HERLAND VOICE

February, 1996

Barbara C. Jordan

A powerful voice for justice was stilled when Barbara C. Jordan, 59, died of complications of leukemia on January 16, 1996. Jordan was the first woman and the first African-American elected to Congress from Texas after Reconstruction. She gained national notice as a member of the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment hearing of President Nixon in 1974. At the time of her death, she held the Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy at the University of Texas, Austin.

She began her career in politics in the Kennedy-Johnson campaign. "They put me to work licking stamps and addressing envelopes. One night we went out to a church to enlist Negro voters and the woman who was supposed to speak didn't show up. I volunteered to speak in her place and right after that, they took me off licking and addressing." In 1966, she was elected to the Texas State Senate becoming the first African-American Texas state senator. Within 6 years, she was selected to the post of Speaker pro tem of the Texas State House. After her election to Congress in 1972, she served for three terms, leaving Congress in 1979 to teach at the University of Texas.

Professor Jordan was named Chair of the Commission on Immigration Reform by President Clinton in December of 1993. The President also presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's most prestigious civilian award. Other awards and honors include the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, the 77th NAACP Spingarn Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, and induction into the African-American Hall of Fame and the National Women's Hall of Fame.

In 1995, as Chairperson of the Commission on Immigration Reform, she spoke in Congress against a proposal to deny automatic citizenship to children born in the United States to undocumented immigrant parents.

Barbara Jordan was born February 21, 1936 in Houston. She attended the segregated public schools of Houston and graduated from all-black Texas Southern University. She completed law school at Boston University. Her father, a Baptist minister, worked as a warehouse clerk to help her pay for college. "We were poor, but so was everyone around us, so we didn't notice it," said Jordan.

She is survived by her mother, Aryleene; two sisters, Bennie Cresswell and Rose Mary McGowan, and a brother-in-law, John McGowan, all of Houston. &

"Many fear the future. Many are distrustful of their leaders and believe that their voices are never heard. Many seek only to satisfy their private work wants, to satisfy their private interests. But this is the great danger America faces. That we will cease to be one nation and become instead a collection of interest groups: city against suburb, region against region, individual against individual. Each seeking to satisfy private wants.

If that happens, who then will speak for America?... What are those of us who are elected public officials supposed to do? I'll tell you this: we as public servants must set an example for the rest of the nation. It is hypocritical for the public official to admonish and exhort the people to uphold the common good if we are derelict in upholding the common good. More is required of public officials than slogans and handshakes and press releases. More is required. We must hold ourselves strictly accountable. We must provide the people with a vision of the future."

> Barbara Jordan speaking at the 1976 **Democratic Convention**

"Reaffirm what ought to be. Get back to the truth; that's old, but get back to it. Get back to what's honest; tell government to do that. Affirm the civil liberties of the people of this country. Do that."

> Barbara Jordan speaking to graduates of Howard University in 1974

ADEMIC DYKES - The next emics (women in higher education and ds) Potluck will be on February 10th at 6:30 For more information, call Gail at 8447.

EAN-UP DAY!! - Yard/building cleantry for HSR planned for April. Watch for s.

RLAND SPRING RETREAT - 17-19 at Roman Nose State Park. Watch Voice for registration information.

NNA D!!! - Performing at Herland, day, March 2 at 7 p.m. You don't want to this!

St. Sybil

Sybil Ludington, as almost no one knows, is an unsung hero of the American Revolutionary War. The Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, she is an occasional contributor to these pages.

Dear St. Sybil,

Does it seem to you that we are rushing backwards at warp speed to abandon the gains of the last thirty years? Have you noticed, for example, that young women are having their fathers "give them away" at weddings again, that they are not keeping their own name when they get married, that they are being called - and calling themselves - "girls" again? I just want to throw up. And listen to this: The City Council here in Oklahoma City nearly passed a Human Rights Ordinance that would have exempted private clubs from coverage - shades of the days when white women entered through the side door of men's clubs to go to the dining room on Ladies Day, and of course black women and men came in the back door to go to the kitchen. The Council would have passed it that way, if they hadn't been too mean to pass any ordinance at all. How mean are they? On January 23 they abolished the Human Rights Commission altogether.

But that's not my gripe du jour; fur is. I see a lot of fur these days, even though just yesterday it seemed there was a growing consensus that wearing fur is reprehensible. I hoped that people, once enlightened, would remain so; but evidently I was wrong. Now I fear that a lot of people kept their fur in the closet during those years, when fur was the "hot" issue, not because of an attack of conscience but to avoid an attack of spray paint.

My personal problem is that my basic shyness intermingles with my impeccable manners and gets tangled up with my moral cowardice; and consequently I never know what to say to people wearing fur. Every once in a while I go out at night and shoot up a furrier's windows with red paint pellets and feel a little better for a while, but mostly I just do nothing and say nothing, and hate myself for it. Can you help me figure out something to say to these people? Thank you very much.

Passionately,

2 Wimpy 2 Live

Dear 2.

I'll try, but you should know that your exquisite manners were specifically designed to control your passion, so you'll have to lighten up on one or the other.

Anyway, the next time you see someone wearing fur, try sincerity - if it is someone you know and kind of like, just tell them how disappointed you are; or maybe a little theatre: "My heavens, what a beautiful fake fur. It WHAT???? No!! Oh no. Oh, my, I'm sorry, I didn't know anyone wore fur anymore....". Look stricken and edge sadly away.

If you are feeling more confrontational, and why not, you might try one of these:

- On the street: "My, that's quite a coat...Will you hold still just a moment while I fetch my spray paint?"
- Likewise, in a restaurant: "My, that's quite a coat....uh Waiter, will you bring me a big bottle of ketchup please?"
- Anywhere: "My, that's quite a coat. Was it leg-hold trapped or electrocuted, do you know?"
- "My God, Trigger! What have you done to Trigger?!?"
- "My God, Lassie! What have you done to Lassie?!?!?"
- My God, Fluffy! What in God's name have you done to my cat?!?!?"

and my personal favorite,

"My, that is quite a coat. Did you kill it yourself?"

Yours for skinning the OKC City Council, not poor animals, Sybil

RED ROCK OUTREACH

In a effort to develop a campaign targeting substance use as it relates to HIV prevention, Red Rock Outreach will host a series of focus groups this month. The focus groups will be broken down into four specific meetings based on ethnic background, race and gender. All meetings will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Epworth United Methodist Church, 1901 N. Douglas on the following dates:

- Feb. 7 Focus will be on the African-American community.
- Feb. 14 Focus will be on the gay and bisexual male.
- Feb 21 Focus will be on lesbians and bisexual women.
- Feb 28 Focus will be on Native Americans

For additional information, please contact OUTREACH at 425-0399. ☆

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

Circulation: 1200

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.

Cruising the Web by Pat Reaves

This month's starting place for Web exploration is ISIS, a World Wide Web site featuring the art and culture of women of the African diaspora. [http://www.netdiva.com/isisplus.html] (For Isis Lite, the text only version go to http://www.netdiva.com/isis.html). Isis has many links to pages about and for women of African descent. Sprinkled throughout are wonderful quotes.

The links are divided into Our Story, pages about black women; The Performing Arts, pages about the arts and black women as performing artists; "The Written Word," links to the writing of black women and information about black women authors; and Organizations, Institutions and Events. Following the trails starting at ISIS, I found some other great sites about black women and the history of African-Americans.

Don't miss "Prayer for the Natural Woman" at http://www.netdiva.com/prayer.

The Library of Congress Exhibit, "Selections from the African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture" at http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/African.American/intro.html is a high priority for anyone who'll be teaching about African-American history or anyone who wants to increase her knowledge. It is a sampler from the Library of Congress publication, The African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture, a resource guide to the institution's African-American collections. Covering the nearly 500 years of the black experience in the Western hemisphere, the Mosaic surveys the full range size, and variety of the Library's collections, including books, periodicals, prints, photographs, music, film, and recorded sound.

BLK Homie Page(http://WWW.BLK.COM/BLK/) is the homepage for BLK Publications. It provides news and information about the black lesbian and gay community as well as information about BLK publications.

Don't forget, send me the addresses for your favorite web sites! You can email me at preaves@mail.icon.net. &

THIE AIRC OF

A BOOK REVIEW

by Jo L. Soske

If we have not been long awaiting Clare Coss's anthology of lesbian poetry, The Arc of Love, we have been remiss. The collection is a masterpiece as are many of its nearly 150 entries. The pages come to life with the real issues of lesbian being: disability, lesbophobia, passion, lack of passion, racism, physical abuse, addiction, breaking up, staying together, dieing, living, and a plethora more.

In her brilliant introduction, Coss addresses the possibilities and pitfalls unique to lesbian relationships. She does this with the insight of a therapist and the craft of a poet. She is keenly aware of the challenges and obstacles we face as well as the promise and inventiveness we possess. Knowing the dynamic quests of our lives, she has creatively chosen poems and poets which capture the essence (or non-essence) of these quests with their tapestries of words. Her skill as a psychotherapist is displayed in her arrangement of the poems. It is nearly developmental.

Coss's anthology contains the powerful and beautiful words of our foremothers and heroes as well as those of talented poets on the horizon. It blends the voices of the very young and the very old as well as those belonging to women of African, Asian, Native American, Hebrew, and European descent. The works are a tribute to the creativity, genius, and love to be found in the lesbian community.

Coss says that "The Arc of love is a journey..." She is correct, it is a journey into the diverse reality of our lives. It is a journey that can be taken in accessible language, and one that should not be missed. No lesbian home should be without the Arc of Love.

Have Herland order your copy. ☆

BIBLIO BITS

With February being Black History Month. It is a great time to see what HERLAND's LENDING LIBRARY has to offer in autobiographies or biographies (west wall, short bookcase). Some books on noted women such as Angela Davis or Audre Lorde are on the shelves, as well as others not as well known. Several volumes on Black Women in the non-fiction and reference sections are also available. For this month, there will be a display of materials related to Black History in the library. For better access to the entire collection, new library shelves have been constructed, and the categories of books have been rearranged. The fiction category is now on the north wall, and the reference and non-fiction is on the east wall. Back issues of periodicals are on the top shelves along both walls. If looking for a particular title, check the shelf signs or check the updated card catalog (in process).

In order to be organized and conduct an inventory, there will be an extra effort in the next two months to get overdue books returned. Fines will be waived because having the books back on the shelf is the goal. If you receive a reminder by phone or mail, don't be surprised or offended.

Donations and suggestions are always welcome. For more information, call 521-9696 and leave a message for the library clerk or visit with a volunteer on the weekend. \$\frac{\pi}{2}\$



COUNSELING FOR LESBIANS - available Wednesday evenings. For more information contact Jo L. Soske M.E.D./M.H.R./C.A.D.C./L.P.C. at 321-0134 for an appointment.

HEAL YOUR LIFE - a support group for HIV positive and catastrophic illness will meet every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at Unity Church of Practical Christianity, 5603 N.W. 41st in OKC starting March 7. This group will offer alternative healing methods for healing Body, Mind and Spirit. Please phone 789-2424 for more information.

8TH GULF COAST WOMYN'S FESTIVAL - April 4-7, 1996. Come and create this Lesbian-Feminist Festival: Sober land and safespace at Camp Sister Spirit; Ovett, Mississippi. Brenda and Wanda Henson, Co-Producers. Please come and help us make our 1st Land Payment which is due the week after the festival. Workshops, night stage, craftwomyn show, raffle, silent auction, good southern food, and hospitality. Write: P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS 39464.

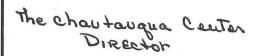
LOVE IS IN THE AIR - 1996 17th Annual GLPCI & COLAGE Conference July 4th-7th (a conference for Lesbian, Bisexuall Transgender and Gay parents, their Children, Friends and Family). Minnesota Families will be your host for the 17th Annual Conference at the Regal Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Inquiries should be addressed to: Minnesota Families GLPCI 96, P.O. Box 11970, St. Paul, MN 55111-0970

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION - has named a new Director for it's Reproductive Freedom Project. Laura K. Rhodes, LCSW, will head up the project for 1996. Ms. Rhodes is also a law student at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. ACLU-Oklahoma Foundation Executive Director Joann Bell says Ms. Rhodes will be monitoring all newly introduced legislation and the Reproductive Freedom Project will actively lobby to oppose any unconstitutional legislation dealing with the Choice issue. The ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project was formed in 1994 and actively takes part in pro-choice activities in the state of Oklahoma. Ms. Rhodes will be the media spokesperson for ACLU Oklahoma on all pro-choice issues. She may be reached at 405-525-3831.

REACH 3000 WOMEN FOR JUST \$.17 EACH! Need to Know Press, the publishers of Women Oughta Know, would like to introduce you to a new marketing opportunity, reaching thousands of women for just pennies a contact. Women Oughta Know Co-op provides women-owned businesses an equal market opportunity through cooperative direct mail advertising. For only \$500, your organization can send a brochure, catalog, flyer, sample issue, or free sample/product give-away along with our monthly female fact sheet, Women Oughta Know, to 3000 female consumers. WOK Co-op will be mailed bi-monthly with our first mailing in March, 1996. For more information about Women Oughta Know and WOK Co-op, please call or fax us at 408-865-0472, or write for guidelines and registration form to Need to Know Press. P.O. Box 1947, Cupertino, CA 95015.

CONTRIBUTORS

to THE VOICE



REBECCA R. COHN, Ph.D. CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

P.O. Box 5119 Norman, Okla. 73070 321-2148 Family Therapy
Retreats



Kathileen Rankir Matasha Rice (405) 447-5111 MYSTIC FOREST TREASURES

unusual gifts · artwork · antiques · plants

heritage Plaza 1961 W. linosey norman, OK 73969



by Jill Garner

I've heard a couple of women recently that I really like. And while they're not exactly unknown, and are enjoying frequent airtime on the radio, I'd like to share with you that these two talented women who both have good albums worth hearing **Joan Osborne - Relish**

It took me a few listens to really like this album, but it's one of my favorites now. One of Us is being played on commercial radio now...A lot. It's a good song and quite catchy. However, this album is full of great songs, from alternative rock to pop to bluesy soul, and most don't fit neatly into radio acceptable singles. I like this album a lot because Osborne's got a lot of versatility and an interesting sound. Not every song sounds the same and her voice ranges from deep and raspy to a higher, extremely smooth sound, the kind of voice I marvel at. Osborne contributed to the writing of every song but three. Her songs, ranging from the rockin' Right Hand Man, to the funky Spider Web and the silly Let's Just Get Naked, prove that Osborne's got the talent to be more than a one hit wonder, and the songs are complex enough that I'm not sick of them after three listens.

Alanis Morrisette - Jagged Little Pill

Although the radio station is currently playing two of her s constantly and ruining them, this album is also worth checking out. Alanis' music is an offbeat mixture of rock, pop, and alternative rock, and she's a talented songwriter. This woman can rock! Jagged Little Pill is a great mix of songs that explore many of the seedier sides of human nature, but I also see a tough woman in her songs making it through life on top. I love so many of the lyrics on this album. Forgiven, my favorite song, seems to me to be about the struggle to believe in Catholicism while at the same time trying to break free of its confinement and rigid belief system. "You know how us Catholic girls can be, We make up for so much time a little too late, I never forgot it, confusing as it was, No fun with no guilt feelings, The sinners, the saviors, the loverless priests, I'll see you next Sunday." Many of Morrisette's lyrics don't always paint a pretty picture; "It's a long way down. On this roller coaster, The last chance streetcar, Went off the track, And you're on it," and some are too sexually explicit for the radio so they change the words. But, I like this woman and the grittiness and bold sexuality that her songs convey. I just have to remember to change the radio station when her songs come on now. Her music's too fun to get sick of.

One other note: I noticed in the Gazette that the OCU theater will be performing Tony Kushner's Tony-award-winning AIDS epic **Angels in America** in March. Watch for it and don't miss it if you didn't make it to any of the cities it played. ❖

UNDER THE GUISE...COULD IT HAPPEN HERE? by j

Early in December of 1995 a revision of the Religious Corporation Law passed the Upper House of the Japanese Diet.

The revision gives the Japanese government unprecedented rights to interfere with the activities of religious organizations.

Sponsored by Japan's ruling coalition, The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), this legislation was initially presented as a response to the public's outcries that the government take some action to prevent incidents such as those allegedly perpetrated by Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) Group, which was implicated in the sarin gas attacks on Japan's subway system in March of last year.

This revision is reminiscent of controls levied by the Japanese government prior to and during World War II which sought to combine all religions under State Shinto and led to the persecution of resistant groups.

Protests from more than 20 Japanese-based religious groups and a statement of protest signed by representatives of several religious and civil liberties groups from the United States did little to dissuade passage of this legislation which federal authority over religious corporations when they engage in activities in more than one prefecture (similar to states), expanding federal control and permitting governmental definition of what constitutes religious activity.

We, her in the United States have had our own confrontations with incidents which shocked our sensitivities and seemed to have religious overtones and similar voices were raised demanding expanded government intervention in religious affairs. Fortunately, at this point, wisdom has prevailed over fear and suspicion, and no hasty courses of action have been taken. However, with another Presidential election year upon us and given some of the subliminal platform issues, the Japanese legislation could be a wake-up call.

The reason for this statement is tied to the headline on this article. What has recently surfaced in the Japanese press, based on statements from various members of the LDP, is an admission that the true purpose of this legislation is to allow the Japanese government to control one particular religious group (not implicated in any way with the nerve gas incidents), before the 1996 elections.

While the religious group itself is not political, its membership has given strong support to the New Frontier Party and there are implications that another sect with ties to the LDP. Although the LDP was formed in 1955, its predecessors ruled Japan before World War II, and as explained by Dennis B. Smith in "Japan Since 1945: The Rise of an Economic Superpower":

The LDP was very much the creation of big business which had forced the right-wing politicians to sink their differences and use their energies to fight the socialists (pg 77).

By now some of you out there are probably wondering, "OK? So what does this have to do with me, us?" To tell the truth, I'm not exactly sure. Have you ever read something that just struck a chord and caused you to ponder? (continued next page)

UNDER THE GUISE...(cont'd from previous page)

Sometime ago I heard a speaker paraphrase a familiar thought suggesting that at times it could be said we have no government "...of the stupid people, by the stupid people, for the stupid people".

Given some of the issues facing us today and the climate, politically, and socially (in all its aspects)...often presented in a manner calculated to incite or strike fear in our hearts and minds...cries of "WOLF! WOLF!" or "THE SKY IS FALLING!"...followed by suggestions for solutions which may, in a state of panic sound "right on", but on closer examination lack any connection to a concept of basic humanity, sanity, and good common sense when projected on the screen of the future, could there not be reason to pause and think about what the real issues might be, what really matters to each of us individually and collectively and determine not to only be moved, in any direction or purpose by provoking speeches and gestures alone?

It has been my experience that actions taken in a state of contrived panic, for reasons real or imagined, by myself or others often create regrets and a whole new set of problems which often seem to take me further off course.

'nuff said.☆



by jingles

Oklahoma City...January 15...Just returned from the Martin Luther King Day events in OKC on this cold and overcast Monday.

Happily, the weather had absolutely no impact on the events or participants...which were spirited, warm and sunny.

At first I didn't see anyone that I knew as I walked the block and a half from where I parked to the Calvary Baptist Church, on a street with throngs headed towards the parade route to watch or march.

There was no way even one more person could get into the overflowing church, so I joined the masses on the sidewalk, still looking for a familiar face.

The first familiar face saw me before I saw her...Bernice, a member of the OKC Human Rights Commission, who stood with us, in the bone-chilling cold, on the steps of City Hall during the vigil for Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill on January 2. She was trying to find where that sporty yellow car she would be toting dignitaries in would be in the line-up. Neat lady, that Bernice!

Soon after that, I ran into Anne Murry and Nathaniel from the Peace House. They were marching close to the front of the parade behind Epworth United Methodist, Ray Jones and the group from AT&T, and the Oklahoma Toxics Campaign. Deciding I was in good company I fell in amongst them in my HERLAND SHIRT.

Next, I saw Fannie Bates handing out circulars on the Northeast OKC Environmental Justice Project and it was about

that time the parade began to move.

Presently, I spied two familiar figures, sitting on top of a car at the intersection, waving and shouting wildly...it was our own Margaret and Wanda.

The parade moved across downtown to the Civic Center at which point many of the marchers retreated to the sidewalk to watch the rest of the parade go past...waving...dancing...singing...cheering.

Finally, more familiar faces came into view as Simply Equal and OGLPC moved in our direction. Helen and Tina came and joined me on the sidewalk watching until the end of the parade...and the HORSES.

It was a very moving occasion. I thought about how far we have come...all of us. I thought about the Little Rock Nine and little Ruby in New Orleans, about my first real encounter with segregation back in 1960 in New Bern, North Carolina. Growing up in Western Massachusetts, I had never really seen discrimination or segregation in all of its ugliness.

Remembering the '60's, the Democratic Convention, the freedom riders, the three slain civil rights activist...just college kids...the Mississippi contingent representing the Freedom Democratic Party...determined to change the old ways...facing down the powers that held them at bay for so long...how they HUNG IN...heads and spirits high...never losing sight of the DREAM...not then, not now.

I was glad I went. Wish more people had found the time to come. Maybe...NEXT TIME??? ☆



Challenge to the Military's Ban on Gays Argued Before Federal Appeals Court in New York

NEW YORK - (reprinted in part) Moving closer to a widely anticipated ruling by the United States Supreme Court, a constitutional challenge to the Clinton Administration's ban on gays in the military was argued before a federal appeals court in New York on January 16.

The case, Able v. USA, is the first case to directly challenge the law barring lesbians and gay men from openly serving in the military. Brought on behalf of six service members, the lawsuit contends that the so-called "don't ask, don't tell" legislation is discriminatory, based on prejudice, and in violation of free speech and equal protection.

The challenge is on appeal from a federal district court in Brooklyn, which dealt a major blow to the military's new ban in March. The lower court ruled that the law violated the First and Fifth Amendments, and was based solely on the fears and prejudices of heterosexual troops.

Although a ruling in this case is not likely to be handed down for several months, the U.S. Supreme Court -- which has never before examined the issue -- is expected to take up the law as early as next year. Another case in Virginia, Thomasson v. Perry, is also making its way up through the courts, as is Phillips v. Perry in Washington State.

--- Herland Sister Resources ---February 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
83rd Birth Anniversary of Rosa Parks, who started the Montgomery bus boycott						6:30 PM Acade- mic Dykes – call 521-8447
1 1	10	12	1 /	15	10	17
11	12	13	14	15 176th Birth Anniversary of Susan B. Anthony, women's rights crusader	16	94th Birth Anniversary of Marian Anderson, the first woman of color to sing with the Metropolitian Opera
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
4:30 PM . Herland Board Meeting				First women's basket- ball game in Madi- son Square Garden, 1974 104th Birth Anniver- sary of Edna St. Vincent Millay, Arnerican poet		6:30 PM Newslet- ter mailing party
25	26	27 Sonia Johnson's 60th Birthday. She was excommunicated from the Mormon Church for her support of the ERA.	28	29	March 27	D. A. P.M.



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