

Around the Corner

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 participate 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 entertainment at Memorial Park. According to Darlene, acting Director of Oasis 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 various organizations from around the state, like Herland Sister Resources, OU's Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Oasis, 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 organization 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 achievement of lesbian and gay civil rights.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Ku 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 comfortably (if you know what I mean!).
- Carry a placard if you wish.
- Have FUN!

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

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, please cooperate. And, make this a positive, memorable experience for everyone.

For more information, call 525-2437.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE HSR NEWSLETTER:

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

OASIS CENTER HAS NEW DIRECTOR

OKLAHOMA CITY - Due to "extenuating circumstances" 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 Ms. Burgess said her goal is to unify Oklahoma City's gay community. The community is currently divided into a number of different factions, and she believes this is due to a lack of communication. "We want communication" she said, "we want to turn that lack of communication around. We are going 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 its supposed to be."

Ms. Burgess encourages community support and participation by asking for attendance 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.

S.E.A.H.C. HOLDS CARNIVAL

OKLAHOMA CITY - Southeast Area Health Center is holding a Carnival/Health Fair on Saturday, June 25, from 10:00 - 6:00. There will be food and drink booths, various health screening booths, games and door prize drawings.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help provide medical care to low-income patients. Most of our patients are women and young children, said Executive Director Jean Kelsey. We really need everybody to come out and support the Center. If you want to help with a booth, call Jean at 632-6688.

HERLAND'S FALL RETREAT

OKLAHOMA CITY - Herland Camp Director, Laura, reports "We have begun organizing for the Fall Retreat. It will be held at Sequoyah State Park in Hulbert, 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!



ANNOUNCES

ALL HERLAND COLLECTIVE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO YOU

NEXT MEETING:

CALL 794-7464 for time & place

HERLAND'S FALL RETREAT
at
SEQUOYAH STATE PARK
near Wagoner

SEPTEMBER 16, 17, & 18

HERLAND FALL RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Pre-registration is \$17 - \$20, based on your ability to pay. Upon receipt of your check, a map to the campsite and list of suggested items to bring will be mailed to you. Deadline for pre-registration is September 9, 1988.

Name(s) _____ Number of Pets _____
(Pets must be kept on leash and no pets in main bldg.)
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

_____ I would like a scholarship Amount Enclosed \$ _____

_____ I would like a work exchange

_____ I will provide _____ scholarship(s)

_____ I would like to lead a discussion group on _____ subject.

_____ I would like to attend a group on _____ subject and a possible leader is _____.

Things I liked at other retreats were _____

Things I disliked about other retreats were _____

Suggested solutions _____

I would like to provide _____

_____ for the Retreat auction.

Mail to: Herland Sister Resources
1/2 Laura, Camp Director
4924 S. Kathy
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73135

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

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 unflinching 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-

examination". 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 attendants 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" 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 testimonies, 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.

Glenda Gibbons
Foreman, Bechtel Jury

BECHTEL MOTIONS FOR 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 required under 20 O.S. 106.4 denied the accused due process and equal protection of the law.

11. The Trial court erred in refusing to allow 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.

Executive Director Position available

Tulsa Based non profit agency

Responsible for fund raising, coordination of AIDS education and HIV testing, program planning and implementation, and general administrative functions. Experience with non profit agency and Bachelor's degree required. Send resume and cover letter no later than June 13, 1988 to:



Search Committee

P.O. Box 52729

Tulsa, OK 74152-2729

June Moon 1988

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 ARKANSAS MARDI GRAS, ROBINSON CONVENTION CNTR, LITTLE ROCK 7pm - 11 pm
5	6	7  LAST MOON	8	9	10	11
12 SISTERS OF THE ROAD: 5 CHANCES IN AUSTIN, TX INFO: 528-0020	13	14  NEW MOON	15	16	17	18
19 PEGGY JOHNSON & GAY PARADE 36th & CLASSEN INFO: 525-2437	20	21 11:45 am - 1 pm: PEGGY JOHNSON AT KERR PARK	22  FIRST QUARTER MOON	23	24 INFO: 528-0020 9 pm: S of S & SHARTELS AT HILO CLUB	25 INFO: 632-6688 SEA.H.C. CARNIVAL 10am - 6pm. PEGGY JOHNSON THE CANTINA 9 pm. INFO: 528-1013
26 ZOOM BEACH LK. T-BIRD INFO: 525-2437	27	28	29  FULL MOON	30		

A Herland Calendar

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

Around the Country

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

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 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.

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 Stelton Rd.; Piscataway, NJ 08854 or call 201-752-5302.

HOUSE MEMBER OPPOSES 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

WASHINGTON, DC - The National Gay and 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 Senator's 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 Peri 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.

GAYS ENDORSE JUNE 11th DISARMAMENT MARCH

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 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.

WOMEN DON'T RATE AS NEWSWORTHY

Women were a part of only 6% of front page stories in 1987, and fewer than 11% of page one photographs included women identified by name concluded a study of four major newspapers including the New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, and the Christian Science Monitor. And of the 11% in photos many were not there as newsmakers themselves, but as wives of newsworthy men, such as Nancy Reagan and Mary Ellen Bork.

Of the women pictured, it was noted that a number of them received such acclaim because of resignations or other associated actions: Corazon Aquino leaving the palace after her Cabinet resigned, Elizabeth Dole resigning as Secretary of Transportation, Rep. Pat Schroeder announcing her decision not to seek the Democratic presidential nomination.

from Up and Coming, April 1988

Potpourri

RETREATS & CONFERENCES

LESBIAN AND GAY EDUCATION CONFERENCE

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.

ANTHOLOGY SUBMISSIONS REQUESTED

OTHER LESBIANS WANT TO KNOW...

For an anthology we are collecting accounts of love between women over sixty, by women over sixty for their unique perspectives on our loving lives. We are interested in reading your material. Please, send poems, short prose pieces, letters, diary entries, songs, photographs and drawings (photocopies, please) Include S.A.S.E. Our deadline has been extended to Halloween, 1988 - Cronos Day! Send material to OLD LOVERS; c/o WomanSpirit; 2000 King Mountain Trail; Sunny Valley, OR 97497.

SMOKING COSTS MORE THAN \$\$\$\$

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.

HERLAND SEEKS BOARD MEMBERS

OKC - In preparation for the future, the number of Board positions has been increased from 15 to 17. Due to this increase Herland has Board vacancies to fill with women who are interested in the organization and progression of Oklahoma's women's community.

Anyone wanting to get involved with women's collective future is encouraged to attend the next Herland Board meeting.

WOMEN INVITED TO ATTEND DALLAS SPIRITUALITY RETREAT

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 Loral at 495-4390.

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, WC1H 0AL, England.

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.

HERLAND IS ...

A non-profit corporation composed of a collective of winmin - open to any woman who wants to be a part of it - which works to maintain a feminist library and bookstore, sponsors workshops, retreats, concerts and other events for YOU. Herland's reason for being is to provide a framework for a variety of projects for the support and enjoyment of the area winmin's community. It is a place to learn and grow, to meet other winmin, develop lasting friendships, receive support and nurture the positive self-image that societal attitudes sometimes make illusive to us. Herland exists to serve YOU.

Your donations are used to pay the rent and utilities on the Bookstore building, and printing and postage for the monthly HSR Newsletter and Friend of Herland cards.

With the exception of the Library, all of Herland's services are free, including the Newsletter. This is why your donation is so important: It is Herland's lifeblood.

BOSTON, MA - The Fund for Human Dignity, the national lesbian and gay educational organization, has announced plans for "The Lesbian and Gay Education Conference: Initiatives Toward a National Education Agenda for Our Culturally Diverse Community". The conference will be held on Sunday, July 24, 1988, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Conference seeks to develop a network of individuals, projects and organizations working to educate various communities on lesbian and gay issues.

Issues to be addressed include: strategies for educating educators, youth, media, legislators, librarians, religious institutions, unions, corporations, health care and social service agencies, police, and the legal community; educating about racism, classism, sexism, ageism and disability issues in the gay community; educating about lesbian and gay issues in the Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American communities; incorporating positive gay images into school curricula and AIDS education; legal obstacles to gay and lesbian education, and the politics of teaching sexuality.

For more information, contact: The Lesbian and Gay Education Conference, Fund for Human Dignity; 666 Broadway, Suite 410; New York, NY 10012, or call 212-529-1600.

The Fund for Human Dignity is the only national organization solely dedicated to fighting anti-gay bigotry through education. It operates the only national clearinghouse of educational materials on lesbian and gay issues, and the only national toll-free hotline serving the lesbian and gay community.

----- ✂ -----
___ YES! I want to be a Friend of Herland. My minimum donation of \$12 allows me use of the Herland Library and a 10% discount on store purchases over the next 12 months.

___ \$12 ___ \$

___ YES! I want to help Herland with a donation to the New Building Fund.

___ \$15 ___ \$20 ___ \$25
___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$

___ I would like to volunteer to work at the Bookstore.

___ I would like to volunteer my skills to help renovate Herland's new home.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Mail to: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.

2312 NW 39th
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

OOPS !!

Layout and paste-up of the Newsletter is rather cutting (layout is composed of a myriad of little pieces of paper) and sticky (which are glued onto a paper grid sheet) business. If layout artist and printer are not extra careful with the final layout sheets it is possible for one (or more) of the little pieces of paper to become displaced from its proper location and migrate to an improper location, thus screwing up not one but two articles. Unfortunately, a sample of such a mechanical blooper may be found in this issue of HSR Newsletter.

The last half of the last paragraph of Sondra Metzger's article ending on page 8 came dislodged and ended up upside down on the title for the first article on page 5, thus reducing the journalistic impact and intent of both articles.

To correct this rather embarrassing flaw, readers get the unique opportunity to learn how the newsletter is composed prior to press time. How wonderfully educational!! All you have to do is cut out the block of words below marked #1 and paste it at the end of the third column (after the word "general") at the top of page 8. Next, cut out the words labeled #2, and glue it to page 5, right under the banner "Around the Country".

Abracadabra, you now have a complete, unadulterated version of the June issue of HSR Newsletter, as it was originally intended to appear.

#1 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?

#2 JOPLIN SEES THE FUTURE

Expressions

SERVICE EXPRESSES ITSELF

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.

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

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.

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

MILITARY SERVICE: A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
By Sondra L. Metzger

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

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.

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 an accepted part of the military.

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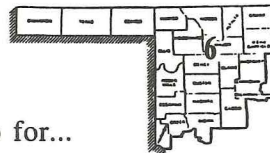
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When I was a young corporal not knowing there was a closet to be in let alone be in it, I was ordered to be a part of the witch hunts on the base at which I was stationed. My feelings about it at the time were mainly focused on what a person's sexual preference had to do with the performance of their military obligations. Some of the women were outstanding Marines with unblemished 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.

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