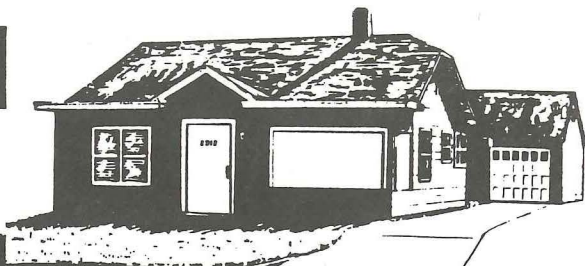


HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES



VOLUME 5, NUMBER 8
AUGUST, 1988

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

Around the Corner

HERLAND OPENS HER DOORS

OKLAHOMA CITY - Herland Bookstore and Library will open its doors on Monday, August 1st at 4:00 PM, and will be open for business until 7:00 PM.

Although the building is still not quite completed, Herland Board of Directors believes the store can open and be available to the women's community while finishing work continues.

While the store will be opening on August 1st, a Grand Opening date, with all of the accompanying festivities, has yet to be set.

Bookstore hours will be from 4 - 7 PM daily, 10 AM - 6 PM on Saturday, and 1 - 6 PM on Sunday.

DJ'S HOLDS BENEFIT FOR CANCER PATIENT

OKLAHOMA CITY - DJ's Club sponsored a benefit on July 21 for Judy West, an Oklahoma City woman hospitalized with cancer. The benefit, held to help Judy offset some of the expenses she has incurred in her battle against cancer, brought out the best in Oklahoma City's women's community.

Entertainment consisted of numerous local individuals and groups including Tony Sinclair and the OKC Cloggers. Benefit proceeds came from a conglomeration of items auctioned off in an atmosphere of philanthropic gaiety.

Among the more popular items sold at the auction was "Bachelorette #1 - Sally, girl about town," who would be entertaining her date for an evening with "chauffer-driven limousine, champagne and dinner." Sally brought over \$600.00. Other items and donations for Judy brought the benefit proceeds to a total of \$4,855.00, the largest amount ever raised in a gay/lesbian benefit in Oklahoma.

The benefit was a class act accentuated by tableclothes, flowers, and candlelight supplied by Sally and Sonja. DJ and Pam wish to thank Tony, Michael, Berney, the OKC Cloggers, Darla, Valentino's, Concept Framing, Sixty-one May Liquor, Becky & Cindy, Hi-NRG, The Flower Bin, Kevin, Jerry, Wilma, Susan and Kathrine, Bonnie M, Shirley Hunter, Hi-Lo Club, Herland Sister Resources, Janet, Collette, Gino, and Diane. And a special thanks to

Sonja, Kathy, Sally, and Mary Ann for organizing this very successful and needed benefit.

Of course, this benefit could not have succeeded without the most important person in attendance: YOU. And DJ's, Judy, and her loved-ones thank you for your generosity and much-needed support.

FALL RETREAT APPROACHES

The Herland Fall Retreat for Women will soon be upon us, so don't forget to mail in your registration! The retreat is to be at Sequoyah State Park near Hulbert, in the beautiful "Green Country" of northeastern Oklahoma, on September 16, 17, & 18.

For your retreating pleasure, an added attraction this retreat will be good, old fashioned home-style cooking available for a nominal fee. This gives you a choice: bring your own vittles, or enjoy the succulent delicacies provided by OKC's most famous home chef, Mary R., accompanied in her paragons of culinary delights by vegetable virtuoso, Chris K.

The only meal not available for purchase will be Saturday evening's traditional Pot Luck. And it's free! But, you will want to remember to bring some delectable edible of your own to share with other retreaters at this gala event. A kitchen is provided (at no additional cost to you) if you wish to prepare your Saturday evening dish fresh for the Pot Luck. The kitchen has all the pots, pans, and utensils you

Continued on page 3

**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 Teash 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.

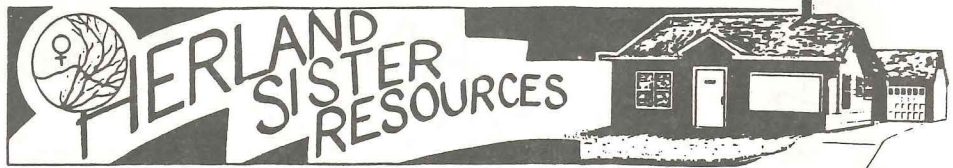
Mail to: Herland Sister Resources
% Laura, Camp Director
4924 S. Kathy
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73135

PUBLISHED BY: HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.; 2312 NW 39th; Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

CIRCULATION: 700
GENERAL INFO: (405) 794-7464
672-4141

VOLUNTEER INFO: 528-0604
ADVERTISING: 794-7464

DEADLINE on all advertising and submissions is the 15th of each month.
SUBSCRIPTIONS to this Newsletter are free upon request.



ANNOUNCES

NEW HERLAND BOOKSTORE OPENING ON MONDAY AUGUST 1 !!!
from 4:00 til 7:00 PM

IS IT TIME TO UPDATE YOUR FRIEND OF HERLAND CARD?

With Herland Bookstore once again open to the community, it's time to check your Friend of Herland Card. Is it time to renew it?

As all of you who have a Friend of Herland Card know, the Card gives you a 10% discount on all Herland Store merchandise as well as a 10% discount on Herland sponsored concerts over the 12-month period the Card covers. Use of the Herland Library is also included with the Friend of Herland Card.

To show your support for Herland and the women's community, use the form below to receive your new Friend of Herland Card. Your donation, Herland's lifeblood, is very much needed and appreciated.

HERLAND'S FALL RETREAT
at
SEQUOYAH STATE PARK
near Wagoner

SEPTEMBER 16, 17, & 18

NEXT COLLECTIVE MEETING

CALL 794-7464 for time & place

IS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGING?

If you are planning to move, and you don't want to miss any issues of the HSR Newsletter, please let us know your new address BEFORE you move. The Post Office will NOT forward the Newsletter, and Herland will NOT change your address without your authorization. Therefore, to insure receipt of the Newsletter fill out and mail us this Change of Address form BEFORE you move. The form may also be used to add a new name to the mailing list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name(s): _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

Mail to: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
2312 NW 39th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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: _____

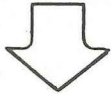
Telephone Number: (_____) _____

Mail to: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
2312 NW 39th
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

may need.

Bring food for the Pot Luck dinner, a flashlight, sleeping bag or other bedding, pillow, toiletries, clothing, beverages, musical instruments, games, sporting equipment, and any other fun things you would like to play with or eat at a weekend getaway. Everything else is provided.

Herland is once again offering scholarships and work exchanges. Please contact Laura at 672-4141 for information. Pre-registration is \$17-20 based on your 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!



RETREAT TO FEATURE COMEDIENNE KAREN WILLIAMS

A VERY FUNNY LADY

This retreat will introduce comedienne Karen Williams to Oklahoma and promises to be a very jocular experience for all. Karen will be coming to us from her home in Berkeley, California. She has performed in countless establishments in northern California, the National Women's Music Festival, the National Women's Studies Conference in Minneapolis (1988), and has appeared on local radio and television. Camp Director, Laura, saw her performance at the National Women's Music Festival in May. Calling Karen's humor "hilarious, political, and blunt", Laura is eager to have her perform for Herland's retreaters.

Additional entertainment is to be provided by Nancy Scott, singer/musician from down around Austin, Texas, who has been called "great", by those locals who have seen her perform.



LUECKE MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

STILLWATER - According to an Oklahoma State University official, a memorial fund has been established for the late Janemarie Luecke. Luecke, who was an OSU professor of English for 21 years, a poet, feminist, lecturer, and a Benedictine involved and committed to the betterment of the world around her, died late last year.

It is hoped that contributions to the Janemarie Luecke Memorial Fund will be used for an annual Luecke Scholarship or Luecke Prize to be awarded to the best student essayist or poet. However plans have not yet been finalized.

For information, write to the Luecke Memorial Committee; English Department; Oklahoma State University; Stillwater, OK 74074.

HERLAND CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

BURN-OUT A PROBLEM

OKLAHOMA CITY - Burnout, that nebulous malady of volunteer organizations, is taking its toll among the Herland collective.

As is the case in the world of volunteerism, an organization depends upon a dedicated few to survive. Herland is such an organization, with a dozen or so women at its core who believe in Herland's goals and objectives strongly enough that they put the majority of their time and energy into seeing that Herland is kept alive for the benefit of the women's and gay community.

But what happens when those few core volunteers begin to suffer burn-out as the

result of unrelenting duties and obligations associated with the volunteer organization? What happens when there is no one there to relieve them for a spell so that they may catch their breath and re-energize? In the case of many a volunteer organization, it dies. Herland is struggling to prevent this, but the dozen or so core volunteers are weakening under the burden they must carry.

When Herland's day to day needs are shared by a larger number of volunteers, it lightens the work load for everyone, and again makes Herland Sister Resources an organization in which volunteers truly enjoy volunteer work.

So, won't you please give Margaret a call at 528-0604 and volunteer to help Herland lighten the load, and once again make Herland Collective an organization where volunteering is fun?

Around the Country

LESBIAN MARINE IMPRISONED FOR CONSENSUAL SEX

PARRIS ISLAND, SC - A woman Marine corporal was convicted on charges of having sex with another woman and has been sentenced to a year in prison. Marine Cpl. Barbara Baum, 23, was convicted of sodomy, obstruction of justice, and committing indecent acts with women and was sentenced on June 10, 1988 at the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Training Depot.

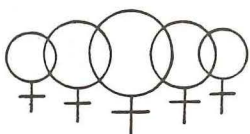
Baum's conviction is part of an ongoing investigation of lesbianism at the Parris Island facility, but she was the first woman to have been court-martialed on sex charges. Of the four other women investigated in the Marine Corps witchhunt against lesbian Marines, one has been discharged in lieu of court-martial and three others have been discharged.

Major David Beck, the Marine prosecutor, had asked the jury to sentence Baum "for a large number of years" in order to send "a message, if you will, because a message is going to go out from your sentence to other Marines in similar situations ... that as a Marine of any rank, such conduct will not be tolerated."

Apparently, the Marine Corps witchhunt was prompted by a report published last fall which mentioned lesbianism among Marine Corps women. The report was issued by Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force urges lesbians and gay men to protest this latest example of military homophobia. "The military in general and the Marine Corps in particular seem obsessed with identifying gay people in the ranks and driving them out simply because they are gay or lesbian", said NGLTF Privacy Project Director Sue Hyde. "No effort was made to evaluate Barbara Baum's service record. She was charged and found guilty of private, consensual sex with another woman. The gay and lesbian community of this country should send its own message to the Marine Corps: Get out of our bedrooms and stop the attacks on gay people in uniform."

Cpl. Baum's case will be reviewed by the Parris Island base commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hoar. Hoar can either reduce Baum's prison sentence or let it stand, but cannot increase it. After Hoar's review, Baum's case is automatically reviewed by the Navy and Marine Court of Military Review in Washington. The Military is receiving letters urging that Baum's conviction be overturned and her sentence waived. You may express your own opinion on this matter by writing to: Maj. Gen. Joseph P. Hoar; Marine Corps Recruits Depot; Parris Island, SC 29905 and The Honorable Frank Carlucci; Dept. of Defense; the Pentagon; Washington, DC 20301.



U of A GAY/LESBIAN STUDENTS WIN FIRST AMENDMENT CASE

ST. LOUIS - The United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit has ruled in favor of the Gay and Lesbian Students' Association in the case of GLSA v. Gohn. Reversing an earlier ruling by District Court Judge H. Franklin Waters, the Appeals Court ruled that the University of Arkansas violated the GLSA's First Amendment right to freedom of speech when university officials allowed and upheld a Student Senate denial of funds to the group in November 1985. The decision was unanimous for the GLSA on all issues.

GLSA v. Gohn is the first gay/lesbian student organization funding case in the nation, and the case sets a major precedent which may now be cited by any gay/lesbian student group, or, indeed, by any gay/lesbian group or individual who contests the freedom of speech issue. The right to campus recognition and privileges for gay/lesbian student groups was first established in the 1970's, but until now no group had been able to establish the legal right to fair treatment in funding.

The appeals court agreed with the lower court that the University need not supply funds to student organizations, but it said that if funds are made available they must be distributed in a neutral manner - "without regard to the content of the ideas being expressed." The University of Arkansas will now be ordered to refrain from its discriminatory treatment in funding, and the University must pay all of the GLSA's legal costs and attorneys' fees. It is estimated that the payment will range from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

With reference to Judge Waters' citation of Bowers v. Hardwick (1986 Supreme Court sodomy decision), the Court wrote, "What is at issue here is not...the constitutional status of sexual preference, but speech on the subject of nondiscrimination."

The court concluded, "The facts of this case are so obvious that a remand for an explicit finding (that is, a return to District Court for retrial) would be a waste of time. This record leaves no reasonable doubt that funds were denied because of disagreement with the GLSA's speech. A finding the other way would be clearly erroneous."

Linda Lovell
Up & Coming, July, 1988

SENATE VOTES TO ALLOW DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAYS

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate on July 12, voted to exempt the application of D.C. gay rights laws to religious-affiliated schools in Washington, and allow them to discriminate against gay and lesbian student groups.

The District of Columbia has a human rights ordinance which bans discrimination against gays and lesbians. This ordinance was the basis of a lawsuit brought by gay and lesbian student groups against George-

town University and Law School almost 8 years ago. Earlier this year the case was favorably resolved allowing campus gay and lesbian groups to obtain formal recognition, funding and access to school facilities for meetings and functions.

However, Sen. William Armstrong (R-CO) introduced an amendment to the D.C. appropriations bill specifically to limit the impact of this recent legal decision, and the amendment passed 58-33.

The Senate action is possible because the District of Columbia is a territory, not a state, and all its laws, regulations and policies are subject to review and reversal by the US Congress. Congress took a similar anti-gay stand in 1981, when it overruled the repeal of DC's sodomy law. Commented a Washington, DC resident, "It is an outrage that members of Congress who do not live in the District, who are not elected to represent us, and who have no accountability to voters living here can meddle with duly enacted laws passed by persons DC voters have elected to represent them."

Strong opposition to the amendment was made by Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-CT), who called it "codified discrimination...just good, old-fashioned bigotry." Among those voting for the amendment were Oklahoma senators Nickles (R) and Boren (D).

The full impact of the Armstrong amendment and its constitutionality are still in question. The measure now goes to a joint Senate-House conference committee. All concerned persons are urged to contact the members of the House Conference committee: *Louis Stokes (D-OH), *Julian Dixon (D-CA), *Les AuCoin (D-OR), *Stenny Hoyer (D-MD), *Bill Green (R-NY), William Natcher (D-KY), Wes Watkins (D-OK), Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA), Ralph Regula (R-OH). Wes Watkins represents Oklahoma District 3, central and southeastern Oklahoma. He and other committee members may be reached at: US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

COUPLES NEEDED FOR NATIONAL SURVEY

SEATTLE - A national survey of lesbian and gay couples is being undertaken by PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples. The research will help determine the nature and needs of this often invisible segment of the gay community. The last major survey of gay and lesbian couples was conducted almost ten years ago.

All gay men and lesbians in a relationship are asked to participate in the survey. The short, anonymous questionnaire requests general information on subjects such as discrimination, finances, children, relationship problems and sources of relationship support.

There is a survey form included with this issue of the Herland Newsletter. Please take a few minutes and fill it out, and assist in gathering this important information on the women's community.

"This information promises to be of immense interest, and it will arm social service providers and civil rights organizations with information they need," said Demian who publishes the eight-page monthly. The Newsletter contains interviews, news, and features of interest to lesbian and gay couples.

PARTNERS SURVEY FOR LESBIAN & GAY MALE COUPLES

The nation needs data on our community! Hence this survey. Feel free to add comments, but keep it anonymous by not signing your name. Please complete one survey form per person & post to PARTNERS, Box 9685, Seattle, WA 98109. To receive survey results, which are expected by January 1989, please send request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

We have been together:

- one year or less
 for _____ years

I have had _____ (#) previous major lesbian/gay relationship(s), lasting a total of _____ years. I've been heterosexually married _____ (#) time(s).

We met through (choose one):

- work friends bar
 social event religious event
 classified ad political event

We are: female male

I am: _____ My partner is: _____
 gay/lesbian
 bisexual

I am _____ yrs. old & my partner is _____.

I am: _____ My partner is: _____
 Black
 White
 Latino/Latina
 Asian/Pacific Islander

I was raised: _____ My partner: _____
 working class
 middle class
 moneyed class

I have completed _____ (#) years of formal education. My partner has completed _____ (#) years.

I'm politically: _____ My partner: _____
 very liberal
 liberal
 moderate
 conservative
 very conservative

My faith is: _____ My partner's: _____
 Protestant
 Jewish
 Catholic
 Atheist/Agnostic

In our relationship, I make:
 most decisions
 about half of the decisions
 few decisions

I spend the most leisure time with:
 myself alone my partner
 my partner & others together
 people other than my partner

I want: _____ My partner has asked for: _____
 More time together
 Less time together
 neither more nor less

My yearly income is: _____ My partner's income is: _____
 \$8,000 or below
 \$8,001 - 15,000
 \$15,001 - 25,000
 \$25,001 - 40,000
 \$40,001 - 65,000
 above \$65,000

Our income is:
 entirely shared
 partly shared
 not shared

My employer offers my partner: _____ My partner's employer offers me: _____
 health coverage
 other benefits

We have experienced discrimination against same-sex couples in:

- employment taxes
 employment benefits housing
 foster care adoption
 membership insurance
 credit/banking hotels
 hospital visitation None

I live in: _____ My partner in: _____
 an urban gay neighborhood
 an urban area
 a suburban area
 a rural area

In the past year, we lived together:
 always sometimes never

If living together, our residence is:

- jointly owned
 owned by one of us
 rented or leased in one name
 rented or leased in both names

We care for _____ (#) children by:

- previous marriage
 adoption
 foster parent program
 alternative insemination

We are:

- planning to have (more) children
 considering (more) children
 not planning (more) children

We are sexually:

- monogamous non-monogamous
 monogamous w/agreed exceptions

If agreed to monogamy, I have broken the agreement: _____ My partner admits to breaking it: _____
 often
 sometimes
 rarely
 never

In the last year, I have had sex with my partner _____ (#) times a month.

Our sexual interaction is:
 excellent good
 satisfactory unsatisfactory

I have sex with people other than my partner _____ (#) times a month.

The role AIDS played in my decision to form my present relationship was:
 major minor none

The role AIDS plays in my intent to continue my relationship is:
 major minor none

Regarding AIDS, I am: _____ My partner is: _____
 not at risk
 at risk
 HIV-positive
 a person with ARC/AIDS

Within our relationship this past year, we practiced sex that is primarily:
 safe possibly safe
 unsafe We didn't have sex
 We're HIV-negative & monogamous

This past year outside the relationship, I have practiced: _____ My partner has practiced: _____
 safe sex
 possibly safe sex
 unsafe sex
 no sex
 don't know

The two greatest challenges in our relationship have to do with:

- communication sex
 money relatives
 co-workers health
 neighbors career

Our relationship has suffered from:

- verbal abuse by partner
 physical abuse by partner
 substance abuse by partner
 verbal abuse by me
 physical abuse by me
 substance abuse by me

We have _____ (#) big arguments and _____ (#) small arguments a month.

I/we have sought relationship help from: _____ Were they helpful?
 counselors Yes No
 clergy Yes No
 friends Yes No
 relatives Yes No

I most often identify my partner as: _____ My partner calls me: _____
 spouse
 partner/life partner
 lover
 mate/life mate

We have executed: _____ We plan to execute: _____
 Wills
 Powers of Attorney
 Partnership or Living Together Agreement

We are committed to be together:
 for life for a long time
 for a while briefly

We have ritualized our relationship:
 with a ceremony
 by wearing rings/other symbols

I would rate the quality of our relationship, from 1 (highest) to 7 (lowest), as: _____

Here's how I would rate the support these people give our relationship, from 1 (strong support) to 7 (hostility). (Use "N" if they don't know about the relationship.)

- _____ gay friends _____ other friends
 _____ church _____ gay church
 _____ mother _____ siblings
 _____ father _____ other relatives
 _____ boss _____ other co-workers
 _____ lesbian/gay couples group
 _____ other gay organizations

First 3 numbers of my zip code: _____
 My partner is is not submitting a completed copy of this survey.

Please write on the back:

- a > books or resources that have best supported your relationship;
 b > hints you would offer to others for making a successful relationship;
 c > political or social victories you have experienced as a gay couple.

Thank you for participating.

--- Entire contents ©PARTNERS, 1988 ---

PARTNERS: The Newsletter for Gay & Lesbian Couples. Practical information & ideas for developing successful relationships. Interviews, news & reviews in an 8-page monthly, mailed in a peek-proof envelope. Mailing list is never sold or rented. By subscription only: \$36/yr, organizations \$49/yr, overseas \$59/yr (U.S. funds only), \$3/sample issue, back issues (from Dec. '86)/\$3 ea. **Special offer:** Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for free list of "Resources for Lesbian & Gay Couples."

Would you & your partner be willing to be interviewed for a PARTNERS article? (We would call & talk with you both for a painless 25 minutes. Pseudonyms can be used in the article. Cut off this form & mail separately to maintain anonymity of survey.)

Our names are _____ Phone # _____
 (please print): _____
 Best days & time to reach us both: _____ Please write on the back what in particular you would like to talk about.

A NIGHT OF LIGHT AND LOVE

NEW ORLEANS - Delegates to the Republican National Convention to be held here in August will be greeted by the Gay and Lesbian community with a Night of Light and Love. On Saturday, August 13, from dusk until dawn, thousands of candles will be lighted "in memory of those lost to AIDS and those who continue to suffer and die because of anti-gay prejudice and discrimination."

The candles will be part of a Monument of Truth, Love and Understanding to be erected in a park near the French Quarter, Superdome and hotels housing convention delegates and press covering the event. Program will be published listing those remembered. The Monument will remain in place during the convention and according to John Ognibene, originator of the idea, "We hope that all people, not just gays and lesbians, will come to the Monument and understand that our cause is their cause. As any human being would want to live his or her life openly, freely and without prejudice and fear - so do we. And we will."

Co-organizer, Mary Stuart, said of those unable to come out of the closet, "This is an opportunity for people still closeted to speak out loudly and clearly that we are

united in our struggle to be free. We wish everyone could join us in New Orleans, but those who are unable we hope will participate by sending their dollars."

If you wish to participate, send \$2 for each candle (\$20 per dozen) to Night of Light and Love; P.O. Box 850413; New Orleans, LA 70185. Please include the name of the person remembered and the circumstances surrounding the reason for inclusion. The wishes of those wanting to remain anonymous will be respected. Proceeds in excess of expenses will be donated to Community Relief for People with AIDS.

For more info: Mary Stuart; 504-484-6321, or John Ognibene; 504-945-7508.

Press Release

LESBIANS AND GAYS TO LOBBY CONGRESS IN OCTOBER

WASHINGTON - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is planning and organizing two days of Congressional lobbying in support of gay and lesbian rights to take place during October 6 - 7, 1988.

The National Lobby Days for Lesbian & Gay Rights will mark the third time gay rights supporters have lobbied Congress in mass.

"In 1979, we came to educate," said NGLTF Peri Jude Redecic, referring to the first national lobby day held in October of 1979. "In 1987, we came to challenge the legislative system with our agenda, and we had over half a million supporters to back us up on the Capitol steps." Over 900 people participated during the two days of constituent lobbying last October during the National March on Washington. "In 1988, Kadecic said, "we are coming back to Washington to demand legislative change."

The National Lobby Days will have a twofold focus. First, constituents will press legislators to enact bills in the final days of the 100th Congressional session. Second, activists will evaluate the performance of their elected Representatives with the presentation of Report Cards. NGLTF has begun preparation of the Report Cards which will detail members' voting records on key issues and bills of concern to the gay/lesbian community. "Our Congressional Report Cards will

Continued on page 6

August 1988

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	HERLAND BOOKSTORE OPENS! 4-7 pm MON-FRI. 794-7464 1	2	3	4	5	HERLAND BOOKSTORE OPEN 10am-6pm SATURDAYS 794-7464 6
NAT'L FREE SHARON KOWALSKI DAY (SEE STORY) SISTERS of SWING at Mt. ST. MARY'S 528-0020 7	8	9	10	11	New Moon 12	13
HERLAND BOOKSTORE OPEN 1-6 pm SUNDAYS 794-7464 14	15	16	17	18	SHARTELS at DJ'S! 9pm-? 528-0020 19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	Full Moon 27
28	29	30	31			

A Herland Calendar

listing events sponsored by various organizations and presented here as a community service by HERLAND.



Expressions

Response to the National Women's Music Festival, Bloomington, Indiana, June 2-5, 1988.

I have been to the heart of the mother.
It is to her I pray:

Your heart is a new land boiling over with anger
refusal and danger
for those who have harmed you and your
lovers,
your sisters,
your homelands,
and your true brothers.

You are a relentless foe and I fear your strength in enmity.
My Goddess, mother
listen listen listen
in the midst of your just anger
just listen.

Every one is still your child,
we are all your children.

There are those who say understanding is not always possible,
not always advisable.
I have to say
aren't those just the words our betrayers have always used
when discarding us in favor of their own aims?
Into the wind of your pain I say
don't make any more distinctions. We are all victims and betrayed here,
betrayers most of all, for they are victims of themselves.

Don't say
you must be lesbian before I will accept you
you must be woman before I will accept you
you must be woman of color lesbian far left before I will accept you,

please mother of us all say
I will accept you
come to me
together we will find the way.

Teresa D. Long, B.F.A.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
6-22-88

Dear Herland Sisters ---

I thank you for the recognition of my contribution to Herland in your last Newsletter (May issue), however, it's incorrect to say that I don't benefit from my gift, because I live far away.

First of all, I am Oklahoma born and bred and my parents still live in Oklahoma and periodically I do come through town and visit Herland. But beyond that, I can't tell you how much good it does my heart just to know that Herland is there. I wear your T-shirt in the New York Gay Pride March and I tell everyone about you. I love you.

I know you all think deeply about the world and your part in providing examples of brave new lifestyles - "profiles in courage" - as well as zestfulness and loving and self-development and all kinds of good things.

I trust that you are all aware to some degree of the evilness of the apartheid system in South Africa --- it has gotten so bad that it is now against the law there for three Black people to stand on a street corner talking to each other: they can be arrested for "sedition". It is time for all of us to respond.

Fortunately, there are ways for us to respond. Two laws are being considered in the U.S. Congress which call for comprehensive sanctions of the economic system that supports apartheid. Do not be fooled by those who say "Well, isn't it better to support the businesses in South Africa because they might supply jobs for Black South Africans?" The answer is "No!, It is not better". They don't really supply the jobs promised and the only way to stop the Botha government short of bloodshed is to convince the international business community to pull out until the Botha government either falls or changes its policies.

So, please, ALL OF YOU write your senators, David Boren and Don Nickles, to support Senate Bill S 2378 and write your Representatives, Wes Watkins, Dave McCurdy, Mike Synar, etc. to support House Bill HR 1580 at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 or U.S. House of Representatives, Washington 20515. And, you can call the Capital switchboard: 202-224-3121.

I remember a saying from childhood, "It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease." We have to all be alot more "squeaky." Silence = Death.

Be strong, my Sisters, keep Herland together. Be happy, too, but don't forget the suffering in South Africa. We can't make enough noise.

I love you. We can make a difference.

"T.K."
New York City

Continued from page 5

give activists a handy format from which to raise our issues and will enable us to point to the support or lack of support the particular member of Congress provided in the past legislative session," explained Radecic.

The NGLTF wants the Lobby Days to become an annual tradition, because they provide a way for the Gay and Lesbian community to make its agenda visible to legislators.

An information packet to help activists prepare for the October 1988 Lobby Days is available upon request from NGLTF; 1517 U Street NW; Washington, DC 20009; (202) 332-6483.

DEMONSTRATORS TO ASK "WHY CAN'T SHARON COME HOME?"

WASHINGTON, DC - Demonstrators will gather in cities across the country on Sunday, August 7th, to demand the release of Sharon Kowalski from a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota, where she has been kept by her father since July 1985. Kowalski, victim of a drunk driver accident, has been denied access to quality rehabilitation and court-ordered competency tests, forbidden freedom of association with her friends, and separated from her partner of nine years.

National Free Sharon Kowalski Day, which also commemorates her 32nd birthday will take place in more than a dozen cities nationwide, including Washington, Boston, New York, Piscataway, New Jersey, Brunswick, Maine, Colorado Springs, Tallahassee, Minneapolis, and Madison, Wisconsin. Local actions will include vigils, processions, rallies, street theater, and birthday cakes.

When Sharon Kowalski awoke from a coma following her accident in 1983, the prognosis was bleak: her brain stem injury left her largely paralyzed and unable to speak, and she experienced short term memory problems. Through the daily and devoted care of her partner, Karen Thompson, Kowalski's condition improved dramatically. She was able to eat and drink without a feeding tube, move her fingers, hands, and right arm, and comb her hair. She could communicate with an electric typewriter and clearly answered questions on a range of topics, such as her job before the accident, her favorite flowers and colors, and her relationship with Thompson. St. Cloud neurologist Dr. Keith Larson, has said "Sharon's friend, Karen, can get out of Sharon physical actions, attempt at vocalization and longer periods of alertness and attention than can really any

We encourage the exchange of information, personal opinions on issues of concern to the Oklahoma women's community, and your stories and experiences.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense letters according to space limitations. Letters should be typed, doublespaces and signed by the author(s). Include your address and phone number. If you wish to be published anonymously, so indicate, but include your name, etc., for our information, in case the editor has questions.

Mail or deliver your letters to HSR; 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73160. Deadline is the 15th of each month.

of our professional therapists."

When Kowalski's father, Donald, discovered the nature of the two women's relationship, he began working to overturn a court order giving him guardianship but guaranteeing Thompson participation in all medical decisions regarding Kowalski's care. In 1984, over Thompson's protests, he moved Kowalski more than 100 miles away from the St. Cloud, Minnesota area, where she had been living for several years and where quality adult rehabilitation facilities are available, to a nursing home in Duluth. In 1985, he moved her even further to a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota, which has a very limited rehabilitation program and which had been previously rejected by the court.

Since moving her from St. Cloud, Kowalski's father has removed her typewriter, barred Thompson and her other friends from visiting her, censored her mail, and insisted that she is a functional six-year-old with no consistent thoughts. Although guardianship law requires annual competency tests of wards, Donald Kowalski has refused to test his daughter for three years on the grounds that it would be a waste of money.

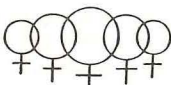
Without proper care over the past four years, Sharon Kowalski's condition has deteriorated significantly. During an appeals process in 1985, Karen Thompson was able to visit Kowalski for the last time. With the typewriter Thompson provided, Kowalski typed: "Karen help me. Get me out of here. Take me home with you."

Through numerous court decisions in favor of Kowalski's father, Karen continues her fight to bring Sharon home, because "The last time I saw Sharon, she looked at me with trust in her eyes - trust that I would bring her home."

Karen Thompson has gone to court to assure that Kowalski receives the quality care she needs. The Minnesota courts, however, have refused at every turn to uphold Thompson's requests that prior court orders and state laws regarding patients' rights be enforced. The courts have even ruled that because Kowalski has a guardian, she is not entitled to protection under the Minnesota Patients' Bill of Rights, even though her guardian is the very person who is denying Kowalski her rights.

Why have rulings repeatedly been in favor of Kowalski's father and against what appears to be the best interests of the patient? Speaking at a program which included the Kowalski case last Fall, the dean of Ohio State University's College of Law said, "All you have to do is stand up in the courtroom, look at the judge and say the word 'queer', and you can throw the whole book of law out." The legal effort to free Sharon Kowalski has now been joined by the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Sharon Kowalski is a victim of paternalistic attitudes about the disabled, homophobic fear of gay and lesbian people, abuse of guardianship, and the sexism that restricts women's self-determination. The demands being made by the National Committee to free Sharon Kowalski and the participants in Sharon Kowalski day follow this article. Until these demands are met, no one is free of the possibility of being imprisoned and isolated from friends and partners following an injury or illness.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Sharon Kowalski has been denied her rights for three fundamental reasons:

- As a woman, she is assumed to need the care and protection of a man;
- As a disabled person, she is assumed to have no right to make decisions about

her future on her own.

- As a lesbian, her choice of a partner, Karen Thompson, is not acknowledged, respected, or legitimized.

Each day Sharon is deprived of her rights, her future deteriorates, and so does ours. Until Sharon is free, none of us is free, because any one of us could become a "Sharon Kowalski."

DEMANDS:

REMOVE DONALD KOWALSKI as Sharon Kowalski's guardian and appoint Karen Thompson or a neutral third party in his place, if after proper testing Sharon Kowalski is determined to need a guardian.

Explanation: Donald Kowalski has consistently violated guardianship law by denying Sharon Kowalski freedom of association, failing to test her yearly for competency, and preventing her from receiving her mail. At the time of the accident, Sharon Kowalski and Karen Thompson had bought a house together, exchanged rings, and made a lifetime commitment to each other. Their relationship should be treated as a marriage with the assumption that the partner is given guardianship before a parent.

GUARANTEE SHARON KOWALSKI'S RIGHTS to freedom of association, privacy, and relationship.

Explanation: Sharon Kowalski has been deprived of visits from her partner, Karen Thompson, and her friends since August 1985. Karen Thompson should immediately be allowed private visitation rights, as heterosexual couples would not be denied access to one another during rehabilitation. On the contrary, visitation would be considered a key component in recovery.

ENFORCE SHARON KOWALSKI'S RIGHT to recovery, including the right to receive adequate rehabilitative and medical care and to live independently.

Explanation: Sharon Kowalski has been deprived of access to a rehabilitation program suitable for her injury, as well as access to a means of communication, such as an electric typewriter or computer, and to a means of transportation, such as an electric wheelchair.

ALLOW SHARON KOWALSKI TO PARTICIPATE, to the fullest extent possible, in all legal proceedings, medical decisions, and determination of how and where she lives her life.

Explanation: Sharon Kowalski has not been present at any of the numerous court hearings concerning her guardianship or treatment, although there are no medical reasons for her exclusion.

LAUNCH AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION into the denial of Sharon Kowalski's civil and constitutional rights, under the auspices of the Minnesota Attorney General and the U.S. Justice Department.

Explanation: The Minnesota courts have consistently refused to uphold the letter of guardianship law in the Sharon Kowalski case. These violations of her civil and constitutional rights should be immediately investigated by state and federal authorities.

RECOGNIZE THE FULL RIGHTS and needs of lesbians and gay men for self-determination and economic, social, legal, and political equality, participation, and freedom.

Explanation: The Congressional Lesbian and Gay Rights bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation should be passed; all sodomy laws criminalizing consensual sex between adults should be repealed; adequate funding for AIDS research should be allocated, and all discrimination against people with AIDS should end; and education to combat anti-lesbian and anti-gay prejudices and violence should be initiated.

RECOGNIZE THE FULL RIGHTS and needs of people with disabilities for self-determination and economic, social, legal, and political equality, participation, and freedom.

People with disabilities must be guaranteed physical, economic, and nonprejudicial access to all aspects of life, including schooling, housing, transportation, employment with adequate wages and at levels commensurate with training and education, mass media, public and commercial buildings and events, advanced technology, health care, self-determined life choices (e.g., where and how to live and work as well as freedom of association), and sexual and political freedom.

RECOGNIZE THE FULL RIGHTS and needs of women for self-determination and economic, social, legal, and political equality, participation, and freedom.

Explanation: To be truly free, women need reproductive rights (abortion, childcare, freedom from sterilization abuse, health care, and day care), passage of the ERA, lesbian rights, elimination of violence against women, equal pay and pay equity, an end to sexist attitudes and stereotyped media images, equal access to education, and full partnership in the political system. These rights must be extended to women of all races, ethnicities, classes, cultures, and ages.

END GUARDIANSHIP ABUSE, which restricts the lives of millions of elderly and/or disabled people in the U.S.

Explanation: Congressional legislation is needed to ensure minimum rights under the equal protection and due process provisions of the Constitution, including the right to a lawyer, the right to be present at legal proceedings, and the right to competent evidence, regular testing, freedom of association, and highest quality care.

END ALL OPPRESSION based on difference, especially heterosexism, ableism, sexism, racism, anti-semitism, classism, and ageism.

Explanation: Discrimination against any group in society affects all people living in that society. In order to secure the rights of all people, we must rid society of the fears, prejudices, and laws that prevent any person from realizing her or his potential.

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