

The

HERLAND VOICE

February, 1995

H A P P Y V A L E N T I N E ' S D A Y

ANTI-GAY CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED

Representative Bill Graves introduced a House Joint Resolution (HJR1018) that would submit a state constitutional amendment to a state-wide referendum. The proposed amendment would prohibit any state, county, or municipal government from adopting or enforcing laws, policies or regulations "whereby homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation...shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person...to have minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination." The measure would also prohibit "teaching of homosexuality, lesbianism, or bisexuality as natural lifestyles" and prohibit adoption and foster care by lesbians, gays or bisexuals.

Simply Equal of Oklahoma City has called a town meeting to discuss HJR1018 for 6 p.m. on February 6 at Angles, 2117 N.W. 39th, OKC. TOHR has scheduled a town meeting for January 30 at 7 p.m. in the MCC of Tulsa, 1623 N. Maplewood, Tulsa.

"The OKC town meeting is on the first day of the legislative session. By that time, we expect to have information about the committee assignment for HJR1018," said Simply Equal spokesperson, Pat Reaves. "That committee will have until February 23 to take action on HJR1018 and send it to the House of Representatives for a vote. Until then, we'll be focusing our efforts on encouraging members of that committee to kill the proposal in committee."

HJR1018 is nearly identical to a Graves proposal in the 1993 session of the Oklahoma Legislature. That proposal (HJR1021) died in committee following an unprecedented grassroots effort from the lesbian, gay communities to defeat it.

In 1992, Colorado voters adopted a similar amendment, widely known as Amendment 2, to the Colorado constitution. The Colorado Supreme Court has ruled that amendment unconstitutional and blocked it from taking effect. A U.S. District Court in Ohio ruled that a similar amendment to the Cincinnati City Charter is unconstitutional.

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 25TH, 1995
9:00 P.M.

Come join us for an evening of fun and purpose as the POTHOLE plays host to an OPEN-MIC to benefit HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES.

\$2 COVER

Other Events:

FEBRUARY 9TH - Teachers meeting will be held at Herland Sister Resources beginning at 7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12TH - All past, present, and interested Herland volunteers are invited to this Sunday evening POTLUCK beginning at 5:00 p.m. For more information call Joni at 720-0044.

FEBRUARY 17TH - Black History Month Video at Herland. Call Herland during business hours for details, 521-9696.

FEBRUARY 25TH - Academic Dykes will be in Oklahoma City at Gail and Edie's. Potluck, 7:00 p.m. Call 405-521-8447 for directions. Gail agreed not only to clean the house, but she also will select the next reading.

ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

My partner and I are very happy lesbians; we are "out" to our family and close friends, but not particularly to the world at large. We have no desire to march in any parades or in any other way stir up trouble in the wider community. We feel that we are just like everybody else except for our sexuality, and don't want to set ourselves apart from the rest of the world just because of that. No one bothers us and we don't want to bother them. Really, we think that radical activists are doing more harm than good in constantly bringing up the gay and lesbian agenda to the mainstream public. Can you get them to stop it, please?

Thank you very much,
Ima Rae Clews

Dear Ima Rae,

Except for your sexuality? Except for your sexual preference and orientation, your affectional preference, except for who you love, live with, are intimate with, make long-range plans with, want to be buried with? This is a small thing? No, Ima Rae, this is a huge part of your life that you say you are content to deny.

Ima, it is not gay rights activists who are trying to set you apart from the world on account of your sexuality; it is the people you have to hide your sexuality from who are doing that. What activists are trying to bring about - the famous "gay agenda" - is acceptance of the fundamental truth that people's lives *are* all the same; we do the same things, experience the same joys and happiness, suffer the same tragedies and sorrows, have the same hopes and fears - and the gender of the person we share our lives with should be insignificant.

As my esteemed old friend and Patron Saint of Language and Insight, Will Shakespeare, said, "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die?"

Well, Ima, I could go on and on, but my channeler is getting restless; so I will leave you with this one thought: don't settle for less of a life, or less in life, than you need and deserve.

Fondly,
Sybil

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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.

THE PANTRY IS NOW FULLY STOCKED!

The Herland Pantry...is stocked! The response has been generous and has filled our original shelves; we are currently busily shoring up a larger shelf area to hold the canned goods and packaged foods. Thanks especially to Lisa and Karen from Del City who brought in multiple boxes of groceries for the pantry.

How it works - if you've got more than you need, bring it in. If you are in need, or if you have a friend in need, come in, pack up a plastic bag, and out the door you go. That's it! Herland is opened Saturdays 10 - 5 and Sundays 1 - 5. Come on in!

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL SUPPORT AND EDUCATION PROVIDED BY RED ROCK

Red Rock Mental Health Center in Oklahoma City is currently facilitating support and educational/social groups for gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth and adults. Support groups are held weekly at Red Rock (4400 N. Lincoln Boulevard). For more information on these groups, please call Betsy Murphy or Kim Johnson at Red Rock at 425-0399. The groups are free and open to the community, although some screening may be required to ensure compatibility of participants.

We are happy to announce a few of the changes in our groups starting in February. The Y.G.L.A. group will include participants up to 20 years of age, (parental consent for those under 18.) Our new Young Adult Group includes those who are 21-29 years of age. The Adult Gay and Lesbian Group for those who are 30 years old and older will continue meeting on Monday evenings. In addition, an Adult Gay and Lesbian Group will start in Shawnee this month. For more information on times and dates, please contact the office.

Educational/social activities are facilitated weekly for the Y.G.L.A. The youth group meets at OASIS Resource Center (2135 NW 39th Street) every Sunday evening. On February 5th, we will watch a movie and have pizza, we will host a Valentine's Party and Dance on the 12th, Terry Dennison from Planned Parenthood will discuss "How Do I Find The Right Person To Date, Anyway?" on the 19th, and we will meet at Oasis to carpool for skating and dinner afterwards on the 26th.

Red Rock Mental Health Center also offers HIV/AIDS prevention and education for the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community, free referrals for counseling and substance use treatment and individual and group therapy for individuals with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. For more information, call Betsy Murphy or Kim Johnson at 425-0399. ☆

FEBRUARY 1995


Black History Month

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

More February birthdays:
 Alice Walker, February 9, 1944
 Frederick Douglass, February 12, 1817
 Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1809
 Rosa Parks, Valentines Day, 1913
 Anais Nin, February 21, 1903 - 1977

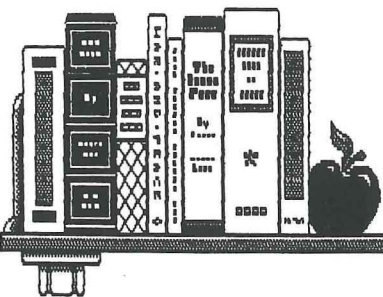
1 Cleveland County NOW Norman Public Library 7pm	2	3 Elizabeth Blackwell 1821 - 1910 * Gertrude Stein 1874 - 1946	4
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5	6	7	8	9  Teachers Meeting 7 pm at Herland	10	11
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12 Party at Herland for VOLUNTEERS, Past, Present & Future Pot Luck 5 - 8 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day	15  Susan B. Anthony 1820 - 1906	16 Today in 1916, Emma Goldman was arrested in New York for lecturing on birth control	17 Video Night at Herland 7pm for Black History Month & then: Peggy Johnson at Medina's 9:30 - 12:30	18 OKC NOW meets at Noon at the Harvey House
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19  Board Meeting 4:30 pm	20  Presidents Day Holiday	21 Malcolm X R.I.P. assassinated 30 years ago today	22  Edna St. Vincent Millay 1892 - 1950	23  W.E.B. DuBois 1868 - 1963	24	25 OPEN MIK at the PORTHOLE 9:00 pm * ACADYKES in OKC call 521-8447
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26	27	28 Elizabeth Blackwell, February 3, 1821 - 1910; First American woman doctor of medicine. Rebuffed at first by the authorities and later ostracized by her fellow students, she went on to gain her degree, with the highest grades for her year, in 1849. After study in Europe, she returned to the US in 1857 and opened first a hospital run by women, and later a medical school for women, in New York City.
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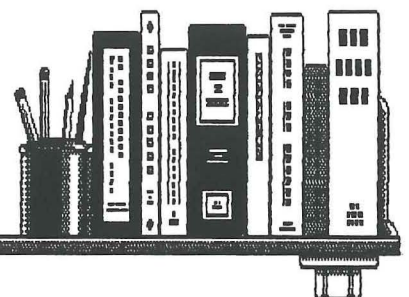
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.

2312 N.W. 39th Street

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

405/ 521-9696

Winter Hours: Saturdays 10 - 5; Sundays 1 - 5



YOU ARE INVITED TO:

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



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Ecumenical Catholic Church

2328 N. MacArthur

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Natasha Rice
(405) 447-5111

Heritage Plaza
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Norman, OK 73069

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Norman, OK
321-2148

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PAGER: (405) 791-8792

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE OKC CITY COUNCIL

by Margaret Cox

The Oklahoma City Council voted January 24, 1995, for the second time in fifteen months and with an identical six to three vote, not to adopt a Human Rights ordinance proposed to it by its own Human Rights Commission. In a closely related matter, the Council voted five to four against adopting an amendment to the City's Hate Crimes Ordinance which was designed to make the language of that ordinance constitutional under Supreme Court guidelines. The vote was expected to fall as it did; nevertheless it was a mean-spirited exhibition of bigotry and cynical political maneuvering.

An impressive and eloquent group of Oklahomans spoke for the Hate Crimes Ordinance: Michael Canfield, Pam Fleischaker, JoAnne McFarthing, Rev. Wayne Robinson, Bill Rogers, and Paul Thompson. Among those speaking against the ordinance - speaking for Hate, if you will - was Representative Bill "Three Strikes and You're Dead" Graves. Mayor Norick allowed six people on each side of the issue to speak on the Hate Bills ordinance. When it came time to speak on the Human Rights Ordinance, however, he allowed four to speak against it and only two, Pat Reaves and Margaret Cox, to speak for it. The Rev. Kathy McCallie, who with Roosevelt Milton of the NAACP were poised to speak next, called the Mayor on this point and repeatedly asked that two more be allowed to speak for the ordinance as a matter of fairness and justice. The Mayor denied her request.

The two proposals were placed on the agenda in a strategic move by gay-unfriendly Council members to make the individual members take a public stand on the "homosexual" question prior to Spring elections. Members voting for the Ordinances were Jackie Carey, Ward 8; Willa Johnson, Ward 7; and Mark Schwartz, Ward 2. Mayor Ron Norick joined those three in voting to amend the Hate Crimes Statute to make it viable. Councilwoman Johnson, in particular, spoke movingly and vehemently about the need for human rights and civil rights being extended to all people. Council members who voted against the two ordinances, and thereby left Oklahoma City with no Human Rights or Hate Crimes Ordinances, were Jack Cornett, Ward 3; Jerry Foshee, Ward 5; Beverly Hodges, Ward 6; Frances Lowrey, Ward 4, and Frosty Peak, Ward 1.

An alternate Human Rights ordinance was sent back to the Human Rights Commission for further study and may be before the Council at another date. It replaces the specific listing of all protected classes with a more general reference to "background". It is generally considered a well-meant but basically useless attempt at compromise.

Filing dates for candidates for City Council are February 21 - 24. The primary election date is March 21, and the general election, if needed, is April 4. Four Council seats will be up for election: Beverly Hodges and Jerry Foshee, who voted against the Ordinance, and Mark Schwartz, who voted for it, are all running for re-election. Jackie Carey is not running for re-election, and at this time it is not known who will be standing for that seat. ☆

We spotted the yellow church buses, seven in all, as we arrived at City Hall at 7:15 a.m. on Tuesday. We were over an hour early for the Council meeting, but they were even earlier. The passengers were disembarking, marching in a quiet, orderly manner, their signs aloft. The two signs that were carried into the row in front of mine were "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve" (oh clever!) and "Homos can't procreate, so they recruit your children and grandkids!". It looked like the town of Stepford had come marginally to life and decided to agitate, in a well-brought up manner, of course.

A few stalwart dykes had already claimed a couple of benches towards the front of the Council Chambers when we pushed our way through the side doors, so we had good seats for the hour-long wait until the meeting was to begin. For the most part all of the people seated behind us were "them" - the

*"As Long
As
I
Breathe..."*

by Sybil Ludington

Stepfords. As a matter of discipline and an exercise in courage, as well as real curiosity, I stood, turned, and faced them. I took my time and looked at them all, row after row, person by person. They were mostly youngish, many very young adults, high schoolers, probably; well scrubbed, sober and frightened by me. I suddenly became aware that the husband of a

couple in the second row behind mine was holding a small book or wallet in front of his wife's eyes. He held it there, with a defiant and malignant glare at me, the entire time I stood there. Which one of them was it, I wonder, who was so afraid? Most afraid? Did he think I would turn her to stone? Was he afraid I would recruit her??? (after all, these people have very little faith in the ability of the charms and delights of heterosexuality to withstand the lures and forbidden pleasures of homosexuality). Did he want to keep her from seeing me or me from seeing her? Was he guarding her from the sight of me the way we instinctively guard a delicate person from the sight of an ugly accident? Do I just think I look like a harmless kindly middle-aged Everywoman and really I present as a depraved monster? Was she glad of his care or did she really want to slap his hand down and tell him to leave her alone? "I couldn't stand the sight of her"...I always thought it was just a manner of speaking, but maybe it would have killed her. Who knows. It made me feel very powerful, but gave me no pleasure.

Among our speakers was Bill Rogers, who said that every month he gets a couple of calls from people who tell him they have been fired for being gay, and he has to tell them that there is nothing he can do about it. Is this the kind of city, Bill asked the Council, that we want? Yes, according to the people in the rows behind me. "Yes, that's right, we certainly do..." They looked me right in the eye and told me so. Those Stepford folks are pretty mean and nasty. They made me get up and ask the Council to pass the ordinance to protect me from them. Most of them there, by the way, according to the brave old gent next to me who dared to carry on a conversation with T'Wanda, were from a Windsor Hills church.

(continued on next page)

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Washington, Dec. 29 -- Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, announced the winners of the Fifth Annual Feminist of the Year Awards. These awards are intended to encourage people to speak out for feminism and honor those who risked their jobs, careers or educations, made personal sacrifices, or used their high-ranking positions to bring about women's equality over the past year or over their lifetimes.

This year two of the Feminist Majority Foundation's Feminists of the Year are women who led the call for women's worldwide empowerment and reproductive rights at the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Nafis Sadik, general secretary of the ICPD, worked to place the empowerment of women at the center of the population debate; and Gro Harlem Brundtland, prime minister of Norway, spoke out in favor of reproductive rights at the ICPD in response to the Catholic Church and fundamentalist Muslim opposition.

"Dr. Sadik and Prime Minister Brundtland are in stark contrast to TIME Magazine's Man of the Year -- Pope John Paul II," said Smeal. "The pope tried to obstruct the International Conference on Population and Development with the abortion issue. However, the work of Sadik, Brundtland and women's organizations succeeded in putting the advancement of women at the center of the debate to stabilize the world's population while recognizing for the first time unsafe abortion as a world public health problem. Sadik and Brundtland are true 'moral forces' working for the equality of all human beings, unlike the pope, who chooses to ignore the sufferings of millions of women from unwanted pregnancies."

Other 1994 Feminists of the Year are: Chilean feminist writer Isabel Allende, for her portrayal of strong women writers and her feminist activism; Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, for working to end the exploitation of women immigrant workers; Dandy Barrett-Witty and Bruce Barrett, daughter and son of slain volunteer clinic escort James Barrett, who have both spoken out against anti-abortion violence; Rep. Don Edwards, for his leadership on women's rights during his three decades in Congress; Atlanta Police Chief Beverly Harvard, the first African-American woman to head a big-city police department, for breaking the glass ceiling for women and African-Americans in police; abortion clinic owner Susan Hill, who runs clinics in remote areas in the face of continuous threats of violence; the first lesbian or gay member of the California legislature, Sheila James Kuehl; Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin, for continuing to promote women's rights despite receiving death threats; the late Winn Newman, for his pioneering leadership in the field of comparable worth and pregnancy discrimination; Edouard Sakiz and Catherine Euvrard de Roussel Uclaf, for breaking the logjam on introduction of RU 486 to the United States; and Rena Weeks, for setting a precedent that companies cannot tolerate sexual harassment without paying a hefty price. ☆

GAY & LESBIAN FREEDOM RIDERS BUS TO MISSISSIPPI DESTINATION: OVETT

by Robin Tyler

Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-30, 1995) will once again be memorable for Mississippi as 1,000 gays and lesbians from all across America ride to the aid of a lesbian family and their besieged property outside Ovett.

Since November 1993, lesbian partners Wanda & Brenda Henson, along with numerous volunteers, have defended their 120 acre "Camp Sister Spirit" folkschool from an ongoing, religious-right-inspired campaign of violence, harassment, intimidation and death threats. There have been over 64 incidents to date, including telephone death threats, mail-bomb threats, explosives at their gate and a dead dog tied to their mailbox. They sleep with rifles next to their bed. Mississippi Family Values was created for the purpose of finding ways to "oust" Sister Spirit Inc. from their land. The climate of hatred that has been spawned in the surrounding communities is palpable and deadly. Two gay men were murdered recently just 15 miles away.

This climate of aggression briefly attracted the attention of Attorney General Janet Reno who sent Justice Department representatives to Ovett to investigate the situation last year. The Justice Dept. concluded that the Federal government could NOT help because GAYS AND LESBIANS ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THE CURRENT CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.

With no help from the government in sight, veteran gay and lesbian activists have decided to take the defense of Camp Sister Spirit into their own hands so that Camp Sister Spirit can complete their dream of building a feminist lesbian folk school (an educational and cultural retreat center that makes available an opportunity for learning non-oppressive lifeways) & having food-boxes and clothing available to address the realities of poverty in the area.

In addition to helping build the property, money will be raised to help Camp Sister Spirit pay for expenses for a federal lawsuit to be filed under the anti-Klan act for the harassment they have received.

Because of the escalating violence against lesbians and gays all over the world, an international lesbian/gay version of the Clothesline project will occur during this time at the camp. The purpose of the Clothesline project is to bear witness to the survivors and victims of the war against women, both the casualties of the war, and the wounded. This display will show the extent of the problem with a visual impact similar to the AIDS quilt. Another purpose of the Clothesline is to help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or who are survivors of this violence.

The Destination: Ovett - Gay Freedom Rides Coalition will contact gay and lesbian groups all over the world to send in T-shirts bearing the names of gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, transsexuals, and transgenders who have suffered violence or death. These will be displayed at Camp Sister Spirit. ☆



MUSIC REVIEW

by Jill Garner

Stacie Barnett - Baby Can You Stay All Night?

The tape I've been anxiously awaiting has finally arrived and I want to share it. Stacie Barnett, a local singer who I rave about to anyone who will listen, just released her first collection of original songs. For those of you who haven't heard this country singer yet, you may be surprised at the talent this woman possesses. The first thing you may notice about her is her strong, rich, resonant voice, touched with a southern twang, and then you may realize that not only can she sing, but she's definitely got a flair for songwriting. Many of her songs are light catchy country songs about love and love gone wrong such as *If Love Should Come Again* and *Don't You Know Anything About Love*, but they're smooth songs that we can easily connect to, and want to dance around the floor to. And while I love these toe-tappin' songs, my favorites of hers are the quieter ballads that grab my heart. *The Harbour*, *Come Out of the Darkness* and *Till the End* are three of my favorites. *The Harbour* is one of Stacie's best songs and the times I've heard it she's been accompanied only by her acoustic guitar. While I love the musicians she recorded her songs with, this is the only one that may take me getting used to the additional backup. I do love the harmonica played by Peter Dolese but I don't particularly care for some of the background vocals on this song (just some of them Nancy!) However, the strength of the song overcomes my misgivings about that and I'm pleased with her result. *Come Out of the Darkness* is simply Stacie's beautiful voice and her guitar and this song moves me every time I hear it, and I swear she wrote it for me. In *Till the End*, one of the highlights of the song is the beautiful piano playing of Louise Goldberg. It really adds to any already touching song about love that eventually develops between childhood friends.

One song I love to hear Stacie sing is the lively *Where You Are Over Me* and Rick Wright on lead guitar (and on *I Ain't Buyin It*) gives it a real country feel. *Let Me Let Him Go*, another pretty ballad, is a conversation between the head and the heart to let a love go, with the head telling the heart, "I'm counting on you, to be the stronger of the two, let me let him go." I love the idea of the song and it's another one of my favorites.

Probably my least favorite song on the tape is *I'm Goin Down*. It's one of the liveliest songs and I'm physically incapable of not tapping my feet to it because it's a good song. I'm just not crazy about the words. "I'm goin' down, in a sea of love, I'm drownin', don't pull me up." It relies too much on a cliché (sea of love) but that's my only complaint about it. I really like the fiddle and the lead guitar on this (provided by Mo Gibson and Phil Smith respectively).

Other musicians on the tape are Terri Hoersch on bass, Elyse Angelo and Dona Jo Cox on drums, Nancy Nesser providing harmony vocals, and Mike Dunn, along with Phil Smith, and Rick Wright contributing lead guitar.

Overall, I love this tape. I would like to see Stacie delve deeper into the heart and the complexities of love won and lost, but I'll continue to be a fan whether she does or not. Words are important to me but Stacie also has a voice that draws me in and melts me. And with songs like *The Harbour* and *Come Out of the Darkness*, she's got me hooked. And okay, I'm somewhat biased. I happen to know and like Stacie but I have no doubt that she has the talent and the drive to make it. If she does, then I'll buy her music and say I knew her when. Good luck Stacie!

Stacie is selling her tapes herself so if you'd like a copy, you can call 528-3727 and leave me your name and phone number and I'll arrange for you to pick up a tape. They are \$6 each. ☆

RED ROCK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER IS NOW OFFERING AN AFFIRMING SUPPORT GROUP FOR GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL INDIVIDUALS IN THE SHAWNEE AREA

Are you looking for a positive way to meet new people and make friends in a supportive atmosphere that encourages sharing ideas and concerns? Join us as we learn more about ourselves and our community.

TIME: WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 5:30-7:00 P.M.

PLACE: RED ROCK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
126 N. BELL, SHAWNEE, OK

For more information about this group, please contact the office of Red Rock Mental Health Center at 425-0399. ☆

Have some spare time on your hands? Do you enjoy reading? Come on by Herland Sister Resources and select from our inventory of new and used books for sale. We also offer a lending library of used books. Herland Sister Resources is open every weekend at 2312 NW 39th, OKC.

As Long as I Breathe... (continued from previous page)

Anyway. The place was full, and spirits were high, and a great time was had by all. All of "us", anyway. Interestingly I think we had a much better time than the people who won the day. Following the final vote, one of us stood and called to the Council "Shame!. Shame on you." It felt good. We were a wonderful group of lesbians and gays and transgenders and straight human-rights activists. We knew the proposals would fail, but we also knew that our cause will prevail. As more than one of our speakers said, "As long as I breathe....we will keep coming back; and the City Council will pass this ordinance." ☆

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Since November 1993, lesbian partners Wanda & Brenda Henson, along with numerous volunteers, have defended their 120 acre "Camp Sister Spirit" folkschool from an ongoing, religious-right-inspired campaign of violence, harassment, intimidation and death threats. There have been over 64 incidents to date, including telephone death threats, mail-bomb threats, explosives at their gate and a dead dog tied to their mailbox. They sleep with rifles next to their bed. Mississippi Family Values was created for the purpose of finding ways to "oust" Sister Spirit Inc. from their land. The climate of hatred that has been spawned in the surrounding communities is palpable and deadly. Two gay men were murdered recently just 15 miles away.

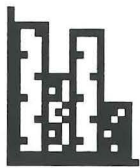
This climate of aggression briefly attracted the attention of Attorney General Janet Reno who sent Justice Department representatives to Ovett to investigate the situation last year. The Justice Dept. concluded that the Federal government could NOT help because GAYS AND LESBIANS ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THE CURRENT CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.

With no help from the government in sight, veteran gay and lesbian activists have decided to take the defense of Camp Sister Spirit into their own hands so that Camp Sister Spirit can complete their dream of building a feminist lesbian folk school (an educational and cultural retreat center that makes available an opportunity for learning non-oppressive lifeways) & having food-boxes and clothing available to address the realities of poverty in the area.

In addition to helping build the property, money will be raised to help Camp Sister Spirit pay for expenses for a federal lawsuit to be filed under the anti-Klan act for the harassment they have received.

Because of the escalating violence against lesbians and gays all over the world, an international lesbian/gay version of the Clothesline project will occur during this time at the camp. The purpose of the Clothesline project is to bear witness to the survivors and victims of the war against women, both the casualties of the war, and the wounded. This display will show the extent of the problem with a visual impact similar to the AIDS quilt. Another purpose of the Clothesline is to help with the healing process for people who have lost a loved one or who are survivors of this violence.

The Destination: Ovett - Gay Freedom Rides Coalition will contact gay and lesbian groups all over the world to send in T-shirts bearing the names of gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, transsexuals, and transgenders who have suffered violence or death. These will be displayed at Camp Sister Spirit. ☆



BOOK REVIEW

by Jo L. Soske

Susan Koppelman introduces her latest collection, Two Friends and Other Nineteenth-Century Lesbian Stories by American Women Writers, with the brilliant preface and introduction her readers have come to expect. Susan presents eleven stories which she says are, "...portrayals of lesbian love, lesbian passion, lesbian heartbreak, and lesbians living our their lives..." She offers these stories as proof that it was possible, in the nineteenth century, to publish lesbian stories about women loving women. Susan says that these stories "feel" like lesbian stories.

It was not without ambivalence that I read this book. The headnote to each story is interesting and extremely well written. The book is worth reading simply for this reason. Two of the stories, "Since I Died," and "Two Friends" very definitely "feel" like lesbian stories. However, the other stories feel, to me, like pre-lesbian stories. Though most of them involve women loving women, they lack any lesbian consciousness or lesbian community. They are filled with causal assumptions of heterosexual superiority. Some of the stories contain a woman character who is woman centered, but she is always isolated in the deepest sense of the word. I found reading some of these stories to be quite painful. It was very much like reading The Well of Loneliness. These stories are no less historically significant. They are an important piece of our past and must be read. For this reason and for its brilliant scholarship, I strongly recommend this book. However, I do not suggest it for causal, pleasurable reading. ☆

Multinational Monitor Announces Ten Worst Corporations of 1994

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 -- Denny's, Dole Foods, General Electric, General Motors, Monsanto, Nike, Pepsi, Philip Morris, Unocal, and Upjohn are the "Ten Worst Corporations of 1994," according to the December 1994 issue of The Multinational Monitor.

These companies are named by the magazine for substantially contributing to corporate wrongdoing. According to the article, corporate crime and wrongdoing as opposed to street crime poses the greatest risks to society. Each year in the United States, white-collar fraud alone costs \$200 billion, dwarfing street robbery's cost of \$565 million and burglary's cost of \$3.8 billion.

Author Russell Mokhiber said, "the popular theory, and the one put forth in the best-selling book The Bell Curve, is that, as a group, criminals are below average in intelligence. Yet the opposite is true. The criminals who inflict the most damage are above average in official measures of 'intelligence.' They are the executives who run multinational corporations."

The cost of corporate crime is not only financial. According to Mokhiber, corporate crime is more violent than street crime as well. "The handful of the world's corporate criminologists who have studied the issue agree that corporate crime and violence kills far more people than all the street crime and violence combined. While the murder rate in the United States is 24,000 a year," he added, "the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health estimated recently that occupational diseases kill 50,000 Americans a year."

The Multinational Monitor, founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader in 1980, is a monthly magazine that focuses on issues of multinational corporate power. ☆



LGBT TOWN HALL

Activists from Norman, Oklahoma City, Shawnee, and Tulsa gathered in Norman on January 14 to discuss issues facing the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. The state-wide town hall meeting, convened by OGLPC, attracted nearly 30 participants from Simply Equal-OKC, Simply Equal-Norman, TOHR, Lighthouse MCC, NOW, Herland, OBIN, LEAGUE, OUGBLA and unaffiliated individuals. The importance of improved networking among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (l-g-b-t) organizations and our allies was stressed by all the participants. A follow-up meeting to continue the discussion was set for 11 a.m. on April 1 at Clark Memorial United Methodist Church, 5808 NW 23rd, Oklahoma City.

Each of the participants gave her/his ideas about the problems and issues facing the gay/lesbian community in a round-robin session. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussion of ways to address the issues that had been identified.

The most common theme in the issues identified was the need for communication among l-g-b-t organizations and individuals state-wide. The threat from the Radical Right; the need for organizing and education both within the l-g-b-t communities and in the general public; and, the importance of visibility of l-g-b-t individuals and our organizations were frequently identified issues. The need of focusing our efforts for equal rights in the legal, secular arena and not debating morality with the Radical Right was emphasized by several participants.

The consensus of the group was that improved networking among l-g-b-t organizations and allies is an important step toward addressing these issues. Several ideas for networking were discussed, including development of a state-wide council or coalition of organizations. The group agreed to continue the discussion at the follow-up meeting in April.

Notes of the January 14 meeting will be distributed to all those attending the meeting and those who received meeting announcements. They will be asked to rank the top ten issues and submit them for compilation before the April meeting. The top five issues identified will be discussed at the meeting.

If you would like to receive information about the April meeting, please leave your name and address on the Simply Equal voice mail 945-5923. ☆

Dykes To Watch Out For



BULLETIN BOARD

Lesbian-only counseling - group or individual. Contact Jo L. Soske, MED/MHR/ICADC/LPC at 321-0134 for more information.

Attention artists: the Bunkhouse is currently sponsoring a logo contest. Entries must be received at the Bunkhouse no later than midnight, February 15. The winning entry will receive a \$100 cash prize. Contact the Bunkhouse for details.

Call for Submission: "Loving Across the Boundary: An Anthology of Lesbian Relationships Across Race and Culture." We believe that lesbian relationships across lines of race and culture involve profound challenges, joys, and satisfactions. As far as we know there is currently no published work where such relationships are central, or addressed in detail. We are looking for essays, short stories, and personal writings, of no more than 30 double-spaced pages, authored by one or both partners. We plan to write a short introduction talking about how and why this book is important, and a concluding segment drawing on our own and others' personal experiences to bring out the skills, principles, and perspectives which are valuable tools for alliance building. Please submit three copies of the manuscript with name(s), address, and phone/fax number listed on a separate sheet. Manuscripts should be sent to: Gwyn Kirk & Margo Okazawa-Rey; 351 30th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131; by September 1, 1995. For more guidance on the kind of issues to address, check the bulletin board at Herland or write to the editors at the above address.

Lesbian Writers Fund Accepting Submissions for 1995 Awards: Five awards of \$11,000 each will be made in June 1995: 3 Fiction, 2 Poetry. Now in its fifth year, the Lesbian Writers Fund was established by the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation to support the work of emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry. Deadline for applications is March 8, 1995. Write or call for guidelines and application form to: Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, Attn: Lesbian Writers Fund, 666 Broadway, Suite 520, New York, NY 10012, (212) 529-8021.

CROSSING THE BOUNDARY: FEMINISMS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA MARCH 17-19, 1995.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JUDY GRAHN (One of the foremost voices of Lesbian/feminism, her works include *The Common Woman Poems*, *Edward the Dyke*, *The Queen of Wands*, *The Queen of Swords*, and *Another Mother Tongue -- Gay Words, Gay Worlds*. At this conference, Judy Grahn will also offer a workshop.)

For more information on the conference, contact Kerri Shaw at (918) 631-3421.



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