

Save the Date!
Herland's 20th
Anniversary Retreat
October 28-30, 2005
Sequoyah State Park

Mark your calendars now for the last weekend in October and join us as we celebrate 20 years of Herland Retreats. Plans are being made for a grand celebration as we re-create some of the most fun activities from past retreats. And, our favorite entertainers are being contacted to play at the Saturday evening concert. Expect the best!

So, to get you in the spirit, here are a few Herland Retreat trivia questions:

1. Where was the first Herland Retreat held? (This one's easy if you read your last newsletter.)
2. Where was a lavender bra run up the flagpole?
3. At which retreat was there a 4:30 virgin?
4. At which retreat were dyke eroticakes served for breakfast?
5. Who were the performers the last time a retreat was held at Sequoyah State Park? Hint: It was in Fall 1988.
6. Where did Herland have its first 4-day retreat?
7. Which retreat featured tie-dyeing and a kazoo band?
8. Which retreat boasted the highest attendance at 150 womyn?
9. Which retreat featured a dog show/costume contest?
10. Which entertainer has performed at the most Herland retreats?

Answers will be in next month's Voice!

Title IX: The Law That Changed Girls' Futures

from the book, Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX, the Law that Changed the Future of Girls in America by Karen Blumenthal

Thirty-three years after its passage, Title IX, the landmark legislation that forbids sex discrimination at schools receiving federal funds, faces new challenges. Earlier this year, the Bush administration quietly changed the rules. To prove they are complying with Title IX, schools now need only conduct an email survey asking what additional sports programs women would like. A lack of response from students would signal that they weren't interested in sports programs. Previously, a survey was only one factor in measuring whether women's athletic interests were being met.

While the debate has focused on athletics, Title IX originally wasn't about sports at all. In the late 1960's, U.S. Rep. Edith Green, a Democrat from Oregon, was shocked as she heard a panel of school superintendents speak at a hearing about a special program for potential high school dropouts. The program included only classes for disadvantaged boys because, according to the superintendents, they "are going to be the breadwinners." Rep. Green was stunned to learn that under existing U.S. laws, it was perfectly legal to discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program.

The superintendent's comments made Rep. Green determined to change the law, and in 1970 she held the first hearings on sex discrimination in education. Despite the evidence presented (including quotas at many public universities that limited the number of women accepted to 5% or 10%), her male colleagues were not interested in changing the law.

Then in 1972, Rep. Green waited to even mention sex discrimination until the education bill was before the entire House Education and Labor Committee. There, she had key supporters, including Rep. Shirley Chisolm of New York, the first African-American Congresswoman, and Rep. Patsy Mink, of Hawaii, the first woman of color elected to Congress. When the full committee gathered, Rep. Green proposed adding a little section to the bill that would ban sex discrimination in programs at schools receiving federal funds.

Some committee members thought the changes unnecessary, even silly. But after battles in both the House and the Senate, Title IX was included in the education bill that President Nixon signed in 1972.

Continued on page 2



The Playing Field

After Title IX passed in 1972, the number of women playing sports and entering law and medical school skyrocketed.

HIGH SCHOOL		1971	2001
Varsity Sports	Boys	3,666,917	3,960,517
	Girls	294,015	2,806,998
Basketball	Boys	645,670	540,597
	Girls	132,299	456,169
Baseball	Boys	400,906	451,674
Softball	Girls	9,813	355,960
Soccer	Boys	78,510	339,101
	Girls	700	295,265
COLLEGE		1971	2001
Playing Sports	Men	170,384	212,140
	Women	29,977	155,513
Entering med school	Men	10,435	8,581
	Women	1,653	7,784
Attending law school	Men	85,554	69,390
	Women	8,914	65,701

Source: National Federation of State High School Associations; NCAA; Association of American Medical Colleges; American Bar Association.

(continued from bottom right)

Once the doors to opportunity were opened, women surged through them. In the early 1980s, the number of women getting undergraduate degrees passed the number of men and kept going. Ironically, the rush of women into colleges and universities has made it challenging for schools to provide equal opportunities on the playing field. Some complain that they have had to cut some men's programs in order to afford new sports for women. This prompted the Bush administration to assess the impact of Title IX rules on athletics and to allow only a web-based survey to show whether women's interests were being met.

By its 30th anniversary, Title IX had become so much a part of the landscape that many students took it for granted. When asked about her reaction to President Bush's proposed change to Title IX, tennis star Jennifer Capriati replied, "I have no idea what Title IX is. Sorry."

Title IX Faces New Challenges

(continued from page 1)

Interpreting the law fell to the Health, Education, and Welfare Department, headed by Secretary Caspar Weinberger. HEW moved slowly to implement the law, in part because it had never before dealt with a sex-discrimination law.

As Weinberger was wrestling with whether the new law would apply to gym classes and competitive sports, one event would help transform the way men and women looked at girls athletics.

Billie Jean King was one of the best tennis players of the day and her forceful battles to win respect for women's tennis caught the attention of Bobby Riggs, a longtime tennis pro and publicity seeker who had won Wimbledon and the US Open years before. A self-described "male chauvinist pig," Riggs was a blunt critic of feminism in general and women in sports in particular. The 55-year-old Riggs challenged 29-year-old King to a match. In a way, the September 1973 match was a giant publicity stunt. But to many people, much more was on the line: If King won, women might finally earn credibility as athletes. In the end, King didn't just beat Riggs, she thrashed him, winning three straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

In the midst of the excitement, Washington regulators were wrestling with implementing this new Title IX. The crucial call as to whether the law applied to sports teams ultimately fell to Secretary Weinberger, a political conservative who had long opposed big government and heavy-handed meddling in people's business.

As Weinberger listened to arguments on both sides, he found the disparities glaring and unacceptable. It wasn't right that schools provided facilities, coaches, uniforms, and locker rooms for boys and men but if girls and women wanted teams, they were expected to raise the money themselves. An estimated 50,000 men went to college on athletic scholarships, compared with perhaps 500 women. He concluded that sports teams were school activities covered under Title IX. If boys got to play, then girls should get to play, too. That single decision would change the course of the new law—and of American sports.

Title IX would face more challenges, from the NCAA, the Reagan administration, and others. But a real breakthrough came in Atlanta in 1996.

The female athletes of the mid-1990s were a different breed than those who competed before them. Most were born in the early 1970s and grew up with access to leagues and teams that their mothers only dreamed about. Dubbed "Title IX babies," many of the team sports players had attended college on athletic scholarships, or at least had gotten to play on college teams. And in this Olympic year, the US, the host country, was committed to their success. The US Olympic Committee supported women's sports financially like never before.

All the women's teams promised to be competitive but NBC television figured viewers wanted to see the glamour sports, like men's basketball, women's gymnastics, swimming, diving, and track during primetime. Women's soccer and basketball would be shown in the off-hours or late at night. Women's softball wasn't on the schedule at all.

Even without the cameras, the women brought fans in record numbers. US women's basketball, softball, and soccer filled stadiums as they each captured the gold medal. Their heart-pounding success refocused attention on the incredible gains women had made in sports. (continued left)

Herland Activities

Herland Work Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 6th, at 10 am. That's when we will be putting the finishing touches on our new cabinets in the kitchen, getting rid of some junk from the garage, and making a few repairs. If you have just a few hours to spare, we could use your help.

Herland Hiking

The next Herland Hike is on August 13. We plan to do the two-mile walking path at Dolese Park. We will meet at the parking lot (just north of NW 50th) on Dolese Park Street (intersects with NW 50th in between Meridian and MacArthur) at 10:00 am. Everyone is also invited to meet at Moe's Place, 5012 N. MacArthur for coffee or breakfast at 9:00 am if they so desire.

Herland Supper Club

The August Supper Club will meet Saturday, August 20, at 5:15 pm at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, 415 Couch Drive, to see the film, *Ladies in Lavender*. Those wishing to carpool can meet at Herland Sister Resources at 5:00 pm. (Herland is located at 2312 NW 39th Street in OKC.)

Ladies in Lavender is about two sisters, Ursula and Janet (Judi Dench and Maggie Smith), who live in an old house by the sea in 1930s Cornwall, England. Their pleasant but uneventful routine of beach walks, reading, sewing, and tea time is interrupted when Andreas (Daniel Bruhl), a young Polish violinist washes ashore, barely alive.

After the movie, at about 7:15 pm, we will go around the corner to La Luna's, 409 W. Reno for some great Mexican food.

Herland Video Night

Come celebrate Women's History Month with Herland on Saturday, August 27, at 7 pm. For more details, see article page 5.

Astraea Grant

Herland is pleased to announce that we are the recipients of a \$1,000 grant from the Heller/Bernard Fund of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. This is the fourth time since 1993 that Herland has been bestowed funds from Astraea.

Astraea is the largest lesbian organization in the world. They work for social, racial, and economic justice in the U.S. and internationally. Their programs help lesbians and allied communities challenge oppression and claim their human rights.

Anonymous Donation of Laptop

Herland would like to thank very much the anonymous donor of a new Gateway laptop computer to our organization. The computer will be used to keep our financial records and other files that are transferred from outgoing to incoming Sister II every six months. A big THANK YOU to the generous donor!

Herland Events Calendar

Tuesday, August 2: PFLAG, Church of the Open Arms, 7 pm.

Saturday, August 6: Herland Work Day, 10 am. Come and help make a few repairs.

Monday, August 8: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at Neighborhood Alliance, 1236 NW 36th, 7 pm.

Tuesday, August 9: Young Lesbians/Gays Support Group at Church of the Open Arms, 7 pm. Call Donna at 748-7301 for details.

Saturday, August 13: Herland Hike, Dolese Park, NW 50th between Meridian & MacArthur, 10 am. Meet for coffee first at Moe's Place, 5012 N. MacArthur, 9 am.

Saturday, August 13: Herland Game Night and Potluck, 7 pm. Bring a game and a dish to share and join in the fun. Last time it was Taboo and badminton—no telling what it will be this time!

Saturday, August 20: Herland Supper Club, movie *Ladies in Lavender* at OKC Museum of Art, 415 Couch Drive, 5:30 pm, followed by supper at La Luna's, 409 W. Reno, 7:15 pm.

Sunday, August 21: Herland Board Meeting at Herland, 4 pm, everyone welcome.

Tuesday, August 16: Young Lesbians/Gays Support Group at Church of the Open Arms, 7 pm.

Saturday, August 27: Herland Video Night, 7 pm. We will be showing *Chisolm '72*, *One Fine Day*, and *Votes for Women*.

Saturday, September 3: State NOW Meeting, OKC Downtown Library, 3 pm.

Website of the Month

www.victoryfund.org

The Voice is published monthly by Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. *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. Herland reserves the right to edit or not publish any article. Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

State NOW Meeting

**Saturday, September 3rd, 2005
at 3:00 pm**

**Oklahoma City Downtown Public
Library, 300 Park Avenue**

We will be discussing the developments of the Supreme Court nominations, current issues, and our membership agenda for the fall. All new members are welcome! If you are unable to attend, but are interested in more information, please contact Oklahoma National Organization for Women at ameevander-pool.now@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Young LGBT Support Group Forming

For young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, (Aug 9 & 23) at COA, 3131 N Penn. Call Donna at 748-7301 for more information.

Protest Against The Buzz Comments

OKC radio station 94.7 FM "The Buzz" has a new show, the "Mo Radio Show" airing from 6-10am weekdays, deejayed by Bryan "Mo" Modzelewski. On June 29, 2005, Mo asked his listeners to call in and answer whether they would rather beat a woman or wake up one morning after having gay sex. Callers' responses matched the "taste" of the question.

For example, one caller stated that he would "rather beat a woman than be the woman." Another had an eloquent answer: "Well, I choose beat a woman because I can think of reasons to beat a woman, and I couldn't think of a reason to have gay sex."

This is but one example of the extremely hateful comments Mo has made against women and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual community on his weekday morning show. A group co-sponsored by Church of the Open Arms held a protest rally at noon on July 8, 2005 on the grass on the north side of 50 Penn Place. They asked for a sincere on-air apology from "The Buzz" every hour on the hour for at least 24 hours, as well as a verbal commitment not to make such statements in the future. They also asked that the station show their support of the programs in our community that fight the violence that Mo has promoted, by donating at least \$1,000 to the Oklahoma City YWCA to help them fight against domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Eventually the radio station did apologize to women for seeming to advocate violence against them but did not apologize to gays.

Lost & Found

Have you lost something? Someone left a couple of chairs at our Pride picnic, and after the Spring Retreat we found a cooler and a blanket that had not made it home with their owners. Call Herland at 521-9696 and identify the items, leave your name and phone numbers, and we will see about getting them back to you, or scheduling a pick-up time for you.

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Women's History Month and Video Night

by MOC

August is Women's Herstory Month. It's a long month, 31 days, unlike Black History Month, which is February, the shortest month of the year, a fact wryly noted by African Americans and their allies; who are somewhat bemused at being presented with such an easy joke, such a great straight line: Yep, American blacks get 28 days; short-changed as usual.

Ironic as that might be, in August we're looking elsewhere, and we're celebrating that women, all colors and sexual orientations, get 31 big days. So is it *women's history month*? Or *wimmin's herstory month*? Or *womyn's history month*? Whatever, in August we are celebrating womyn/wimmin/women. Officially it is Women's History Month.

On Saturday, August 27, we will celebrate Womyn's Herstory Month with a Video Night celebration at Herland at 7 pm. We will show three or more videos: the short film *Votes for Women* (telling of the campaign which basically made women citizens – no, not first class citizens, we're still working on that one), the even shorter 7-minute movie *One Fine Day*, an exhilarating film guaranteed to give you goose bumps and pride in your foremothers and yourself, and *Chisolm '72: Unbought and Unbossed*. Brooklyn-based Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm made history when she vied for the presidency in 1972. In fact, Congresswoman Chisholm has represented a series of firsts: She was the first African-American woman elected to Congress and the first black person and woman to run a serious, high-profile campaign in the U.S. presidential primary. Her inspiring journey is the subject of this documentary.

A century ago women in the United States did not have the vote. Women were automatically denied custody of their children in divorce actions. Spousal rape was a commonality, not a crime. "Barefoot and pregnant" was not a backwater catchphrase but a condition mandated by poverty and ignorance. Single women (yes, that would include lesbians in great numbers) had three options: drudgery in factories, drudgery in their married relatives homes, and prostitution. Our s/heroes worked to change these things.

We don't have a woman president yet, but we are all pretty sure that we will someday. A short fifty years ago it never occurred to anyone that there was anything wrong in saying that "...all little American boys can grow up to be President." People would brag about it in front of their little *girls*, never thinking how it might make them feel; but now everyone knows that we can *all* grow up to be president, it'll just be a lot harder for a little girl. She'll have to do everything a little boy does, twice as well. No problem, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, backwards and in high heels. And our s/heroes worked to change these attitudes.

Fifty years ago women could not dream of attending West Point or any other of the Service academies. The woman who would become the first to sit on the Supreme Court graduated second in her class at Stanford Law School and was offered nothing but secretarial positions at the prestigious law firms which hired her classmates as attorneys. A sure compliment fifty years ago was to tell a woman that she *thought* like a man, *threw* like a man, *played cards* like a man, *ran*, *did math*, *drank beer*, *belched*, *played music*, anything esteemed by the male culture, like a man.

The work begun by the women's rights movement in the 1800's and continued by the suffragists in the early 1900's was reinforced and continued by the feminists of the 1970's and 80's. These were the women who fought for our freedom, citizenship, dignity and opportunity. These are my s/heroes, and we will meet many of them in the videos we'll be showing on August 27. Hope to see you there.

President Bush's 'Compassionate Homophobia'

On June 21, President Bush addressed the Southern Baptist Convention at its annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Praising the convention's support for the Federal Marriage Amendment, the president said: "Southern Baptists are practicing compassion by defending the family and the sacred institution of marriage."

Reverend Steven Baines, an elder in the Disciples of Christ and member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force National Religious Leadership Roundtable responded with disappointment that "the president and leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention continue to present their discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans in the guise of compassion."

"The president's speech failed to explain how a Federal Marriage Amendment that would block thousands of American families from the protections they need for their stability and security can be seen as an act of compassion; just as the Southern Baptist Convention has failed to explain how supporting this discrimination contributes to its Christian witness. There is nothing Christian about discrimination.

"Instead of dressing up their bigotry as 'compassionate homophobia' the president and the Southern Baptist Convention can show real compassion by guaranteeing full equality for same-sex couples and their families. This would be more in line with the ethic of compassion for the marginalized and oppressed that is the foundation of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures the president claims to revere so strongly."

First convened in 1998, the National Religious Leadership Roundtable of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is an interfaith collaboration of more than forty denominations and faith-related organizations.

Saint Sybil

Dear St. Sybil,
What's this about ♀♀♀ History Month? Why isn't there a ♂♂♂ history month as well? Let's be fair here!

Heatedly,
Jerry Atrick

Dear Jerry,
You will be pleased to hear that Congress has finally relented and has declared July as Men's History Month. To those who care and take note of these things, July is a 31-day month – three days more than Black History Month! Go Men! – and it is the month before – i.e., “ahead of” – Women's History Month. Go Men!

July was chosen for Men's History Month because – er – no reason really, but possibly something about the Fourth of July (fireworks as ejaculation metaphor) or even July 14, Bastille Day, – but probably not, too reminiscent of Madame LaFarge and Lorena ... oooh, never mind.

Anyway, Hallmark has been contacted with the hope that they will make a series of “Men's History Month” cards, which will help the rest of us in understanding just what it is about. Hallmark is of course looking to sports, football, baseball, men's basketball, golf – although Tiger Woods is rumored to have declined in solidarity with Michelle Wie.

It is expected that Men's History Month will celebrate those few men who, against all odds, have struggled to overcome Affirmative Action and have been able to rise to CEO, CFO, President, Vice President, Congressman, Senator, Governor, Mayor, Judge, Quarterback, and Racetrack Tout.

“Affirmative Action” will be the whipping boy of the month, although sophisticates will strive to be sure that women think that Affirmative Action refers to giving an unfair advantage to racial minorities and that racial minorities are sure that Affirmative Action refers to giving women the unfair advantage.

The motto for Men's History Month will be “Since we can't have babies, we get to have everything else.”

So here's your Men's History Month, Jerry.

Lovingly,
Sybil



Peace

Walk, Video, Speaker

**Hiroshima to Iraq...60 Years
of Uranium Weapons**

Saturday, August 6

Peace Walk – 10:00 a.m.

Civic Center Park, 201 N. Walker, OKC

Silent walk around the Murrah Memorial

Peace Video - 11:15 a.m.. Saturday, August 6

Downtown Library, 300 W. Park Ave., OKC

“Poison Dust,” documenting the effects of the uranium weapons used by US and British forces in Iraq. Thirty minute video and discussion.

Monday, August 8

Peace Speaker – 6:30 p.m.

Mayflower Congregational Church

3901 NW 63, OKC

Shared potluck supper and speaker

Conscientious objector Camilo Mejia led his US Army squad for five months in Iraq... then chose prison rather than to return.

All events are free and open to the public.

Please join us.

sponsored by The Peace House, Spiritual Walk for Peace, Episcopal Peace & Justice Commission, Mayflower Congregational Church, Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church, Church of the Open Arms, Oklahoma City Friends Meeting, Joy Mennonite Church.

For more information access www.okpeacehouse.org
or call 405/524-5577

Canada Approves Same-Sex Marriage

Canada's Parliament approved legislation to allow same sex-marriages across the country, despite fierce opposition from conservative politicians and religious groups. Legislators voted by 158-133 to support the bill, which makes Canada only the fourth country in the world after Belgium and the Netherlands to permit gay marriages.

Most Canadian provinces already allow same-sex marriages, and Canada has become a popular destination for gay and lesbian couples from countries where these unions are banned.

The minority Liberal government said it had to draw up the legislation after courts in eight of the country's 10 provinces ruled that a ban on same-sex marriages was unconstitutional because it violated Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Canada's relaxed stance on gay marriage, and on other social issues, stands in contrast to that of the United States, where President George W. Bush wants Congress to back a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.

“We are a nation of minorities and in a nation of minorities, it is important that you don't cherry pick rights. A right is a right and that is what this vote tonight is all about,” Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said shortly before the vote.

Gay Marriage Legal in Spain

The law legalizing gay marriage in Spain has cleared its last bureaucratic formality—being published in an official government registry—and will take effect in July.

An official of the ruling Socialist party, which sponsored the law, said the party will now seek legislation to protect Spain's estimated 8,000 transsexuals.

The gay marriage law, passed Thursday by the lower house of parliament, was published Saturday in the gazette, the Boletín Oficial del Estado, which records all government decisions in Spain. The document specified that the new law will go into effect Sunday.

Gay couples are not expected to start getting married until late this month because of the paperwork needed before they go to town halls and other civil bodies that marry people in Spain, according to Spain's main federation of gays and lesbians.

The law gives same-sex couples the right to wed, adopt children and inherit each other's property, making their legal status the same as that of heterosexual couples.

Gay and lesbian groups planned a big street rally for Saturday evening in Madrid to celebrate passage of the law, which makes Spain the third country in the world to grant full recognition to gay marriage. The others are the Netherlands and Belgium. Canada is expected to follow suit later this month.

Several European countries and a few U.S. states recognize civil unions among same-sex couples but this falls short of treating them like married couples.

Fierce criticism of the law from the Catholic church continued, with the head of the Spanish Bishops Conference, Bishop Ricardo Blazquez, branding it unconstitutional.

Speaking on Vatican radio Friday, he said called the law's passage "a sad day for the Spanish people because the stability of marriage has been gravely injured and tremendous confusion over marriage and family has been unleashed."

Attorneys find Dykes on Bikes Offensive

Joe Garofoli, San Francisco Chronicle Staff Writer

Vic Germany thought registering a federal trademark for San Francisco's iconic Dykes on Bikes organization would be no problem. After all, the non-profit lesbian motorcycle group has become internationally known for riding in the lead position at San Francisco's pride parade every year for nearly three decades. Instead, the group has spent a humiliating two years slogging through the swampland of trademark law, with no end in sight, said Germany, president of the San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent, a.k.a. Dykes on Bikes.

Twice, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has rejected the Dykes' application, on the grounds that "dyke" is vulgar, offensive and "scandalous." Patent office attorneys even point to Webster's dictionary, which says dyke is "often used disparagingly. The examining attorney found it to be offensive to a significant portion of the lesbian community," said Jessie Roberts, a trademark administrator with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. "And we're also looking out for the sensitivities of the general public more than that of a specific applicant."

The applicants, in this case, prefer to call themselves dykes. "We self-identify as dykes on bikes," said Germany, a 48-year-old San Francisco environmental consultant. "To us, (the government's objection) is completely absurd." The women call themselves "dykes" for the same reason many gays have laid claim to "queer" -- to defang a word that has long been a slur.

"I cannot imagine a more ironic twist of thinking than to judge this reclaimed badge of honor as insulting to the very community who has created its power," Joan Nestle, co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, wrote in a declaration supporting the Dykes on Bikes' trademark request. "Lesbians do not need to be protected from their own cultural creations, their own transformations of stigmas."

The Dykes argue that they are succeeding in weaving the term into the cultural fabric. Roaring up Market Street on their motorcycles before thousands of onlookers at pride parades, San Francisco's Dykes on Bikes have paved the way for a dozen-plus similar groups elsewhere. There are Dykes Planning Tykes parents groups, a "Dyke TV" cable access show, and a site for "the Web-savvy dyke" called Technodyke.com.

The federal paper-shuffling might seem superfluous to any Bay Area resident who has heard the street chant, "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it." But "queer," a longtime slur for male homosexuals, is different—at least in the eyes of the federal trademarkers. In November, the patent office registered a trademark on behalf of the Bravo Network for the hit television show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

"So what's the difference between 'queer' and 'dyke'?" said Brooke Oliver, the Mission District attorney who is handling the Dykes' case. Germany pointed out that the case for "Queer Eye" was supported by a deep-pocketed television network. "And we're a nonprofit group full of working-class women," she said.

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