

*The*

# HERLAND VOICE

November, 1995



## LESBIANS SEE RESULTS AT WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

A concerted effort by lesbian activists has led to unprecedented recognition of lesbian concerns at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. The "Platform For Action" adopted at the Conference includes strong language recognizing women's right to have control over and decide freely on matters relating their sexuality "free of coercion, discrimination or violence," and tireless lobbying by over 30 members of the Lesbian Caucus resulted in significant support for the inclusion of language specifically recognizing the existence of discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Early Friday morning, in the final hours of negotiations, the 185 governments present at the Conference debated the inclusion of the term "sexual orientation" in four actions of the Platform. After a heated debate in which many countries spoke for and against the language, Chair Patricia Licuanan noted that although sexual orientation was an issue that was sure to be raised again in the future, without consensus she had no choice but to strike it from the document. Among the countries speaking in favor of retaining the language on sexual orientation were South Africa, Jamaica, Barbados, Canada, the United States, Cuba, Brazil, Slovenia, Colombia, Australia, New Zealand, Israel and the countries of the European Union. The countries opposing the language included Libya, Sudan, Uganda, and Syria.

"This Conference represents a significant victory for lesbians," commented Rachel Rosenbloom, Lesbian Project Coordinator at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC). "At the last World Conference on Women ten years ago, only one country -- the Netherlands -- spoke out in support of lesbians, and at this conference over 30 countries have done so. The debate that occurred gives some indication of the battles that lesbians must keep fighting all over the world to gain recognition of their rights, but this conference lays a firm groundwork for future action at the local, national, and international level."

One of the paragraphs in question states in its final form that "many women face particular barriers because of such factors as "their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, disability or other status or because they are indigenous people." While sexual orientation was removed from this list, several countries went on record as saying that they interpreted "other status" to include sexual orientation.

IGLHRC was one of eleven lesbian and gay groups

accredited to attend the World Conference on Women, and was a central organizer of lesbian activities at both the Conference and the parallel Non-Governmental Forum on Women. At the Conference, IGLHRC released a report entitled *Unspoken Rules: Sexual Orientation and Women's Human Rights* which details human rights violations against lesbians in 31 countries around the world.

At both the Conference and the Forum, lesbians from every region of the world were active in unprecedented numbers and brought a broad range of issues to the attention of conference participants. On September 10, Human Rights Day at the Conference, lesbian activists hung a large purple banner proclaiming "Lesbian Rights are Human Rights!" during the afternoon plenary session, and on September 13, South African lesbian activist Palesa Beverley Ditsie received a standing ovation when she addressed the assembled delegates at another plenary session on behalf of IGLHRC and over 50 other non-governmental organizations. ☆

## JAZZ FOR REST

Celebrate Mary Reynolds Night  
in OKC  
on November 4 with Miss Bown to You  
in concert at 8 PM at the First Unitarian Church.  
The concert will benefit REST,  
Oklahoma City's day shelter for the homeless.  
Tickets are \$10 in advance and available at  
Rainbow Records.



**NOTICE!** Herland  
Sister Resources will be  
closed the weekend of Thanksgiving  
(November 25-26). It's not too early to  
start thinking about that gift for someone  
special this holiday season. Drop on by  
Herland and do your shopping with us!

# St. Sybil

Dear St. Sybil,

You don't think you're going to get away without commenting on the Simpson decision and the race division in this country, do you?

Thanking you in advance,  
Jess Wondrin

Dear Jess,

Okay. First of all, keep in mind that about a third of white Americans think Simpson should have been found Not Guilty, and about a third of black Americans think he should have been found Guilty; so the divide is not quite as immense as people are making out.

Secondly, keep in mind the old fable about the group of blind men "seeing" an elephant for the first time. The one up front at the trunk thought Elephant was mighty like a snake; one at the ears thought Elephant was like a fan, useful on a summer day; one at the legs thought Elephant must be a tree - the one thing they all agreed on, was that Elephant was mighty smelly; and I think that's the one thing universally agreed on about the Simpson trial as well. BUT, my point is not that the trial was malodorous but that people looking at it from different positions, different perspectives, are bound to perceive very different things. The black and white experience with the police and the justice system in this country is so disparate that it is a wonder there is any convergence of opinion on the case at all. It is neither surprising nor unreasonable that a large number of black Americans feel that the Los Angeles police department is very capable of setting out with full malice aforethought to frame O. J. Simpson for what might well be a drug hit or some other sort of murder.

Thirdly, keep in mind that some of the evidence was tainted, or did not fit, or was contrived, or perjured. One woman-on-the-street on television said that she would rather put nine innocent men in prison than let one guilty person go free. That is pretty harsh, and the consensus here where I am is the reverse - we would rather see nine guilty go free than put one innocent person in jail, just as we would rather give alms to nine undeserving people than withhold them from one deserving soul. (Admittedly, we're saints here).

Lastly, the ideal of the American system of justice is more important than any one case. Yes, it is.

Love ya,  
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. *The Voice* is printed on recycled paper.

## REALITY CHECK

The folks at IBM recently decided that their executive secretaries - all women - make too much money and should take a pay cut. The women will be paid \$20,000 to \$30,000 less annually. In other words, they are losing as much as the average U.S. worker earns in a year (\$26,000). The top salary for a senior executive secretary is \$70,000. Not bad, but consider that the announcement of the cuts - to take effect in 1996 - came at a time when Big Blue also announced bonuses totaling \$5.8 million to five executives - all men. In fact, all the cuts from all the IBM executive secretaries combined wouldn't equal the \$2.6 million bonus chairman and CEO Louis Gerstner received last year.

The typical wife in a dual-income household spends more than 20 hours a week doing housework, while her husband spends 5 hours or less. ☆

(Info from Ms. Magazine, September/October 1995)



## LIGHTHOUSE GIFT STORE

Lighthouse Gift Store for PLWAs has been established by the Lighthouse Metropolitan Community Church. The store will offer the opportunity for persons living with AIDS to select a couple of gifts to give loved ones for the holidays.

The store will be open on November 6 and December 4 from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. at the Lighthouse Metropolitan Community Church.

For information call Nancy Altman at 528-8359 or John Nicholas at 942-2822. ☆



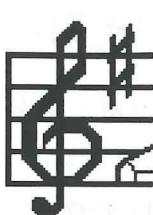
## CONGRESSWOMEN BANISH FEMINISTS

In what could hardly be a more appropriate metaphor for the new right-wing Congresswomen who were elected in 1994, Reps. Sue Myrick (R/NC), Linda Smith (R/WA) and Helen Chenoweth (R/ID) are leading the fight to keep the statue of women's suffrage leaders in the basement.

The statue honors Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Susan B. Anthony and was donated by the National Women's Party in 1921. It has been kept in the basement of the capitol since 1921.

Honoring feminists is apparently too much for these militant anti-feminists, who have proposed, "some other sort of woman's suffrage display." Moreover, they want the money for this to be raised at a fundraising event featuring Newt Gingrich, so HE can get credit. ☆

(Reprinted from Political Women Online)



# MUSIC REVIEW

by Jill Garner

## Kate Campbell - Songs From the Levee

I missed Kate Campbell's show the last time she played at The Blue Door and I'm not going to make that mistake again. She's coming back November 17 (even after only three people were at her show the last time). Shortly after she played in Oklahoma City last spring, NPR did a story on Campbell and played some of her songs. I loved her immediately and I love this album.

Originally from the Mississippi Delta, her songs evoke a southern spring afternoon, sitting on a big front porch with a glass of iced tea, looking out over the fields with a gentle breeze blowing through the wheat.

**Bury Me in Bluegrass** is one of Campbell's prettiest songs. She sweeps you to a farm that has been passed down through generations, and captures the feeling of the stability and family life enjoyed there. With no kids left who want to keep the land though, it's being sold to developers. It's a heartbreak song because unfortunately family farms are rapidly disappearing, being replaced by shopping malls and housing developments. "*Will you walk with me across the blue-green pastures, I wanna see horses run one more time, You can lay me down beside the ones gone before me, Bury me in bluegrass when I die.*"

Campbell has a way with words that celebrate the beauty of the south without forgetting its social troubles and ills. In **A Cotton Field Away**, the South's history of slavery and the pain of racism is captured with these lines; "*The fires burn bright, A window breaks, Another one dies, A momma's heart aches, Behind locked doors, A white man pray, And thanks the Lord he lives, A cotton field away.*" **Trains Don't Run from Nashville** addresses the inevitability of change. It romanticizes the past when trains could bridge the miles between lonely lovers. "*This used to be where people stepped aboard a dream, Now it's just an old hotel, people come to see, If I could buy a ticket I'd be in his arms once more, But the trains don't run from Nashville anymore.*" Campbell also laments the fast pace of life and the coldness of life in the modern world in **South of Everything**. "*Why is everyone in such a hurry, No one ever wins a rat race, And they wonder why so many go crazy, I gotta get out of this place. I'm going south of everything, Where the air is sweet and church bells ring, Back where I come from, back where I belong, Down where the sun shines in the rain.*"

If Campbell's voice, songwriting talent, and beautiful songs are any indication, I can guarantee a great show at The Blue Door. If you're sick of Oklahoma City radio and long for something different than the same bands at the same bars, treat yourself to an evening of music by this wonderful singer/songwriter. Please support live music in Oklahoma City.

(continued on page 5)

## Gift Subscription to *The Voice*

Do you know of someone that would enjoy receiving *The Voice*? This Holiday Season give the gift of our community's voice to someone you know or treat yourself to a subscription.

YES! I would like to give someone I know a subscription to *The Voice*. Please mail a gift subscription out to the following individual(s):

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Subscriptions to *The Voice* are \$12 and include 12 monthly issues. Please make your check payable and mail to:

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# B U L L E T I N      B O A R D

**LESBIAN-ONLY COUNSELING** - group or individual counseling. For more information contact Jo L. Soske M.E.D./M.H.R./I.C.A.D./L.P.C. at 321-0134.

**LESBIANS KISSING '97** - 2nd National Photographic Competition / A Call for Entries. A \$100 cash payment for one-time reproduction rights for each accepted entry. \$1,100 in cash and prizes will be awarded to the photographer whose photo is selected for the 1997 cover. Rules for Judging: 1) Submit either 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" color photographs. NO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS. Photographs must be of a high quality image to accommodate reproduction & enlargement. Both amateurs and professionals are invited to participate. 2) To enter: Up to three photographs may be submitted for the \$10 entry fee (make check payable to *A Tom Boyz Production*). Decision of judges is final. 3) Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 1996. Only entries including a stamped self-addressed envelope will be returned. Please ship protected. 4) Subject: Lesbians Kissing Each Other. Photos that celebrate our diversity are particularly sought. 5) Mail to: Beth Corwin, *A Tom Boyz Production*, San Francisco, Ca 94141.

**WE WANT YOUR JUNK !!!** Pride Summit is holding a series of Community Garage Sales to raise funds for **SUMMIT 95**, the second Statewide Gathering of Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay/Transgender peoples from across Oklahoma. We need your donations of: clothes, appliances, books, tapes, furniture (with advance notice for pickup), novelties, etc. SO EMPTY OUR THOSE CLOSETS!! We will take anything.....tacky shoes from the 70s, dusty records from the 80s, even those funky knick knacks that your ex left behind! Even if you think no one could use it.....WE WANT IT! For FREEPICKUP give Susan a call at 524-2507. The first Pride Summit in 1994 was attended by over 100 people. With your help we hope to make *Summit 96* an even greater success!

**CREATING CHANGE 1995** will be held this year in Detroit, Michigan on November 10-12 at the Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center. For more information write to Creating Change 1995, NGLTF Policy Institute, 2320 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 2009.

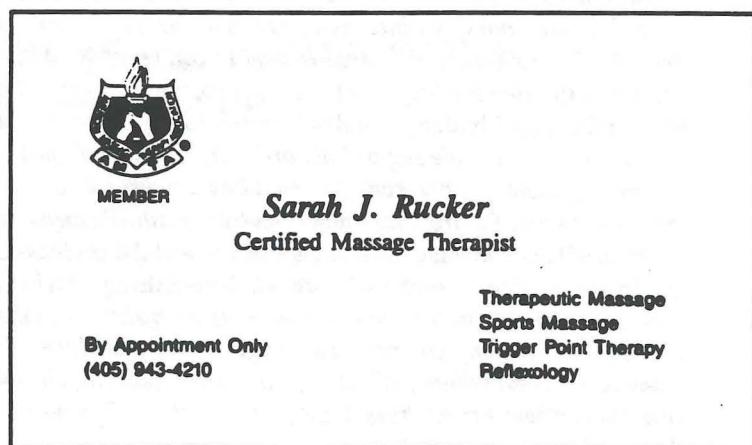
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to THE VOICE



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# MUSIC REVIEW

(continued from page 3)

## New Albums Released or Soon to Be

### k.d. lang - All You Can Eat

**Melissa Etheridge** - I saw the video for the title song recently and I was so floored that I don't remember the name. Whew! Go Girl! Expected in late '95.

### Indigo Girls - 1200 Curfews, Live Double album

### Cheryl Wheeler - Due in October

**Four Bitchin' Babes** - *Fax It, Charge It, Don't Ask Me What's for Dinner*. I've never heard them but I love the title. The group consists of Christine Lavin, Patty Larkin, and Megon McDonough and with Lavin's sense of humor and Larkin's voice, it's worth taking a chance on.

**Tracy Chapman** - Expected in October.☆

## Dykes To Watch Out For



## Tenth Annual FALL PEACE FESTIVAL

A Celebration of Justice & Compassion.

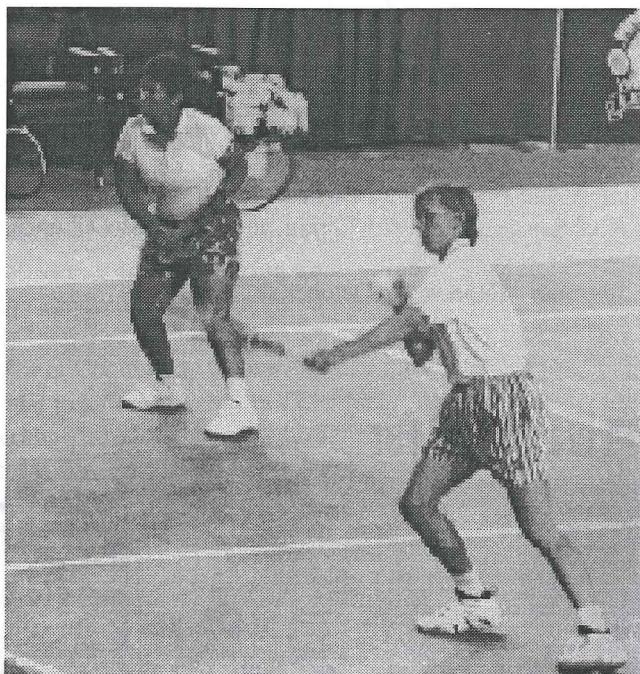
50 social justice and environmental groups will display 1,001 Holiday Gift Ideas.

✓ Live entertainment all day.

✓ Healthy Food from the EARTH and Grateful Bean restaurants.

Saturday, December 2nd  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
St Luke's United Methodist Church  
222 NW 15th Street  
Oklahoma City

# Legends of Tennis In OKC



The tennis was truly legendary when Billy Jean King and Chris Evert squared off against Rosie Casals and Martina Navratilova.



A surprise spectator - Melissa Etheridge!



Legends Betty Stove, Frankie Durr, and Martina Navratilova joke with the chair umpire.

# November 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Mary Reynolds Night in OKC Miss Brown To You in Concert 8 P.M. Unitarian Church in OKC
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					Peggy Johnson The Grateful Bean 8 P.M.	
12	13 OU Rape Awareness Week Workshop and Discussions at United Ministry Center 1017 Elm, Norman	14 Information 366-7872 Candlelight Vigil at the South Oval	15 Take Back the Night March and Rally at South Oval	16	17	18
19 4:30P.M HSR Board Mtg.	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving	24 Peggy Johnson Medina's 9:30P.M.	25 Herland Closed Circle of Friends Medinas 9:30 P.M.
26 Herland Closed	27	28	29	30		



## Fall Peace Festival

The tenth Fall Peace Festival on Saturday, December 2 promises "1,001 Holiday Gift Ideas" from more than 40 organizations and groups working for social change in central Oklahoma. The Festival is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Family Living Center at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 222 N.W. 15th Street in Oklahoma City.

"Live entertainment all day, the Earth deli and the Grateful Bean, a Children's Activity Area, and side workshops and videos will make the festival the most inspiring and largest ever. "With the holidays coming, don't go to the mall, come to the Peace Festival," said Nathaniel Batchelder, Peace House staff member.



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