

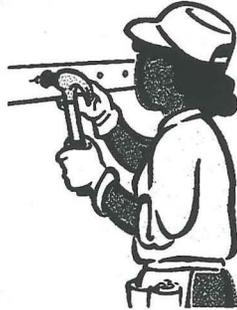
HERLAND VOICE

July 2003

Volume 21, Number 7

Power Tools and Lunch Too!

You may have noticed our trees need trimming and a few other things need doing as well. Herland is having a work day Saturday, July 5th. We're going to start at 10:00 am and we'll break for lunch around noon, courtesy of Herland. We'll let the workers decide whether they want pizza or deli sandwiches or anything else that's quick and easy. So gather up your tools and implements of mass construction and head on over to help us spruce the place up!



Herland Supper Club

Saturday, July 12, 5:30 pm
at Rasoi
2827 N. May in OKC
followed by Movie Night
at Herland at 7:30 pm

The Supper Club will try Indian and Pakistani cuisine this month at Rasoi. After that, we will go back to Herland to watch a film (yet to be determined). Meet at Herland at 5:25 pm if you would like to carpool to Rasoi.

Native American Women

The OKC Two-Spirit Society is having meetings for lesbian and bi-sexual women of Native American descent. Come and share a meal with us at Herland on July 24th at 6:30pm. The OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number is (405) 317-7283.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH
www.michfest.com

Supreme Court Action

from *womensenews.org*

There's a bit of good news from the US Supreme Court for a change. In *Nevada Department of Human Resources v. Hibbs*, the Court upheld a lower court ruling that said state governments were required to abide by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

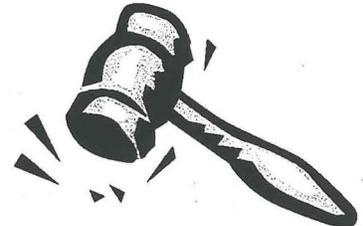
The decision upholding the right of a male state employee to take a leave of absence to care for an ailing relative barred states from relying on the gender stereotype that only women would require time off to meet family caretaking responsibilities.

William Hibbs, an employee of the Nevada state government, sued after being denied a leave of absence to care for his wife. Under the act, eligible employees are entitled to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for family and medical reasons in a given 12-month period. The court's decision says the Family and Medical Leave Act, as written by Congress, was intended to be applied to women and men, as well as both private and public employees.

Justice Rehnquist wrote, "Because employers continued to regard the family as the woman's domain, they often denied men similar accommodations or discouraged them from taking leave. These mutual reinforcing stereotypes created a self-fulfilling cycle of discrimination that forced women to continue to assume the role of primary caregiver and fostered employers' stereotypical views about women's commitment to work and their value as employees."

The decision demonstrates that the Supreme Court currently "has a better understanding of stereotypes, how they operate and how they limit women," said Wendy Weiser, a staff attorney for the New York-based NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the plaintiff.

Among other organizations supporting Hibbs were 9to5, National Association of Working Women, the American Association of University Women, and the National Council of Negro Women. In all, 31 organizations signed on to a separate friend-of-the-court brief.



Best Companies for Working Women of Color

from *womensenews.org*

For eighteen years the magazine *Working Mother* has published a "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" list. This year they added a list of the best companies for women of color as well.

It's a short list. American Express, Fannie Mae and IBM.

To make the cut, the three companies had to demonstrate that they not only employ women of color in executive, professional, and managerial positions, but that they are also committed to diversity and assisting women of color in job advancement.

The magazine offered an online application directed at for-profit American corporations with at least 3000 employees and \$500 million in annual revenue. In completing the application, company representatives answered questions about employee demographics, programs directed at diversity and advancement and managerial responsibility for overseeing such programs. Also a random sample of women-of-color executives, managers and

(continued page 3)

Womyn of Color Club

The Womyn of Color group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please email womynofcolor@gay.com or call (405) 842-3464 or (405) 947-7691 for more information.

Herland Book Club

The Herland Book Club will meet again on Monday, July 7th, at 7 pm to discuss Marge Piercy's classic, *Woman on the Edge of Time*. The selection for August is *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* by Audre Lorde.



Book Review

A Woman's Reality by Anne Wilson Schaeff
Reviewed by WG

This book really impressed me! We agreed that living in a male society sometimes makes it hard for women to achieve their potential, and that at times we have to compromise when working for or with men. Although women are making some strides, men still control most aspects of our society.

Schaeff's perspective was informative and enlightening. She says that the white male system needs to analyze, understand and explain the world, whereas the female system is about growing, changing, without the need to control or define. The author had very good observations about the differences between women's and men's realities.

Herland Hiking Club

Join the Herland Hiking Group for its regular monthly outing to Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, at

10 am on Saturday, July 12th.

There is also an optional coffee gathering beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:30 am.



Great Female Performers at Woody Guthrie Festival

Once again, the Woody Guthrie Festival in Okemah (July 9th -13th) has a great lineup of female performers, and male performers too! Starting on Thursday night on the 'Pastures of Plenty' stage (yes, it really is in a pasture), Mary Reynolds performs at 7:20 pm and the Burns Sisters, three wonderful harmonizing sisters, come on at 9:50 pm.

Friday afternoon the energetic singer and fiddler Darcie Deaville performs. She's always one of my favorites. That evening, Tracy Grammar plays at 7:20 pm and she'll also be performing at The Blue Door on Sunday the 13th at 8:00 pm. For many years she traveled and performed with her partner, musical whiz Dave Carter until his untimely death a year ago. Later that evening, Austinite Eliza Gilkyson takes the stage.

On Saturday at 2:45 pm, Emily Kaitz plays, and that night, one of my very favorite singers, Carrie Newcomer, will be singing on the 'Pastures' stage.

This year's festival promises to be another weekend of stellar music. And if you like old buildings, you have to make it over to the Brickstreet Café for some shows. And check out the downstairs, particularly if it's hot. Also, the Crystal Theater is a wonderful place to get lost in music for a couple of hours.

The 6th Annual Festival marks the return of Arlo Guthrie, Sarah and Abe Guthrie, as well as American folk icon Pete Seeger. The Guthrie family, with Seeger will be the closing act on July 12 at the 'Pastures of Plenty' main stage. A jam-band coming together solely for the purpose of performing at the 2003 festival features Arlo's children - Cathy, Annie, Abe, and Sarah Guthrie with her husband Johnny.

All the venues are great places for music but the 'Pastures of Plenty' is always my favorite, particularly when the sun goes down and the stars come out. Drinks are fine but no ice chests or glass are allowed. Bring a picnic or food is available to buy. Visit www.woodyguthrie.com for more info. Hope to see you there!

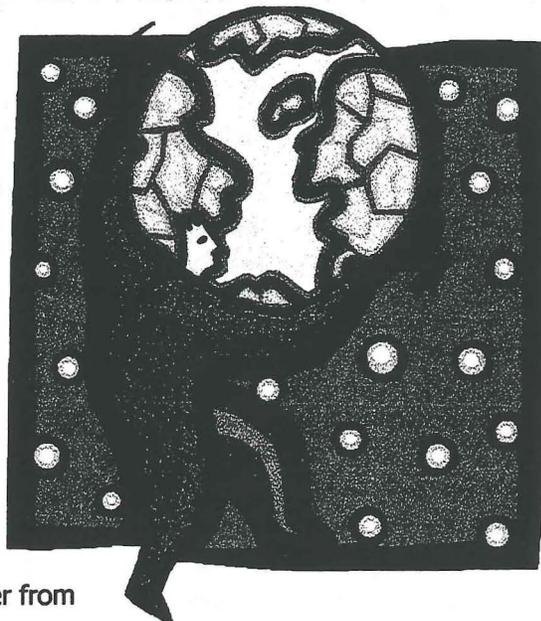
Our World in Perspective

source CARP Niagara Chapters News, April 2001

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

There would be 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south, and 8 Africans; 52 would be female, 48 would be male, 70 would be non-white, 30 would be white, 70 would be non-Christian, 30 would be Christian, 89 would be heterosexual, 11 would be homosexual; 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States; 80 would live in substandard housing, 70 would be unable to read, 50 would suffer from malnutrition; 1 would be near death, 1 would be near birth, 1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education, and 1 would own a computer.

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.



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That spring and summer we lived on hot dogs

Copyright 2003 Peggy Johnson

That spring and summer we lived on hot dogs
And the occasional hamburger
And we felt guilty everytime we put that meat in our mouths
in our system
And the vegetables scared us too
with their pesticides, insecticides,
Fertilized with toxic waste
While war raged in Iraq and Afghanistan and Israel
and Palestine and Africa
and on the southside

And we felt guilty guilty guilty
And lazy lazy lazy
While we stayed up too late
calling just staying alive

Work
And we worked worked worked
too hard too long

Appropriately guilty
as if as if

The guilt would assuage our crime
would detoxify the chemicals
would neutralize the over abundance of unnatural
ingredients in our food
would take the calories out of the fat, the oil we crave

The guilt would unblock our arteries
would save us from getting old

Or at least being old
We could die in our sleep
instead of alive until our bodies decay around us

Eaten away by microorganisms called "too long, too long,
you've used this thing up and you're still breathing"

As if the guilt would make us thin, make us buff
Our minds and brains beyond their ability to comprehend so
they go
they go they go
Crazy like a labyrinth, a maze with no ending, no beginning
Just tumbling down, falling forever into
Peace, serenity
That's what we crave
Peace through guilt
Peace through war
Love through hatred
Resentment breeds freedom in the complex guilty world
Where all we're really looking for
Is a pure, ripe tomato
And an ear of corn with just one or two worms
And a bushel of butterbeans to shell with our family
While mosquitoes buzz
And the children do their chores
Preparing them for their guilt free freedom

While the hot dogs cook on the grill
And the charcoal emits its pollutants
Past and through the hole in the sky
Out there
Where we presume life like us lives
Unfettered by our failings
Where we can be reborn
There
Not here
It's too late here

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

July

- Tuesday, July 1: Miss Brown to You at Galileo, 8:30 pm
- Saturday, July 5: Work Day at Herland, 10:00 am
- July 9-13: Woody Guthrie Festival in Okemah
- Saturday, July 12: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am
- Saturday, July 12: Herland Supper Club at Rasoi, 5:30 pm
- Sunday, July 13: Womyn of Color Meeting
- Monday, July 14: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7:00 pm
- Friday, July 18: Louise's Birthday Party at Galileo, 9:00 pm
- Thursday, July 24: Women's Two-Spirit Meeting at Herland, 6:30 pm
- Sunday, July 27: Mary Reynolds, Louise Goldberg, and Emily Kaitz at River's Edge Bistro in Tulsa, 5:00 pm



August

- Sunday, August 3: Miss Brown to You at Mount St. Mary's, 6:00 pm
- August 12-17: Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Best Companies (continued)

professionals were asked to fill out an anonymous online survey. In total, 1115 women of color were surveyed.

Although 100 companies downloaded applications, only 10 submitted them. Let us hope that the other 90 were so dismayed by their paltry answers that they have instigated reforms to become more hospitable to women of color.

More women of color are entering the corporate world, yet they are less likely than men and white women to fill higher positions and earn larger salaries. Representation of women of color in the workplace in terms of management and executive positions is still very low, the magazine said. While one out of every seven American workers is a woman of color, only one in twelve managers is.

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