



# HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

VOLUME II, NUMBER 1  
JANUARY, 1986

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.  
1630 N.W. 19, Okla. City, OK 73106

## ABOUT LESBIAN LAND

by K.M., Norman

Cheney, Joyce, ed., Lesbian Land. Word Weavers, \$15.00

The dreams, hopes and visions of womyn living on the land abound in this well-balanced book. Joyce Cheney kept notes, agendas and group flyers from the collective she was a member of in 1976. In 1981, two years after the collective dissolved, she packed her car with the necessities for writing a book and traveled throughout the United States.

There are 27 lesbian lands represented in Lesbian Land. Several are not in existence now. The womyn share their stories of womyn living on the land, bought by womyn, for womyn's use as a place to work, build, play, love, feel safe, support one another, and grow spiritually. They create a place where womyn are honored and healed.

The sizes of the communities range from a few acres to 500-600 acres. In some places one woman owns the land and welcomes all womyn to visit as long as they respect the land. Other lands have as many as 20 names on the deed.

The policies or guidelines vary concerning land payments, use of the land, work and fees for visiting.

There is a variety in the types of womyn-only spaces. A spiritual community for womyn and children of color is located in Arkansas. Womyn's land for the disabled is in New York, although they want able-bodied womyn there also. A retreat facility for womyn is in Northern California where they hope to produce their own wine.

While some lands have permanent caretakers who are able to support themselves on the land year-around, other lands must be left through harsh winter months. They leave, sometimes for lack of buildings to keep womyn warm, or for employment to make the land payments.

This book was written to present a realistic view of what our sisters on lesbian land have experienced. The work is hard, tedious and seemingly unappreciated at times. The womyn have built buildings when they didn't even know they could. They have spent hours in their bountiful gardens on hot, miserable days.

They have struggled with familiar issues such as competition, jealousy, class difference, power dynamics, racism, and male children on the land. It has been a time of growth, learning, pain, rewards, tears, frustration and joy.

Thanks to these wild womyn with wild visions for sharing their part of womyn's culture.

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Kris Marek, for the  
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Happy New Year!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear, dear friends:

For the past month and a half I have been mentally writing a grand literary effort to you in appreciation for your growing support of my music. Consequently, to date, nothing has flowed from my mind, through pen, to paper and finally to Elaine for publication.

In that I have authored a song in which I proclaim "time to do it" (you know, all those things like books to read, trips to take, letters to write, etc.). I am drawing strength from that song to pen you this letter.

In general, your support of the last year has kept me hanging on to the dream that even I can be a working musician. Specifically, the retreat to Osage Hills flamed my dying fire and the en masse appearance of so many of you to the Nov. Second Fret concert filled my cup. (Sometimes I even use cliches.)

Please know that your loving spirits and your smiling faces are special and beautiful and, indeed, needed by me and the music I am trying to impart to an often uncaring world. You help me to care.

In gratitude,  
Peggy Johnson, OKC

Dear Friends:

Sister Pat O'Donnell has been fired from her job at Picture Rocks Retreat near Tucson, Arizona, because of her piece in Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence. She discussed her contribution to the book with the director of Picture Rocks, the Rev. Lyle Konen, long before the book was published, and he had been understanding. Although we don't know all the circumstances, pressure on Father Konen following the book's publication apparently pushed him to dismiss her.

**KRISTINA S. MAREK**

Attorney and Counselor at Law

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1137 N.W. 31st Street  
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Sr. Pat's Dominican community was not involved in this decision. They own several copies of Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence, and have made them available at community discussions concerning the topic.

In Rosemary's and my appearances around the country, several women have introduced themselves to us as grateful recipients of Sr. Pat's spiritual direction. Many lesbian nuns, ex-nuns, gay priests and brothers, and others have found their way to Tucson after hearing about Sr. Pat's healing work. It is distressing to think of our lesbian sisters' and gay brothers' access to her spiritual guidance being threatened.

Pat O'Donnell will continue giving workshops and providing holistic counseling on an individual basis, but donations and support are being sought. To send support to her, write: Pat O'Donnell, 2937 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 95726-6247.

Nancy Manahan and Rosemary Curb  
Editors of Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence

(Note: This letter has appeared in several women's publications in December and is reprinted here for your information.)



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**LOCAL NEWS**

**\*\*The relocation of 14-15,000 Navajo and Hopi Indians living around Big Mountain in northeastern Arizona has prompted the formation of a Big Mountain Support Group in Oklahoma. Contact Leona Luecke, 2920 N. Robinson, OKC, 73103, 524-5577 for more information.**

--from Norman Peace Alternatives, Vol. 1., No. 5

**\*\*On December 5, 1985, the United States tested a nuclear warhead at the Nevada Test Site. This was the sixth test since the Soviets began their testing moratorium on Aug. 6, 1985.**

As a reponse to the Soviet moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, the Okla. Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign holds a vigil weekly on Thursdays, from noon to 1:00 p.m., beginning at the Journal Record Building, then walking to the Old Post Office building in downtown OKC.

--from The Scissortail, Vol. 1, No. 6

**\*\*Individual Artists of Oklahoma is sponsoring an informal poetry reading and discussion on Jan. 15, at 8:00 p.m., at IAO, 12 East California.**

Deadline for entries for the IAO Valentine mail art show is Jan. 31. All entries must be sent through the mail and all entries will be shown.

IAO is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Phone 232-5514.

--from territory of Oklahoma, Fall 1985

**\*\*The OKC Chapter of the National Organization for Women meets Wednesday, Jan. 8. Call for the time and place, 528-0400.**

**\*\*The OU women's basketball team is rated 14th in the country. Oklahoma is 7-0 for the season, with Texas remaining number one.**

**\*\*The Virginia Slims Tennis Tournament will be held in OKC on Feb. 24. Thirty-two women will participate in the tournament.**

**\*\*NOTE TO PATIENTS OF EDWINA JOHNSON, D.D.S.: She is changing locations. Please contact Dr. Johnson at 752-9604. Thank you.**

**\*IMPORTANT\*IMPORTANT\*IMPORTANT\***

Due to the nature of "some people," we will no longer be forwarding the Herland Newsletter without receiving address changes directly from you, our readers.

Over the past year we have found the U.S. Post Office to be somewhat unreliable about the accuracy and speed of the address changes they provide us. We have received three notes to date expressing offense at having been sent our publication. Obviously, these are not the same people who at one time expressed a desire to receive our newsletter. We get an average of 20 address changes each month (at 30 cents each), the majority of which we suppose are negotiated accurately and which should mean you miss only one issue. These three mishaps are three too many since (1) we certainly do not intend to mail this publication to anyone who does not want it; (2) we are concerned that readers may move in with parents or other relatives and not notify us to discontinue the mailing; (3) the receipt of unwanted mail can be reported to (some?) federal agency and jeopardize our non-profit status, given the nature of "some of the material."

The mailing list for this publication is maintained with obsessive accuracy, timeliness and confidentiality. It is for these reasons that we are discontinuing our forwarding service. "Address Correction Requested and Return Postage Guaranteed" will continue to appear on your mailings, for purposes of deleting you from our mailing list unless we have heard from you personally.

We don't want to lose you as a reader! Please use the change of address form provided on every newsletter to notify us when you move.

**\*IMPORTANT\*IMPORTANT\***

**HERLAND COFFEEHOUSE**

presents

**MARY BLACK**

for your entertainment

Friday, January 31, 1986  
8:00 p.m.

Herland Sister Resources, Inc.  
1630 N.W. 19  
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\*\*\*\*\*

January marks Herland's one year anniversary as a non-profit collective. Share birthday cake and toast to a second great year.

**OKC  
GAY HELPLINE  
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## NATIONAL NEWS

The Program in Women's Studies at the University of Northern Colorado will hold its 10th annual Women's Studies Conference on Friday, Jan. 31, in Greeley, Colo. The topic of this year's conference is "Feminist Theologians: The Search and the Revelation." Registration is \$20, \$15 for students. For further information, contact Thersa Malumphy, Program in Women's Studies, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO 80639.

A conference and museum exhibit entitled "Daughters of the Desert: Women Anthropologists in the Southwest, 1880-1980" will be held at the University of Arizona, March 13-14, 1986. Registration is \$5. For further information, contact SIROW, 265 Modern Languages, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, 602-621-7338.

Plainswoman is offering \$200 in prizes in its fourth annual fiction contest. Stories must be about women--realistic stories, fantasies, stories of humor, conflict, suspense. Winning entries will appear in the June-July 1986 issues, and all entries will be considered for publication in future issues. Submissions must be one story of 4000 or fewer words. Deadline is March 15. Mail typed, double-spaced entries and SASE to Plainswomen Contest, Box 8027N, Grandforks, ND 58202. Copies of previous summer fiction issues are available for \$2 each.

Gay American Indians is now accepting contributions for a book-length anthology documenting the past and present lives of gay American Indian men and women. The GAI anthology, the first of its kind, will include essays, oral histories, stories, poetry and artwork. "Our history project has already gathered references on traditional gay roles in more than 100 different tribal societies throughout North America," a spokesperson said. "As gay men and women, we often had a special place in the social, religious and economic life of our communities." Write Gay American Indians, 1347 Divisadero St., #312, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Emergency Money for Unemployed Women is being offered by Altrusa. Any age qualifies, older women are given preference, for \$50-\$500. Must demonstrate plans to become employed within a year of the award. Write: Altrusa International Foundation, Inc., 8 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60603.

Silverleaf Press, a newly formed feminist publisher, is seeking short stories for a collection about women with "nontraditional" lives, jobs, relationships, attitudes, politics, living situations. They are looking for "stories of survival outside the mainstream of expectations in our culture." Send stories (with SASE) to Silverleaf Press, P.O. Box 70189, Seattle, WA 98107.

## ANOREXIA/BULIMIA REPORT

Two million women have suffered from anorexia or bulimia, reports a new national poll. Another one million teenage women also share these problems.

Dr. Sue Bailey, who served as medical consultant to this Gallup poll, said that it "dispels the myth that this is only a teenage disease." She went on to comment that 17% of the respondents admitted to "excessive exercise" to burn off calories taken in during binges. This question had been written "explicitly to mean exercise for 'several hours' at a time."

Bailey conducted a survey in the Washington area earlier which found that 43% of college women would consider trying to throw up after binging, and 28% of eighth graders said the same. Bailey added, "It shows they are vulnerable to developing eating disorders."

Like feminists, she blames the increasingly thin "ideal" of women and the current fitness craze, plus the myth that women ought to be perfect, as the reasons why women succumb. Bulimia and anorexia can cause fatal heart irregularities and other problems, such as pervasive tooth decay (from stomach acid of vomiting), gastric ulcers, cessation of menstrual periods and loss of fertility.

--from Washington Post

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## CLINIC VIOLENCE FLARING UP

Washington, D.C.--The National Abortion Federation reports that violence against abortion clinics rose last month with three major arsons reported in one week.

A Charlotte, N.C., clinic sustained \$20,000 worth of fire damage on Oct. 25. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is pursuing the possibility of conspiracy in the arsons of two Baton Rouge, La., clinics. One clinic was leveled, with \$75,000 damage; the other suffered \$20,000 damage.

NAF spokesperson Sammie Moshenberg said that things had been "quiet for a while" before the recent spate of arsons, but she indicated that harassment of clients at clinics had continued steadily.

The Guardian indicates that, for example, Clinic Eva, a private facility in a Los Angeles suburb, is subject to antiabortion demonstrations every weekend. Recent incidents at that clinic include a woman's bursting into the recovery room to take pictures of clients; a man dressed in a red-spattered butcher apron, waving a fake meat cleaver, invading the Planned Parenthood office next door to the clinic and chasing clinic patients around a parking lot; and one of the antiabortionist leader's being threatened that "God will see to it that this clinic burns down."

--from Off Our Backs, Vol. XV, No. 11, Paula Krebs

## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM BACK IN POLITICS

After a long-time absence from the national political scene, Shirley Chisholm, former congresswoman from New York, is back.

Asked if she would accept a position on the Democratic Party's ticket if it were offered to her in 1988, Chisholm said that it is too early to consider it. "After 27 years in the political arena, I have come to realize that racism is still very much alive," she said. "If I were a white woman with the credentials I have, I might have been on the ticket instead of Geraldine Ferraro. The combination of being black and female still seems to get in the way of many bigoted personages in this country, even though I have proven myself and know that I have the attributes and requisites for leadership. I live my life one day at a time now and if it's to be, it will be."

"The women's movement is not over," she went on. "Sisters, we are semi-paralyzed! The backlash on the current scene, primarily fueled by the fundamentalists, has managed to dominate American politics.

"And the older women, including myself, look on with a certain sense of anxiety as the younger generation of women adopt an attitude of 'We

don't need a women's movement, we are doing fairly well.' And with their Calvin Klein jeans and their yuppie outlook, they don't seem to realize that what is here today may be gone tomorrow unless there is eternal vigilance and an involvement in the situation.

"So, black women in this country have decided that by 1988, if they desire to ignore us at the conventions, they can ignore us; but they're going to know that we're going to be playing a very important role at whatever convention, and black women do not need any more surrogates. We're saying, 'No permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent issues.'"

--from Plexus, Vol. XII, No. 10, excerpts: Katherine Davenport

## AIDS HITS BLACKS HARDER

Contrary to the myth that AIDS is a "white man's disease," statistics show that black persons in the United States are suffering in disproportionately high numbers from the disease, and that the disproportion is even higher among newborns.

Dr. Wayne Greaves, chief of infectious diseases at Howard University, told The New York Times that black people are thought to account for about 25% of the 14,000 AIDS cases reported in the U.S. since 1979. Blacks make up 12.5% of the total U.S. population.

Of the some 200 children with AIDS in this country, 56% are black, Greaves said. Such cases typically involve a mother with the AIDS virus passing the disease along to her unborn child.

--from Her Say

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