9 pm Pot Luck	23	24
25  Christmas Clara Barton 1821 - 1912	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29	30	31  Herland's New Year's Eve Open House 7 pm

Solstice Party
Thursday December 22
Pot Luck at Herland, 6 - 9pm



HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
2312 N.W. 39th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112
405/ 521-9696
Winter Hours: Saturdays 10-5; Sundays 1-5

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Open House
7 pm 'til 1995
Herland
Food - Fun - Games -
Music - Romance?





New Titles at Herland

BULLETIN BOARD

NEWS FLASH! The book you've been waiting for is here at last!

HOTHEAD PAISAN Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist by Diane DiMassa

Think you're a feminist? See the world through new eyes. Meet HotHead and her cat, Chicken. H.H. is NOT going to take it anymore. Deneuve describes H.H. as an Italian Catholic combination of Rambo, Martina, and Pippy Longstocking. Alison Bechdel says she's "the backlash to the backlash." Sound scary? You'll find comfort in her best friend, Roz.

My lover and I read this obsessively, then kept laughing for days. This is just the antidote for those suffering from post-election anxiety/depression syndrome. Get'em while they're hot! P.S. This is sure to entertain you through the holidays. It would be a perfect gift...except you'll want to keep it for yourself!

P.O.M.

OTHER NEWLY ARRIVED TITLES!

Uncommon Waters: Women Write About Fishing, ed. Holly Morris (Seal Press)

EveryWoman's Dreams, short fiction by Leslea Newman (New Victoria Publishers)

Butch I and Butch II by Jay Rayn (Lace Publications)

In the Garden of Dead Cars, future fiction by Sybil Claiborne (Cleis Press)

One Teacher in 10, ed. Kevin Jennings (Alyson Publishers)

The Word is Out: The Bible Reclaimed for Lesbians and Gay Men (365 Daily Meditations) by Chris Glaser (Harper, San Francisco)

REMEMBER! SHOP EARLY FOR THE BEST SELECTION. HERLAND IS OPEN EVERY WEEKEND, SATURDAY, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. AND SUNDAY, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Lesbian-only counseling group, Wednesday evenings. Call Jo L. Soske, MEd/MHR/ICADC/NCC/LPC at 364-5708 for more information.

Lavendar Life, a monthly nationwide lesbian magazine has announced a writing contest to celebrate the beginning of their fourth year in January 1995. Every woman is invited to enter and prizes will be awarded. All original short stories and poetry received by December 31, 1994 will automatically be entered into the contest. Winners will be announced in their January 15th, 1995 Anniversary Issue. All entrants who are published will receive a complimentary issue, mailed with their privacy in mind. All writers will retain final rights to their short stories and/or poetry. For more information or to send your entry write to: Lavendar Life, P.O. Box 898, Binghamton, NY 13902-0898. Attention: Pamela K. Fite.

WANTED! Short-short stories by women for an Anthology edited by Irene Zahava. Stories on any theme will be considered. The only requirement is that the title begin with the word "In" [i.e.: In a Box; In Kansas at Noon; In the beginning; In the dream; In the meantime; In my next life; In a hurry; etc.]. Length of stories: 2,000 words or less. **Deadline: March 1, 1995.** Manuscripts must be typed and double-spaced. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for correspondence or return of manuscript. Contributors will receive payment and a copy of the published anthology. Previously unpublished material is preferred. If your story has appeared elsewhere, but you hold the copyright and reprint rights, then it can be considered. Send short-shorts to: Irene Zahava, 307 West State Street, Ithaca, NY 14850.

The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum invites you to attend the 8th Annual National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference & Institutes Black Lesbians and Gays: Our Families Make a Difference, February 16 - 20, 1995. Los Angeles Airport Hilton & Towers, Reservations 310-410-4000. For more information contact The Black Gay & Lesbian Leadership Forum, 1219 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-964-7820.



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The Threat From Within

by Pat Reaves

Driving in the darkness of the early morning one day post-election, I listen carefully for results of the California vote on Proposition 187. Finally, the report - Californians have overwhelmingly voted yes. I'm stunned and angry - and I'm still stunned that so many people can cast a vote that clearly says a group of people are not as important as themselves.

Proposition 187, called "Save our State" by proponents, denies public education, publicly funded health care and other services to undocumented immigrants. Under it, health care facilities, police departments and schools are required to report any *suspected* undocumented immigrants.

Proposition 187 threatens us all - regardless of where we live or our residency status. Similar laws are likely to be considered in many other states. Harold Ezell, a co-author of Proposition 187, was quoted in the *Dallas Morning News* saying, "I think Texas is next. I think Texas ought to see what it can do about its borders." Representative Newt Gingrich, considered the most-likely new Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, told the *LA Times*, "I favor saying flatly that illegal immigration is a federal problem and that it requires a federal solution."

Even more threatening is the anti-democratic agenda of the radical right that Proposition 187 illuminates. Thomas Sowell in an syndicated column published in the *Daily Oklahoman* (11-15-94) gives a clear picture of that agenda.

"Governor Pete Wilson's winning slogan in California - 'save our state' - might well become a new battle-cry for 1996: Take back America!

Take it back from the people who want to run our lives, destroy our values, brainwash our children, confiscate our earnings, jeopardize our safety and treat us as guinea pigs for their social experiments.

The victory of the California ballot initiative denying government services to illegal aliens is one symptom of this desire to take back America" [emphasis added]

These themes reverberate in the right's attacks on lesbians and gays, women, and welfare recipients (who are overwhelmingly children and women).

The central message of the Prop. 187 campaign is that an "invasion" of illegal immigrants is causing economic hardship and eroding the lifestyles of U.S. citizens and legal immigrants. One of Governor Wilson's ads showed some 50 people running through customs gates at the Tijuana/San Diego border (filmed during an unusual event essentially set up by the Border Patrol). A basic premise of the message is that there are not enough rights or resources to go around.

The right uses economic and social fears and blames the problems on minority groups - undocumented immigrants, people of color, gays and lesbians, welfare recipients, women, etc. With all of these, the right argues, "they" are taking away from "us". Sowell says, "Illegal aliens have been sanitized as mere 'undocumented' workers. *Parasites* of all sorts have been verbally transformed into 'victims' of society." A religious activist calling for the firing of lesbian and gay school teachers said, "They are

like *parasites*, they feed off us." [emphasis added] Over and over the refrain is repeated, "They are taking *our* jobs. They are taking *our* money. They are taking *our* rights. They are taking *our* way of life." This scapegoating takes attention away from structural changes in the economy and the role of corporate policy.

Racism fuels the scapegoating and the dehumanization used by the radical right. Discussions of immigration usually ignore significant numbers of undocumented immigrants with European origins. Welfare recipients are seen as people of color. People of color are stereotyped as criminals.

The radical right offers simple solutions to complex problems - solutions that might sometimes look attractive. Our challenge is to recognize those "solutions" for what they are - fundamental threats to democracy; expose them as part of an agenda that attacks basic civil, human, labor, economic and reproductive rights and resist from love of and support for an inclusive democracy.

Nancy Schneider M.S.W.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

individual,
couple, and
group therapy

2233 W. LINDSEY
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PAGER: (405) 791-8792

STOCK THE PANTRY

Herland is beginning a community pantry for lesbians in need. The pantry will include non-perishable food items, pet food, and household supplies. The pantry will be open during Herland's regular hours. The system is simple -- if you need something take it or if you can, leave something.

As you think about holiday giving, remember your sisters. Pick up a few extra non-perishable items (think about the kinds of things you always need) and bring them to Herland. Let's make sure the pantry is well-stocked before the New Year!

STOCK THE PANTRY

My Experience at the Battle in Mississippi

by Diane

There is a war in this country, but it is not between states. There is a Southern battle at Camp Sister Spirit, but it is not just about the local aggression. There is a struggle every day with uncertainty and vigilance, but the "soldiers" are not giving up the cause. There are some people prepared to die, but it is the hope that no one loses their life.

After my experience, I can only report what I saw and what I was told by those involved directly in this struggle. Last winter when the news reports and talk shows exploded with the violence of racism and homophobia in Ovett, I was both intrigued and concerned. I wanted to see for myself what was happening there. After several letters and a couple of telephone calls, I arranged to visit for about a week. It was a long one-day drive; it took about fourteen hours which included gasoline and food stops.

Of course, I did not know what to expect. I arrived after dark on a Friday night. Camp Sister Spirit was hard for me to find, even though as arranged I had called when I was about an hour away. I was given specific location directions, but landmarks were hard to identify at night and rural neighbors were not to be trusted. It took me twice the estimated time to find the gate; I was thankful the women waiting there were patient and welcoming when I arrived. With some help unloading my car and a little bit of orientation, I was glad to try to get some sleep. That night there was a tense atmosphere for the caretakers, because on weekends gunshots are often heard. Anyone coming or going at night through the gate or near the road could be a target as had happened to one camp resident. For safety, I was counseled not to be alone away from the buildings and to carry a walkie-talkie. Upon returning from Hattiesburg one day, I had to practice another security procedure by calling from about 20 miles away so that someone could meet me at the gate. At that time the gate was a large metal pole across the drive that was chained; by now, I hope there is a stronger gate with perhaps a security alarm and intercom.

The routine of the day consists of construction and maintenance. Anyone can help with THE WORK. The vision and commitment is to an educational retreat center. To that end, several buildings are being remodeled; a bunkhouse, a showerhouse, a commercial kitchen, an office, and a "commons" area have been completed, as well as several newly constructed storage buildings. Skilled workers are needed, however anyone wanting to volunteer can be of help. As at all camps, there are continuous duties of cleaning, cooking, hauling, mowing, clearing, etc. I went to volunteer for a week and worked on different tasks almost every day. In the evenings I read, watched television or videos, conversed with others, or worked in the office. I enjoyed contributing to THE WORK and meeting these "soldiers". The permanent residents (Brenda, Cheri, Kathy, Pam, Wanda, and Arthur) and several short-term volunteers offered views about this war and battles in various locations. I thoroughly

enjoyed these intelligent and impassioned conversations, and I appreciated the sharing of experiences and emotions. From my visit, I am glad that I saw for myself what was happening and am connected to these people involved in this struggle.

Having never been a war correspondent, I surely cannot report the details that might be expected. I can only relate that I was very much affected by Camp Sister Spirit and concerned enough to be a volunteer again.

As in all wars, I know there will be loses. I do hope the loses will not include these people, this cause, or this battle.

WHAT HAPPENED

by SONG (Southerners on New Ground)

On October 8, 1994, the bodies of Robert Walters and Joseph Shoemaker were found off Houston Road in Laurel (Jones County), Mississippi. This is the same county where Camp Sister Spirit had been subjected to ongoing harassment. These men's bodies were found by two women walking by. Each man had been shot once, execution style. One man was shot in the temple, the other was shot through the right eye at point blank range. The body of Robert Walters was found partially clothed.

Despite the fact that it was known that these men were gay, and despite the fact that the men's credit cards and jewelry were not taken, local police concluded the motive was robbery. The sheriff's department found "nothing suspicious" and refused to designate this as a bias-crime. The next day when two members of a gay and lesbian community center from nearby Biloxi, Miss. went to Laurel to make some inquiries and offer support, they were harassed, threatened and constantly followed.

Five days after the crime, a 16 year old African American male was arrested. We believe this young man was coerced into confessing to murdering the two gay men. The different versions put forward of the events leading up to the murders indicate that this young man did not commit the crime:

1. The police first said the young man confessed to killing the men because he wanted to rob them of \$100. When it was pointed out that no credit cards or jewelry were taken, the story was changed.

2. The second version was that the two men offered the young man \$20 to allow them to give him a blow job. He allegedly became afraid they would want more and killed them. This version was challenged as unlikely. The story was changed again.

3. The third version was that the two men offered him \$20 to take them to buy marijuana. When the car went in the opposite direction, he allegedly became afraid and killed them.

4. The fourth version was that the men tried (or threatened) to rape him.

Two days ago, the defendant's attorney made a motion to have the blood of the two dead men tested for HIV. In granting the motion, the judge said that if the men were HIV infected, it was like carrying a loaded gun. If either man's blood tests positive for HIV antibodies, defendant's counsel will move to have the charges dropped on grounds of justifiable homicide. The stage is set for a dangerous precedent.



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