




June Jmoon 1988

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 ARKANSAS MARDI GRAS, ROBINSON CON- VENTION CNTR, LITTLE ROCK 7pm - 11 pm
5	6	7  LAST QUARTER MOON	8	9	10	11
12	13	14  NEW MOON	15	16	17	18
19 PEGGY JOHNSON & GAY PARADE 362 & CLASSEN ← INFO: 525-2437	20 GAY	21 11:45 am - 1 pm: PEGGY JOHNSON AT KERR PARK	22  First QUARTER MOON	23 WEEK	24	25 PEGGY JOHNSON THE CANTINA 9 pm INFO: 528-1013
26	27	28	29  FULL MOON	30		

A Herland Calendar

Listing events sponsored by various organizations; presented as a community service by Herland.

Note: Because Glenda Gibbons letter to the Editor printed in the May 9 edition of the Daily Oklahoman was edited to such an extent that, in this editor's eyes, its informative value was compromised, it is printed here in its original, unmodified form.

BECHTEL MOTIONS FOR A NEW TRIAL

The following excerpts were taken from the Motion For a New Trial for Donna Bechtel.

1. The refusal of the trial court to permit Dr. Lenore Walker (an expert on the battered woman's syndrome) to testify as an expert witness to assist the trier of fact concerning the fact that Donna Bechtel was a battered woman, and explain how she came to be a battered woman, why she stayed with Kenneth Bechtel, and her state of mind at the time the acts occurred which give rise to these charges denied Donna Bechtel a fair trial.
2. The refusal of the trial court to instruct the jury on the burden of proof concerning self-defense denied the accused a fair trial.
3. The trial court erred when it prohibited defense counsel from questioning jurors about the burden of proof in self-defense and denied Donna Bechtel a fair trial.
4. Denial of the right to cross-examine witnesses against her denied Donna Bechtel a fair trial.
5. Refusal of the trial court to permit Donna Bechtel to present evidence in accordance with the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution denied her a fair trial. (Police procedures concerning crime scene, conversations with witnesses concerning Kenneth Bechtel).
6. The court repeatedly, during the six days Donna Bechtel was on the witness stand testifying, sustained objections to questions concerning threats and conversations.
7. The trial court on numerous occasions commented on the evidence in ruling upon objections and in admonitions to defense counsel and this denied the accused a fair trial.
8. Prosecutorial misconduct denied Donna Bechtel a fair trial.
9. Statements to press before and during the trial concerning the case.
10. The trial court's refusal to provide Donna Bechtel with a court reporter concerning all communications about this case which is reque

which is required under 20 O.S. 106.4 de-
nied the accused due process and equal pro-
tection of the law.
11. The trial court erred in refusing to al-
low Donna Bechtel to testify as to threats
made to her by Kenneth Bechtel on her life
and the lives of her children.
12. The court erred in refusing to instruct
the jury that the burden of proof was on
the state to prove that Donna Bechtel did
not shoot her husband in self-defense.
The above information has been provided
by the concerned citizens for justice; 1139
N.W. 57th Street; Oklahoma City, OK 73118.
GAY COMMUNITY GEARS UP FOR GAY PRIDE WEEK
OKLAHOMA CITY - Local gay organizations
are putting the final touches on their plans
for Gay Pride Week which runs from June 19
through June 26.
The week's activities will begin with
Oklahoma's first Gay Parade on Sunday, June
19th. Women and men who would like to par-
ticipate in the parade are asked to gather
at Memorial Park, located on N.W. 36th
Street between Classen and Western, by 1:30
p.m. Prior to the parade there will be en-
tertainment at Memorial Park. According to
Darlene, acting Director of Oas's Community
Center, music will be provided by Peggy
Johnson and Randy Powell. The Parade will
begin at about 2:00 p.m. and will wind its
way from the park to the Block Party at
N.W. 39th and Barnes.
The Parade is to be lead by People With
Aids from the Winds House in Oklahoma City,
and will include representatives from var-
ious organizations from around the state,
like Herland Sister Resources, OU's Gay
and Lesbian Alliance, Oas's, and National
Organization for Women, among others.
Speaking at the march festivities will
be Jeffrey Levi, Director of the National
Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington.
NGLTF, the only national gay rights organ-
ization in the country with a broad-based
program to achieve gay and lesbian freedom,
was founded in 1973 to advocate, educate,
and organize politically for the achieve-
ment of lesbian and gay civil rights.

NOTES FROM THE JURY BOX

The Bechtel trial has drawn to a close; she's now been sentenced and we have all begun serving our life sentences. By the "we" I mean Ms. Bechtel and each of us that sat in the jury box.

All week I've heard various accounts and opinions of the trial. The crucial accounting of the trial is the one I experienced. It is the one from the "viewpoint" of that jury box. We were drafted and removed from the mainstream of our normal lives. We accepted the responsibility and gave the case our undivided attention. After all, a woman's fate rested in our hands. This was a serious matter.

I believe everyone is entitled to a vigorous defense and Garvin Issacs certainly lived up to his reputation in that respect. While his behavior was not above reproach, the rotten apple must be placed on the prosecution's table.

I will forever remain appalled at the antics and behavior I observed in that courtroom from that jury box. I would expect unfaltering professional behavior from the District Attorney's office since many of us hold that office in a light synonymous with the law. At the very least, I would expect the two prosecutors to maintain composure and stifle giggles while testimony was being given. Their overall behavior would be more befitting of a schoolgirls' slumber party than a court of law. Throughout the trial the prosecutors seemed to be afflicted with some "virus" causing uncontrollable eyeball rotation and facial contortions that would suggest each of them had a mouthful of green parsimmons. At times, it would cause them to poke each other and snicker.

I would expect in a "fair trial" the accused would be given the opportunity to relate their version to us (the Jury) without being ridiculed or intimidated by gestures made by the prosecutors. I'm not sure how much of this was visible to the audience, but I do know from my chair it was, at times, so distracting I would have to sit with my left hand covering part of my face to block them out and concentrate on the testimony being given. I wondered at times how Ms. Bechtel could maintain her train of thought while giving her testimony. Testimony on which her fate was hinged.

I would suggest that professional behavior be to listen, and then address any inconsistencies or questions in the "cross-

Glenda Gibbons
Foreman, Bechtel Jury

The jury had no opportunity to question anyone. Any inconsistencies or questions will always be unanswered in our minds, yet we managed to maintain composure. The investigation of the homicide was in summation a "calamity" of errors. In the trial the buck was handed to the two Amcare attendees who passed it back and forth. When it was determined they had no report (reports that could bear witness to Ms. Bechtel's demeanor at the time) the buck was handed to the Edmond Police Department. The Edmond Police Department juggled the buck and passed it from "on the scene" of officers to the Lieutenant who handed it to the detective in charge, each denying responsibility. End result: No taped interview (recorder not working at time interview was made) and no report by detective in charge about that interview. The tech investigator's report was laced with inconsistencies. I'm reminded of the police motto "to protect and to serve". I might ask "who are they protecting and who are they serving?".

We were denied the right to hear certain testimony and see certain evidence. I would suggest that it would be only "fair" to present all the evidence and let the twelve of us decide what is pertinent and what is not. After all, we were drafted to give our opinions. An unbiased opinion based on biased evidence would be inconsistent with a fair trial. A jury is not allowed to speculate. We can only consider evidence that has been admitted by the court.

We stood armed with conflicting testimony, and without the benefit of a credible police report detailing what was said. We were given our instructions and handed the "buck". We retired to the deliberation room. The "buck" stopped with us, twelve citizens. Based on the evidence that we were given and the "letter of the law", we arrived at our verdict, and now we must serve it. From this juror's "viewpoint", we were among the few involved in this case that did their job.

According to Darlene, acting Director of the Oasis Community Center, it is important that gays present and project a positive image to the community and the people of Oklahoma. To achieve this objective a few rules have been laid down for parade behavior. These include:

- No alcoholic beverages will be permitted at Memorial Park or along the parade route. If you must drink, please wait until after the parade is over.
- Please do not bring children to be in the parade. As it is not known how the public may respond to seeing children in this parade, it is best to leave the kids at home, this time around.
- No bags over heads. It has been learned that gatherings of more than three (3) people with coverings over their head and face are illegal. If you wish not to be recognized, yet still want to march it is suggested that you wear grease paint or some other make-up to disguise yourself. (We have the Klux Klan to thank for this one!)
- If something is thrown at you during the parade (ie. by a heckler), do not throw anything back. Turn the other cheek. This is a peaceful demonstration, and it is up to us to keep it that way.
- Dress comfortably, but not too comfortable (if you know what I mean!)
- Carry a placard if you wish, and have

As gays will be policing themselves (parade organizers will be wearing lavender t-shirts with armbands) and disorderly conduct will mean removal from the parade area, participants are asked to please, please cooperate. And, make this a positive, memorable experience for everyone. For more information, call 525-2437. Carry a placard if you wish.

- Have FUN;

If you have supportive family and friends ask them to show their support by marching with you on June 19th.

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There are few laws on a national level and fewer still on the state level to protect or acknowledge lesbian and gay rights. On June 19th Oklahoma gays will exercise the right to peacefully gather in public. It is hoped that all advocates of human rights and civil rights will come out and show their support by participating in the rally and march for gay rights.

The Gay Pride Week celebration will cap off with "Zoom Beach" on Sunday, June 26 at Lake Thunderbird. This is a fun gathering with free beer, pop, and hot dogs. Bring your favorite game or sporting equipment and plan to spend the day in good company.

Gay Pride will continue beyond Sunday, June 19th with a variety of activities during the week which will include an evening with an attorney who will be at Oasis Community Center to answer your questions, an evening with PWA's who will give a talk and answer questions, and several movies to be shown at the Oasis Community Center. These movies will include "Pink Triangle" and "Before Stonewall" and are sponsored by the O.U. Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Local bartender John Buettner won the "Rightfully Proud in '88" logo contest for Gay Pride festivities sponsored by Oasis. His winning design was selected from over 25 entries to become the logo for this year's celebration which will appear on posters, t-shirts, and other memorabilia.

A number of gay titles and lesbian magazines have been ordered especially for this occasion, so plan to drop by M.A.B.B. and do some browsing.

(M.A.B.B. for short) set up for business. A "book fix", Herland will have its soon-to-be-famous "Mobile Album and Book Booth" at the Block Party, for those who have needed for hungry and thirsty marchers. Also at the Block Party, end will hold an array of food and drink

Also on hand to lend an air of festival to the Parade will be the Dallas Gay Marching Band.

RULES AND REQUESTS FOR PARADE BEHAVIOR

OKLAHOMA CITY - City permits for the Gay Pride Parade have been secured and a police escort has been obtained for the march down N.W. 39th.

OKLAHOMA CITY - Due to "extenuating cir-

cumstances" Jim Powell recently stepped down as Director of the Oasis Community Center, and Co-Director, Darlene Burgess has assumed her role as acting Director of that organization.

In a telephone interview with Ms. Bur-

gess the Herland Newsletter learned that

in a telephone interview with the Her-

land Newsletter.

In a telephone interview Ms. Burgess

said her goal is to unify Oklahoma City's

gay community. The community is currently

divided into a number of different fac-

tions, and she believes this is due to a

lack of communication. "We want communi-

cation" she said, "we want to turn that

lack of communication around. We are go-

ing to be a community center, and I'm

really excited about that." Ms. Burgess

went on to say, "Oasis wants participation

through the year here at the community

center. Let's make it what it's supposed

to be."

Ms. Burgess encourages community sup-

port and participation by asking for at-

tendence at the next Oasis Board meeting

to held on June 1 at the Oasis, 2135 NW

39th. For further information call Oasis

at 525-2437.

HERLAND'S FALL RETREAT

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND

OKLAHOMA CITY - Herland Camp Director, Laura, reports "We have begun organizing for the Fall Retreat. It will be held at Sequoyah State Park in Hurlbert, Oklahoma on September 16th through the 18th, and I hope this will provide folks enough time to plan ahead and get a few days off to 'retreat'." The Spring Retreat at Boiling Springs State Park "proved exciting and fun-filled for everyone involved" and helped Herland to raise badly-needed funds, Laura said. "The pancake breakfast served on Sunday by Nancy and Mary was delicious, and in conjunction with the stew provided by Terry,

raised an additional \$50 for Herland." After expenses, the retreat raised approximately \$1,200 for future programming, books and Newsletter expenses. There will even be some left to help with the new building costs, but Herland is still hurting for building funds. Herland extends a big thank you to all those who participated in the Spring Retreat weekend, helping Herland to stay afloat while at the same time having fun doing it!

This Fall, Herland will be providing meals throughout the retreat weekend except for the Saturday night Pot Luck dinner. Our very own Mary and friends will be cooking vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals for a nominal price, and all proceeds will again benefit Herland.

Herland will once again offer scholarships and work exchanges. Please contact Laura at 672-4141 for information. Preregistration is \$17-20, based on ability to pay. On-site registration will be \$25. Herland prefers advance registrations so activities and food arrangements may be better planned; however, Laura says she doesn't mind collecting that extra \$5 for on-site registration!

Due to the number of four-legged children attending past retreats, Herland will require all canine to be leashed and be restricted from the kitchen and main building from the Fall Retreat forward. Pets may be tied outside or in the cabin, or they may remain in retreaters' car (with windows rolled down an appropriate distance for ventilation, of course). Cooperation with these new requests will allow Herland retreaters to continue bringing their favorite four-footed friends to share in the weekend of R & R.

To make each retreat better than the previous retreat, the Camp Director asks for your feedback. The registration in this newsletter, when filled out and returned to Laura will help Herland to improve upon the last retreat. So, please make plans soon, and return your completed registration to Laura to secure your spot at the best Herland Retreat ever!

Registrations are being accepted immediately. For further information call Laura at 672-4141.

MISSOURI PLANS WIMMIN'S FESTIVAL

Missouri women are planning their 15th Midwest Wimmings Festival for August 26th to September 6, 1988.

This year's festival will be held at Camp Rising Sun in the Lake of the Ozarks State Park near Osage Beach, Missouri. The site includes a large gathering hall, a wonderful natural amphitheater, and a more private (well enclosed) lake access than a campsite they have previously used for the festival.

For more information on the M.W.F write to M.W.F.; 8739 Bernadett Ave.; Kansas City, Kansas 66112

WORKS BY WOMEN COMPOSERS SOUGHT

The Denver Women's Chorus is seeking new choral works for women by women composers. The text shall make an affirmative statement about or for women.

If you compose music about or for women you may want to try your hand at this. The prize is \$1,000 and the premiere performance. Deadline is August 31, 1988, and the nominal entry fee is \$10.

For more information contact the Denver Women's Chorus,; Choral Music Competition, P.O. Box 26381 Denver, CO 80202 or call (303) 331-2543.

~~JOPLIN SEES THE FUTURE~~

~~JOPLIN, MO. - There are only 60 women rabbis in the world. This fact would lead most to believe that only large cities with large Jewish populations would any of these few be found~~

JOPLIN SEES THE FUTURE

JOPLIN, MO. - There are only 60 women rabbis in the world. One would expect to find these few women only in large cities

LESBOS TO HOST WOMEN'S STUDIES INSTITUTE
Greece will be the location for an International Women's Studies Institute from June 27 to July 20, 1988, based on the Island of Lesbos.
The program of study will include women's spirituality, poetry workshops, and speakers on social and political issues for women in modern Greece as well as trips to Athens and Izmir, Turkey.
Contact International Women's Studies Institute,; 1230 Grant Avenue, Box 601; San Francisco, CA 94133, for further information.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES
WORLD FEMINISTS TO DEBATE COMMON CONCERNS
A Women's Studies Summer Institute to be held July 4-29, 1988 at the Centre for Research and Education on Gender, University of London, will bring together feminists from all over the world to meet and debate issues of common concern.
Among the topics to be discussed and debated are women and migration, women's diaries, women and crime, and reproductive and genetic engineering.
Further information may be obtained from GREG, Institute of Education; Bedford Way; London, WCIH 0AL, England.

The United Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) is sponsoring a women's retreat over the 4th of July weekend.
This will be the first annual South Central District UFMCC Women's Spirituality Retreat. The retreat, which will be held near Dallas, is open to all women. For information on programming and other particulars, contact the Metropolitan Community Church here in Oklahoma City at 521-8352 or Lorai at 495-4390.

WOMEN INVITED TO ATTEND DALLAS SPIRITUALITY RETREAT

The other day I had a conversation with a woman who was a high-ranking enlisted person in the Marine Corps. She was trying to convince me that I shouldn't throw away 11 years worth of career and should go into the inactive reserve. Inactive reservists are the people who are called back to active duty when the United States goes to war. These are the people who have been out of

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
By Sondra L. Metzger

MILITARY SERVICE:
A MATTER OF PERSONAL PRINCIPAL

From "A Newsletter" 5/88
Nashville Women's Alliance

At least ten women are currently under investigation and, according to a Marine who said she is a target, the probe by the Naval Investigative Service is likely to expand. The woman, who asked not to be identified, leaked word of the investigation in letters to several news organizations because "Every base I've been on has had one of these so-called witch hunts. One of the reasons I went to the press is to show there's an injustice being done. If they're going to conduct these investigations they need to do it on the male side of the house as well." The woman denies she is homosexual, and has not been formally charged. According to the Department of Defense, during the past three federal fiscal years, 90 women and 219 men have been dismissed for homosexuality. More than 40% of those discharged were women, who represent only about 5% of the Corps' personnel. Department of Defense figures also show that, during the same three year period, 662 cases of homosexuality among Marines were investigated by the Naval Investigative Services and about a third of the investigations involved women. There is no clear reason for the disparity, and the matter has never been studied, said Corps spokeswoman Joanne Schilling in Washington. She denied that any special attention was being paid to lesbians.

Parris Island is the only base providing basic training for the over 10,000 women in the Marine Corps.

which have a large Jewish population, however such is not always the case. Oklahoma's neighbor in what is commonly referred to as the "Bible Belt", and therefore considered to be more than a tad backward, may be rightfully proud in their ability to defer that notoriety.

For we find one of those precious few women rabbis in Lisa Stern who leads the United Hebrew Congregation of Joplin, Missouri. Congratulations, Joplin, for the courage and foresight to move forward.

SMOKING COSTS WOMEN THEIR LIVES

Did you know? Surpassing breast cancer, lung cancer is now the #1 cause of cancer deaths among women in all industrialized countries, including the United States.

Smoking-related diseases killed over 315,000 Americans in 1984 - more than the number of American lives lost in all the wars this country has fought in the 20th century.

Heart disease, stroke and lung cancer are now among the top ten causes of death for American women over the age of 35.

While more and more women die of lung cancer, tobacco companies reap profits. In 1983, R.J. Reynolds, the largest tobacco company employing 117,000 people, posted sales of over \$13 billion.

Just think about it.

MARINES INVESTIGATE LESBIANISM

~~PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. - The chants of women recruits jogging in the warm April sun drift through the open windows of the Law Center at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot~~

PARRIS ISLAND, SC - Charges have been filed against several former drill instructors and at least one officer as a result of on-going investigations of lesbianism in the Marine Corps.

Various counts including committing indecent acts have been lodged against five woman Marines. Two other women, due to go before administrative hearing boards, are seeking discharges.

Women are now allowed to be mechanics and work on trucks, tanks, helicopters and radios. Women recruits now go out on their own maneuvers, crawling in sand and mud with packs on their backs. They must now qualify with an M-16 rifle in order to graduate from boot camp. Women undergoing officer training are taught the same classes as the men. All this even though women are still not allowed to go into combat and are not allowed to hold combat-related jobs. This makes me wonder what they thought the women Marines were doing who served in Vietnam where there were no formal front or rear lines. They served with no combat training whatsoever.

There is another area where the men and women are treated alike. It is still against military law for homosexuals to serve their country. A short time ago a soldier took his case to federal court where the judge reversed the decision to discharge him. The judge said the decision would apply to all branches of the armed forces.

Anyone reading that who was in the military knows how long that is going to last. The Army has probably appealed the ruling already. Homosexuals will never be accepted part of the military.

When I was a young corporal not knowing there was a closet to be in let alone be in it, I was ordered to be a part of the witch hunts on the base at which I was stationed. My feelings about it at the time were mainly focused on what a person's sexual preference had to do with the performance of their military obligations. Some of the women were outstanding Marines with unmatched records and were very proud of their Corps. It didn't seem like it was anyone's business who the women loved or slept with in their off-duty hours, especially the Marine Corps. I reluctantly followed the orders even though it seemed like an attack on the very freedom the military is there to protect.

Looking back, I feel like one of Hitler's troopers. Although I did my best to avoid participating in the witch hunts, I gave in to the system and did not speak up for any of the Marines involved, nor did I lend them any support. I wasn't sure what to do; I was very naive and very afraid of the government.

I finally left the Marine Corps in January of this year. Now out of the closet, I was tired of lying, tired of the sexist treatment of women and tired of the homophobic attitude of the military in general.

the mainstream of military life and have forgotten most of what they were trained to do, or what they were taught has changed over the years.

"All you would have to do," she said, "is come to an annual screening once a year. You wouldn't have to go to drill or summer camp at all." Right, Lady. All I'd have to do is show up with seabag in hand for the first flight to Nicaragua, the Persian Gulf or some base in the U.S. when the government decides it's time to involve its military in someone else's fight.

Don't get me wrong. I have nothing against defending my country. If I did, I wouldn't have joined the Marine Corps in the first place. I felt a sense of duty and pride in 1973 when I enlisted, and to this day I still feel proud of those 11 years, 8 months, and 3 days. In 1973, I also felt the need for a secure job.

When I enlisted, service women were doing the usual "women" things. We were the secretaries and office clerks holding down the fort while the men went out in the field to fire weapons with blank ammunition at an invisible enemy. In boot camp, while the men were crawling through underbrush, digging foxholes, learning hand-to-hand combat (from an instructor; unlike the women who learned it while on dates) and learning how to fire an M-16, we women were taught the proper way to apply our make-up, wear our hair and eat in the presence of a commanding general. Appearance in uniform was everything.

While the men's maneuvers consisted of crawling through mud, under barbed wire, over walls and through miles of sand with full packs on their backs and certain death at the hands of the drill instructor (DI) if they killed one of "his" sand fleas in 100 degree South Carolina heat, we women maneuvered through the high-ranking brass with our hair in place, our make-up intricately applied and our manners at the ready while participating in the required afternoon tea.

The only "equal" training we received was in the classroom where we all had to learn military customs and courtesies, first aid, military law and close order drill. Our DIs were not so evenly matched. The female DIs were obviously the more intelligent of the two since they made ordinary women into Marines in 8 weeks. For some reason it took 12 weeks to train the men.

NEW YORK CITY - Persons concerned about the earth and those who inhabit it are planning a day of national demonstrations calling for nuclear disarmament, and end to military intervention and a governmental commitment to economic development and social justice. The June 11th demonstrations will be held simultaneously in San Francisco and New York City, and coincide with the third UN Special Session on Disarmament. The Second UN Session on Disarmament in June of 1982, drew one million people to New York City. The NGLTF has endorsed the activities because "gay men and lesbians are not single

DISARMAMENT MARCH
GAYS ENDORSE JUNE 11TH

Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has launched a cosponsor drive to garner additional support for S 2000, the Senate version of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HR 3193). Introduced by Senators Alan Cranston (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA) on January 25, 1988, the Senate bill would require the Department of Justice to collect data on crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. The bill is identical to the one currently awaiting House floor action. S 2000 currently has 4 cosponsors in addition to Senator Kerry and Cranston: Brock Adams (D-WA), Claiborne Pell (D-RI), Paul Simon (D-IL), and Daniel Inouye (D-HI). The House bill has 109 cosponsors. "Gaining cosponsors is critical to the successful passage of any bill," explained NGLTF lobbyist Perle Jude Radecic. "We will be seeking bipartisan and geographically balanced support." NGLTF strongly supports this bill and its counterpart in the House and has prepared a briefing packet that includes copies of the legislation, talking points on why it is needed, organizational support statements, sample letters to Senators and sample letters of support to local newspapers. Copies of the S 2000 Briefing Packet may be ordered for a \$1.00 postage fee from NGLTF; 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

To go back now would be a slap in the face of the community, my community. I didn't tell that to the high-ranking enlisted woman. Maybe I should have, but is it any of her business?

HOUSE MEMBERS OPPOSE SEXUAL ORIENTATION
HOUSE MEMBERS OPPOSE GAYS
IN HATE CRIMES BILL

WASHINGTON, DC - Representative George Gekas (R-PA) leads the fight to remove sexual orientation from the Hate Crimes Statistics Act (H.R. 3193). This Act would mandate the collection of statistics on crimes that are motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation and ethnicity. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is working to thwart attempts to remove sexual orientation from the legislation. Gekas has filed a minority report which asserts that "It is not a federal obligation to protect citizens in their sexual orientation". Despite a recent Department of Justice study which found gay people to be the most frequent victims of hate violence today, the Gekas report disputes the prevalence of anti-gay violence. Despite documented evidence of hundreds of instances of organized hate group activity against gay men and lesbians, the minority report asserts that gay people are not the targets of organized hate group activity by groups like the Ku Klux Klan. To prevent Gekas from succeeding in removing the sexual orientation clause from the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, and thereby spreading his bigotry toward gays, the NGLTF urges interested persons to write to their representatives today.

SENATE NEEDS SPONSORS FOR
HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT

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- Bechtel Trial Comments
- Gay Pride Activities
- Military Life as a Lesbian

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE HSR NEWSLETTER:

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 6
JUNE, 1988

The judge is continuing to allow Donald Kowalski to decide what mail Sharon receives, but has ordered that Donald keep any mail Sharon has gotten and will get. Until the National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski is certain Sharon will receive her mail, cards from the Holiday and Birthday campaigns will be saved at committee headquarters. To help defray Karen Thompson's high legal costs, contributors may send donations to Karen Thompson Legal Fund, to: Fund; 32495 County Road #1; St. Cloud, MN 56303. For more information about the case or to arrange to have Karen Thompson speak, write Cheryl Vitow; 149 Steilton Rd.; Piscataway, NJ 08854 or call 201-752-5302.

complete, all parties involved in the litigation will receive a copy of the report, and a hearing will be held to formally define Kowalski's competence.

issue people. We care deeply about issues like a sane nuclear policy and an end to militarism," said Executive Director Jeffrey Levi. "We have seen first hand how our government's focus on defense directly hurts funding for much-needed social programs, such as funding to fight AIDS or to develop a national health insurance policy."

Information on gay/lesbian contingents to the marches and more logistical details may be obtained from the SSD III National Coalition; 11 John Street, #803; New York, NY 10038, (202) 608-8155.

KOWALSKI TO BE TESTED

HIBBING, MN - St. Louis County Judge Robert Campbell ruled recently that Sharon Kowalski should be formally tested for competency, and ordered that her new court-appointed attorney, Gary Pagliacetti, consult with Duluth-area physicians to select a test site. Kowalski was severely injured in an automobile accident in November 1983. Her lover, Karen Thompson, has been fighting Kowalski's anti-gay parents in court for almost four years for the right to see and participate in Kowalski's medical care.

Judge Campbell's ruling means that Kowalski will be tested for the first time since a court order appointed her father guardian three years ago -- an order that required him to have her tested annually.

Pagliacetti told the court that he had visited Kowalski four times, and he believes that she understands what others say to her and that she can communicate effectively when she desires. He said he feels she could use a computer to improve her communication, and move around in an electric wheelchair. Pagliacetti was appointed by Judge Campbell to be Kowalski's attorney.

In response to requests from Thompson's attorneys, Campbell ordered that no attorneys except Pagliacetti be allowed to contact Kowalski's evaluators until their report is issued. No date has been set for the testing. He requested that all parties submit to him recommendations for testing parameters. Campbell also requested that both Thompson and the Kowalskis provide him with statements detailing how their attorneys' fees are paid. When the testing is