



## Around the Corner

### THE END IS NEAR! Get out and Vote

By Sondra Metzger

For what seems like an eternity, we have all been deluged with the political issues, ideas, campaign promises and snide remarks of George Bush and Michael Dukakis. Don't worry. This article is not going to be a campaign to get you to vote for one or the other. My own personal beliefs as well as the fact that a nonprofit organization cannot endorse a candidate spares you from reading any political rhetoric in any of my columns in this newsletter.

What I would like to say is that, if you are reading this newsletter, chances are that you are of voting age. This is a right given to us women by an amendment to the Constitution. Understand that "amendment" means "a formal alteration of a law; a correction; an improvement." Note that last one, an improvement. Whoever wrote the American Heritage Dictionary knew what they were talking about!

Women were not granted the right to vote under the original Constitution. Neither were blacks and 18-year-olds. In a display of power, our foremothers fought and won the right to vote for women all over this country. They laid the foundation for a road that will someday lead to the freedom to be women and not be judged because of what we are.

Yes, it matters who gets into office. The next president will be filling two or three seats on the Supreme Court with judges who we will have to endure until they retire or die.

I'm not trying to tell you who to vote for. I'm trying to tell you to examine the issues and get out there and vote. Use one of the freedoms that has been given to you by our foremothers. You didn't have to do anything for it! All the work was done for you many years ago! All you have to do is go to a polling place and exercise that right.

Not voting would be equal to ignoring all the women before us who fought so hard to get us where we are today. Let's not let them down. Voice your opinion and select the candidate you feel best suits the job. Yes, your vote counts. Yes, your opinion matters. Yes, you are important! Do it! On November 8th.

## BUSH & DUKAKIS: THEIR STANDS IN A NUTSHELL

### BUSH

- Abortion: Anti-choice
- ERA: Opposes the ERA
- Defense: Supports MX missile; supports arms control; favors no cuts in defense spending.
- Poverty: Endorses increase in minimum wage; with a lower minimum wage for trainees; maintain low interest rates.
- Education: Endorses improving education via award systems for teachers & students; proposes redesign of student loan program to repay loans according to income.
- Environment: Pro nuclear energy & clean up toxic wastes; stop ocean dumping & acid rain; supports off-shore drilling.
- Health Care: Proposes tax incentives for those with insurance; limit malpractice suits.
- Childcare: Against federal funding of day care facilities; proposes tax credit on day care for low income families and incentives for companies providing employee child care.
- Civil Rights: Supports affirmative action; opposes federal regulations or wage equality; endorses "traditional morality" in AIDS Education.

### DUKAKIS

- Pro-choice
- Supports the ERA
- Supports enhancement of conventional weapons; favors negotiations with USSR in halting development of new missiles. Against MX missiles.
- Endorses raise in minimum wage; proposes low income housing plan.
- Endorses revamping student loan program to repay loan via fixed percentage deducted from payroll; National Education Assn. endorses this candidate.
- Would make Environmental Protection Agency part of the Cabinet; opposes off-shore drilling & Seabrook nuclear plant in New Hampshire; endorsed by League of Conservation Voters and Friends of the Earth.
- Supports long-term national health care plan and an increase in funds for AIDS research.
- Supports Act for Better Child Care Services Bill, which would subsidize childcare services for poor & middle-income families; supports Unpaid Parental Leave Bill.
- Supports affirmative action to neutralize past injustices because of race and gender; supports role of government in guaranteeing civil rights; supports pay equality bill; opposes employment discrimination due to sexual orientation.

## NOW, GET OUT AND VOTE!

### HERLAND IS . . .

A non-profit corporation composed of a collective of wimmin — open to any womyn 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 wimmin's community. It is a place to learn and grow, meet other wimmin, 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 mortgage and utilities on the resource center, 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.

## COFFEEHOUSE PLANNED

In the beginning, Herland held coffeehouses to raise money. After a three-year absence, they're back!

Herland's first coffeehouse in the new building will be held November 12 from 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the winner of the G.A.L.A. femasle vocalist of the year award, Donna DeSalvo.

Although admission is free, donations to Herland and tips for Mss. DeSalvo will be appreciated. Refreshments will be provided.

DeSalvo has opened for national performers Sue Fink and Nancy Day, and writes all her own music. She began her career singing and playing her guitar at past Herland coffeehouses.

Stop in, catch the talent and wit of Donna DeSalvo and enjoy Herland's first coffeehouse. Herland is located at 2312 NW 39th Street.

Watch for "An Interview with Donna D" in next month's HSR Newsletter.

## PET WINTERIZATION

By Sondra Metzger

Those of you who own pets that stay outside all the time need to remember to winterize your pets before the harsh Oklahoma winter months arrive.

Although they have fur coats, it's not always enough to keep them warm. Extra food should be put out so they can fuel up their bodies. Water should be checked to make sure it's not frozen. They should have adequate shelter with proper bedding to keep warm. By adequate shelter, it should be something that is covered and will break the wind with some type of covering over the door. Failure to provide adequate shelter could lead to a fine if you live in Oklahoma City, according to a city ordinance.

Another item to watch out for is anti-freeze. Anti-freeze has a sweet taste to animals. An animal that drinks it will hemorrhage internally and die in a short matter of time. Ensure that all containers are kept out of their reach, and that spilled anti-freeze is cleaned up.

Be aware of the dangers of severe cold on your animal friends and enjoy their love a little while longer.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS to this Newsletter are free upon request.



## ANNOUNCES

**ALIX DOBKIN IN CONCERT**  
on November 18  
at Civic Center Little Theater  
(Call 528-0020 for information)

**HERLAND WORK WEEKEND**  
November 5th and 6th, 10:00 a.m. - ??  
2312 Northwest 39th, Oklahoma City  
For information, call 794-7464  
*Volunteers Needed!*

**COFFEEHOUSE AT HSR — DONNA D!**  
November 12th, 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Donations accepted! Refreshments included.

**THE NEW HERLAND CENTER IS NOW OPEN:**  
SATURDAYS 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. & SUNDAYS 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
at 2312 N.W. 39th St.

**HERLAND BOARD MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 3RD  
SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 2312 N.W. 39TH**  
Next Meeting: November 19th, 4:30 p.m.  
We welcome your presence

## COMING OUT DAY RALLY HELD AT ANGLES

By Sondra Metzger

A rally celebrating National Coming Out Day was held at Angles on October 9. Tables were set up around the outer edge of the dance floor for various organizations within the community to display brochures, pamphlets, pins and books. Some organizations sold munchies while Angles' bar managed to quench the thirsts of those attending.

The showing of a video made from the newscasts of the three local television networks featuring the Gay Rights March held in June opened the rally. Extra video footage was added and accompanied by the songs *I Am What I Am* by Mitzi Gaynor and *I'm Coming Out* by Diana Ross.

John Nicholas, associate pastor at MCC, provided the invocation followed by Mary R. leading the group in the national anthem. Keith Smith served as emcee for the rally and, along with OASIS director Darlene Burgess, Maryann and Paul Thompson, read suggestions for coming out.

Entertainment was provided by Mychall

Allen, Mary R., Peggy Johnson, Denise, Living Water from MCC, Mark Agnew, Tutu, Randall Powell and Three of Hearts.

Gretchen, representing Gay/Lesbian Alliance at University of Oklahoma, invited everyone to attend their meetings on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Room 165 in the Student Union. It is their tenth anniversary!

Darlene Burgess, OASIS Community Center, announced that Zoom Beach will not be one of the festivities held during Gay Pride Week in 1989. Instead, there will be a Pride Fest at Taft Stadium. They are hoping to have local and out-of-state entertainers on hand to perform.

Bill Rogers spoke, encouraging all to deal with their gayness, feel good about themselves and share their gayness with people they desire to share it with.

Organizations represented at the rally were: Herland Sister Resources; OASIS Community Center; AIDS Support Program; Gay and Lesbian Helpline; Church of Christ; Interfaith Connections on AIDS Response and Education; Dignity/Integrity of OKC; OU Gay/Lesbian Alliance; American Civil Liberties Union; and Affirmation.

## FRIENDSHIPS UNITED

FRIENDSHIPS UNITED is a not for profit group that has organized thirteen of Oklahoma City's talented musicians and entertainers. These people are committed to producing a collection of songs for a cassette tape for which all proceeds will benefit the "Winds," a hospice home for those living with AIDS. Some of the musicians and entertainers involved in this project are Mark Agnew, Mychall Lee Allen, Elyse Angelo, Cindy Bookout, Glenn Brown, Donna DeSalvo, Peggy Johnson, Randall Powell, Mary Reynolds, and Rhonda Smith. FRIENDSHIPS UNITED believes they have assembled a most gifted and generous collage of individuals; each contributing their own expertise and specialties to a very worthwhile cause.

They chose the name FRIENDSHIPS UNITED to represent themselves because they believe it is a unification of friendships that will enable them to reach the goals they have established. It will be through faith, trust, love, patience and a lot of hard work.

Their goals are:

- 1) To raise a minimum of \$1,000.00 through donations and fundraising efforts. This will enable them to begin studio recording.
- 2) Projected studio production is set for the first quarter of 1989. This is contingent upon receiving the \$1,000.
- 3) To communicate their efforts both verbally and written to as many people possible.
- 4) To market their finished product, the collective works of music with all proceeds benefitting the "Winds" home.

Once these goals are met, then the *Winds Cassette Tape Project* will be a self-sufficient operation. The tape will be available through mail order and at various functions throughout the year. All proceeds will be channeled to the "Winds" home.

Artists Brian Landreth and Rhonda London are designing the cassette tape cover and goal poster respectively.

The first fundraising effort is scheduled for Sunday, November 20, 1988 at the Bunkhouse, 2807 N.W. 36th Street, 942-9305. *The 3 of Hearts* will be providing entertainment, so come on out for a handclapping, foot-stomping good time!!

There is no cover charge and they'd love to see you!

Donations of any size and magnitude will be greatly appreciated and may be sent to Friendships United, c/o Peggy Johnson, P.O. Box 75842, Oklahoma City, OK 73147. For information call 949-1768.

From Press Release

A big thank you to Shatzy for Herland's beautiful new curtains. A very talented woman with a generous heart!

## Expressions

### PERFORMER LEAVES CROWD CHEERING FOR MORE

By Sondra Metzger

Singer-songwriter Nancy Scott opened the concert portion of Herland's Fall Retreat with a performance that left the audience cheering for more.

"I love this retreat," she said. "All those wild women. Wild women don't get the blues, you know."

The Tennessee-born guitarist loves all types of music. Because she writes from a lesbian perspective, Nancy has been singing to primarily lesbian audiences.

"I write all kinds of music," she explained, "sometimes it's about other peoples' experiences, but mostly it's about the trouble I get myself into."

Born February 6, 1950, Nancy moved to Austin, Texas 11 years ago because she was, in her words, wild in love. But that's another story.

"I got my first guitar when I was 16," she said, "and wrote a couple of songs in high school. I guess I was 12 years old when I performed in public for the first time. That was in Knoxville, Tennessee."

Working at the School for the Deaf in Austin during the day, Nancy performs whenever she can at night. Her schedule has been taking her out of town quite a bit lately, but she's not complaining. She has just released her first album entitled *Both Sides of Me*.

"That was neat," she said, "now that I can look back on it. People kept asking me about an album and I said I didn't have the money for an album. They said 'Let's raise it!' and they did!"

The album contains what Nancy calls quiet songs and wild songs, which describe both sides of her, hence the title. It took three and a half years and thousands of dollars to make the album a reality. Because she appreciated all the effort by her friends and supporters in making the album possible, Nancy attempted to put everyone's name on the bottom of the inside cover. You might say it's a handmade album.

"I'd do another album today if someone walked up and handed me \$12,000," she said. "But I won't do it like I did the first one, not with bake sales and garage sales."

That album and tape are available at Herland for \$10.

Nancy never intentionally structures her performance for a totally lesbian audience. Her songs are written from the heart.

"There's more appreciation from a lesbian audience," she explains, "but I don't ever want to lose sight of the fact that I love to sing everything. There's a dream in the back of my



Photo by Sondra Metzger

head about being a front singer for a band and singing blues and jazzy stuff and still keep the Nancy Scott that does womens' music. I want to do both. I want to do everything!"

Nancy's future dreams consist of getting one of her songs sold in Nashville and be primarily a songwriter, although she says she doesn't have aspirations for big fame. She's a day-by-day kind of woman who trudges along just to keep it from the heart.

When asked what the craziest thing was that ever happened to her on stage, Nancy remembered one time when she was singing *Cashmere Sweater*.

"When I got to the part where I sing 'come take these clothes off so slow,'" she explained, "I got rushed. They took my belt and my tie, and they were going for my blouse when we finally got them under control."

"My worst memory," she continued, "was coming here. The airlines wouldn't take my paycheck as payment for the plane ticket without 12 ID's. They were telling me I couldn't fly to OKC and I was telling them I HAD to fly to OKC. A friend helped me out, but I was still an hour and a half late. My guitar was here, but I wasn't."

Anyone who was at the retreat knows that Nancy Scott is not a singer-songwriter. Nancy Scott is an entertainer of the highest caliber, and we thank her for sharing her songs and her talent with us.

#### To the Editor

#### Herland Sister Resources, Inc. Newsletter

October 11 was "National Coming Out Day." One of the television talk shows aired a very tasteful program featuring several lesbians and gays addressing exclusively the issues of coming out of the closet, the importance of and reasons for coming out, and the personal and political implications of coming out. One angry phone caller expressed the feelings of many persons, accusing the talk show guests of trying to recruit

Continued on page 5

# Around the Country

## LITIGATION TO STOP REAGAN ATTACK ON FAMILY PLANNING

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. (PPFA) has filed suit in the U.S. District Court against the Reagan Administration's Department of Health and Human Services.

The legal action against Otis Bowen, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is one of the most important cases in PPFA's 71-year history.

AND . . . it's vitally important to millions of Americans who value their reproductive rights and their civil liberties.

The lawsuit was filed to challenge President Reagan's shocking regulatory attack on one of the most important and effective government health programs — Title X of the Public Health Service Act.

The Title X family planning program prevents 800,000 unwanted pregnancies and prevents 433,000 abortions each year! This health program also provides contraceptive services to more than five million women each year — the vast majority of them poor women and teen-agers.

If the Reagan regulatory attack on Title X succeeds, almost two decades of effective work to prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortions will be destroyed. And the cost in individual lives and to the nation in both social and economic terms will be catastrophic!

The lawsuit charges that the Reagan action is nothing short of a denial of free speech — a bald-faced attempt to gag and stifle those with whom this administration disagrees.

The Title X family planning program has enjoyed strong bi-partisan support since its enactment by Congress in 1970. But Mr. Reagan, determined to destroy abortion rights and family planning before leaving office, has committed the full political power of his administration to undermining it.

Mr. Reagan's attack — announced before 200 anti-abortion leaders in the White House — led the Department of Health and Human Services to issue restrictive regulations to cut off federal money to family planning organizations that even mention abortion to their clients.

If President Reagan's changes to the Title X family planning program are permitted to take effect, hundreds of family planning clinics throughout the country may be forced to close.

And, millions of Americans would be denied the principal means of receiving complete and accurate medical information about the choices available to them in meeting their reproductive health needs.

To contribute much-needed funds to

PPFA's fight to save reproductive rights and help America's women and families, send donations to: Planned Parenthood, 810 Seventh Avenue, Box 4447, New York, NY 10163.

From Press Release

## OBSERVANCE OF 10th ANNIVERSARY OF ASSASSINATION OF HARVEY MILK URGED

The Harvey Milk Remembrance Committee, an ad hoc group organized by the Gay Services Network of Kansas City and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), has declared Sunday, November 27 — the 10th anniversary of Harvey Milk's assassination — to be Harvey Milk Remembrance Day. The Committee urges gay and lesbian groups across the United States to hold events — such as vigils and workshops — remembering Milk and focusing attention on the growing problem of anti-gay violence.

Harvey Milk, a tireless and outspoken advocate for the rights of gay people and other oppressed groups, was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, one of the first openly gay elected officials in the U.S. On November 27, 1978, Milk — along with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone — was assassinated by Dan White, another city Supervisor. That night, more than 40,000 marchers converged on San Francisco's City Hall to mourn the deaths of both men. Months later, Dan White was acquitted by a jury of first degree murder and convicted of manslaughter — for which he served only five years in prison. The lenient sentence shocked and outraged many, sparking angry protests and violence.

Commented Scott Smith, Executor of the estate of Harvey Milk, "A national day of remembrance is appropriate because Harvey's legacy extends beyond San Francisco to the entire world. Ten years later, his example continues to inspire and energize gay and lesbian people everywhere."

"The tenth anniversary of Harvey Milk's assassination allows us to not only recall his enormous contribution to our movement," said Kevin Berrill, Director of NGLTF's Anti-violence Project, "but also to focus attention on the violence that still plagues our community, still threatens our freedom to live and love as we choose. It is my hope that local observances will encourage more of us to combat anti-gay violence and to demand equal protection from the criminal justice system."

Press Release

## WHY ALL WORKING WOMEN NEED EQUAL PAY

In 1939 women working full-time year-round earned 58% of what men did. Today the ratio remains little changed at 68%, despite the fact that at least 15 states have enacted laws requiring equal pay for jobs of equal value. In 1984 nearly 2/3 of working women earned less than \$10,000; only 4% made over \$25,000. The average female college graduate still earns approximately the same as a male high-school dropout.

Nearly half of all female-headed households have incomes below \$10,000. In 1984 the median income for all white families was over \$30,000; white families headed by women made less than half that amount. Showing the double oppressions of racism and sexism, the median black family in America in 1984 made only \$13,500, and female-headed black families only 3/4 of that. (A "median" figure means that half of the families made more, half less.)

Figures show that two-earner couples make only 27% more than couples in which only the husband works; the extra costs of transportation, daycare, work clothes, etc., eat up more than 2/3 of the wife's low salary. Nevertheless, both spouses work in 54% of U.S. married couples (including half of mothers with children under age one), up from only 33% two decades ago.

They have to, if they hope to buy a home and a car and educate their children. The average price of a new home is now over \$80,000. It costs nearly \$5,000 per year to own and operate a new compact car. College costs have almost doubled in the last five years, while federal assistance has gone down 10%.

A White House economist in 1984 said the idea of comparable pay for men & women (supported by Mondale/Ferraro) was "a truly crazy proposal" and "an idea whose time, I think, has long passed," based on the "rather medieval concept of a just pay and a just wage." He said this was "one of those many instances unfortunately in which Mr. Mondale seems to have catered to particular constituencies without thought for the implication for the larger American (economy)."

From *Up & Coming*, August, 1988

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 purchase over the next 12 months. (My \$12 is enclosed.)

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

\$15       \$20       \$25  
 \$50       \$100       \$\_\_\_\_\_

Bookstore volunteer     Building volunteer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

people to our ranks and a plot to annihilate the human race. He even resorted to name calling, throwing in words such as "sick-o" and "blimp."

Sadly enough, the angry caller represents the attitude of many uninformed, fearful people. We can get angry in return, get defensive, shake our heads at his ignorance—we have several choices. Recognizing that people tend to hate what they fear, and to fear what they don't understand, is it beyond reason to hope that enlightenment, even to a small degree, might make a difference? If WE don't put forth an effort to clear up some of these misconceptions, who will?

What have we done here in Oklahoma City to enlighten our oppressors? What have we done to show them that we are their neighbors, their co-workers, their professionals, their relatives? What have we done here in Oklahoma City to dispel the widespread belief that AIDS is the curse of the lifestyle, the dreaded incurable disease so many people believe is prophesied in the Bible as a curse of sin? What have we done? WE HEADED UP THE PARADE ON GAY PRIDE WEEK WITH THE PWA's!

What activities did our Community sponsor for Coming Out Day? What did we do to show that we are not all bull dykes or drag queens, that we are loving, caring people, that we do have some mature, responsible adults in our ranks, that we are not child molesters and that we are more than kinky, irresponsible "sick-o's"? What have we done? WE HAD A BIG PARTY AT A BIG GAY BAR!

Isn't it about time we take some of the responsibility for the image we give to the straight world? Sure, we can't hope to change the attitudes of others, but we can, and have the obligation to, take responsibility for ourselves and our image.

The Oklahoma City Community is blessed with several wonderful lesbian and gay organizations and support groups. I'm looking forward to seeing, and participating in, some of their activities, hopefully in a more mature, enlightening atmosphere — ones which will help others to know who we REALLY are!

Loral Reeves

## THE VOICE OF WOMAN

In the words of the Russian visionary and writer, Helena Roerich, "the great epoch of woman is coming." Hers is a two-fold task: "to uplift herself and to uplift her eternal companion, man." Spiritual renewal of humanity calls for us to heed the "voice of woman, who during millenniums has drunk the chalice of suffering and humiliation and has forged her spirit in the greatest patience."

Ours is still very much a man's world. Men hold most positions of power, wealth and decision-making, reinforcing dominance of

the masculine principle throughout society. Ours is, therefore, a world gravely out of balance.

This imbalance presents us with a crisis of greatest urgency. It's not that either the feminine or masculine is superior to the other. They are equally of value and complementary. But present human and global problems show the peril that results when one of the two elements dominates and the other is suppressed and denied expression.

For the past 3,000 years or so most people have lived in social structures conditioned by masculine attitudes and values. On all sides today we see the cost of this one-sided emphasis. The economist, Hazel Henderson, writes that "there is much evidence associating patriarchal societies with oppression, violence and militarism." She describes how patriarchal systems are based on rigid divisions of labour, polarisation of sex roles, reductionist policies, control of information and competition both internally as well as between nations. Qualities that have come to be equated with masculinity are glorified while, at the same time, patriarchal value systems breed contempt for qualities decried as 'soft' or feminine.

However, if we are to live in peace, to conserve the environment, to protect the weak and vulnerable, to make the meeting of real human and world need our priority — in other words, if the human species is to survive and have a world which we would want our children to inherit — it will be because feminine values have begun to gain ascendancy.

It is the values of compassion, relationship, forgiveness, cooperation, justice-with-mercy that today hold the key to our survival. It is only when goodwill and humanitarian values are given proper 'weight' that the real human issues of our times will be found at the very centre of world concern and action.

A liberating recognition that has come through both the women's movement and the increasing awareness of the need to balance the masculine and feminine elements is that these two great forces are present in each person. The 'macho' image of the tough, aggressive male is a stereotype that debases what it is to be a man. One of the many signs that the patriarchal era has had its day is the growing number of men who are acknowledging and learning how to give expression to the gentler, caring side of their nature in order to be 'whole' and integrated. For women the crisis is that of having confidence to explore and hold to the true feminine values and to find the strength and skills needed to bring these values into every sphere of their lives.

The women's movement affirms that both sexes are equal in all significant ways and that qualities that are traditionally associated with women are of equal value to the qualities associated with men. The movement aims for equal participation by women and men in shaping and governing society. A major step towards this objective has been the success

that many women have had in moving into influential positions in the existing social structure. However, this is only a beginning and these women are still a small minority of the people in power. The women's movement is so very significant precisely because its long-term aim is not that women should just fit into the existing social pattern but that the pattern itself must change. Full creative participation and equal rights for women depend upon changing the system, 'feminising' it, so that women's values and concerns are elevated to their rightful place.

The United Nations Decade for Women spotlighted the appalling disadvantages of being a woman in our modern world. It can also be seen as marking a turning point. Although the struggle for a new and balanced relationship between women and men is, and remains, extremely difficult and we have a very long way to go before the worst of the inequalities affecting women are overcome, nothing can now put back the clock and stop this process.

Research during the decade shows that in every part of the world women are worse off than men. They have less power, less freedom, less money, more work and more responsibility. "A man may work from sun to sun, but a woman's work is never done" — to quote a piece of folk wisdom. UN figures show that women "perform nearly two-thirds of all working hours." One of the few generalisations that hold true everywhere is that unpaid domestic work is regarded as women's work. This is hard work and important work: caring for children, keeping house and home and, for the poor, collecting water and firewood. Research has shown that a typical woman in a Pakistani village, for example, spends nearly 63 hours a week on domestic work alone. The assumption that the long hours of domestic work are her sole responsibility is perhaps the chief injustice done to women. It is made all the worse by not being considered to be 'real work' and by being unpaid and taken for granted.

Women and children make up the majority of the world's poor. This reflects not only the limited employment opportunities for women and the lower wages they are paid but also the increase in numbers of woman-headed households. In rich countries divorce is the main cause of the rise in single parent families. In poor countries it is due both to divorce and to the migration of men in search of work. Almost always this leads to a much reduced income to the home. Estimates vary but it is thought that as many as one-third of all households worldwide may now be headed by women.

One of the most heartening and progressive changes improving the lot of women today is improved access to education. The education gap is closing fast, although it remains a very significant gap. From the long-term perspective of the good of the whole of humanity it can be argued that, in fact, girls and women have a higher claim to enlightened education than boys and men. This

is because, in our present social structure, the years of childhood are spent mostly in the company of the mother and other female relatives or helpers. These early years of life are the most impressionable, so the influence of women on the coming generation is formative and their attitudes and world-view of critical importance to the culture of the future.

For thousands of years women have been made silent and 'invisible' in the public arena not only by pressure against them playing any role outside the home but also by lack of education. Education is essential in the process of women gaining confidence, self-esteem and the skills to equip them in the struggle for equal rights.

It is hardly surprising that woman's lack of confidence has been, and is still, an obstacle to progress. For long ages they have been treated by church and state as greatly inferior to men. The idea of the inferiority of women is deep rooted and its effect is pervasive.

Degradation of women is also big business. Figures are difficult to come by but the pornography industry in the USA alone was estimated at 8 billion dollars in 1984. This is more than the giant film and music industries put together. Pornographic films outnumber other films by three to one and the pornographic magazine market is said to be even more lucrative.

By largely ignoring the role of women history as told in our history books has given us few heroines. The focus of mainstream historians has been related, in most cases, to power and the major social events related to power. In patriarchal society the proportion of women who wield power is small and yet even those who did hold power are generally omitted. Marilyn French gives as an example of this, a book on the history of the world by William McNeill which lists only one woman in the index — Catherine the Great of Russia. In another example a UN paper, "Women and Science," comments that, despite the prejudice that made science "forbidden territory" for women until recent years, quite a number of women did achieve scientific

prominence in the past but only very few of them ever appear on the pages of scientific historical reference books.

The "voice of woman" calls for a transformation of our society so that we move towards a world where women and the feminine principle are justly represented at all levels of life. Then women and men will both have the opportunity of full participation and the opportunity to give of their best.

True to the spirit of the divine feminine the women's movement has transcended the glamour of being "anti-men" and is emerging as a movement for equality, for life, for peace, for justice, for the earth. The new era depends upon the "voice of woman" being heard and acted upon. This new era depends more than anything else upon the united action of women and men of goodwill and understanding in every part of the world, serving creatively together in equal partnership.

From World Goodwill Newsletter  
1988, No. 1

## Potpourri

### NGLTF NATIONAL CONFERENCE FEATURES APUZZO, D'EMILIO

"Creating Change: A National Conference for Gay & Lesbian Organizations" will feature keynote speeches by two leading gay activists, Virginia Apuzzo and John D'Emilio. The Conference is organized by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and will be held on November 18-20, 1988 in Washington DC at the Hotel Washington.

The Conference, which is open to all gay organizations, has three goals: (1) to foster skill, resource and information sharing; (2) to support and develop gay/lesbian leadership at the local, state and national levels; and (3) to strengthen our political movement by supporting the organizations and institutions that serve our community.

Technical skill-building workshops led by activists from across the country will be offered in the areas of lobbying, grassroots organizing, media action, development and fundraising, and direct action. Panels will also focus on current political debates within our movement.

Virginia Apuzzo has been actively engaged in the national gay and lesbian movement since the early 70's and remains the gay and lesbian political movement's most original and visionary thinker. Apuzzo is former Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. She is Deputy Executive Director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board; serves as Governor Mario Cuomo's liaison to New York's gay and lesbian community; and is the Vice-Chair of the New

York State AIDS Advisory Council.

John D'Emilio is a noted historian, activist and author from North Carolina. He is a professor at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. D'Emilio is author of: *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality In America* which is co-authored by Estelle Freedman (Harper & Row 1988); and *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority* (University of Chicago Press).

For more information on Conference workshops and registration, write: NGLTF CREATING CHANGE, 1517 U St. NW, DC 20009.

### PHOTOS SOUGHT FOR REVISED EDITION OF "OUR RIGHT TO LOVE"

BROOKLYN, NY - Ginny Vida, Editor of *Our Right To Love; A Lesbian Resource Book*, is inviting lesbian photographers to submit photos of lesbians for possible inclusion in the revised edition of *Our Right To Love*, to be published by E.P. Dutton.

Photographs depicting: affection, friendship, outdoor and indoor scenes, lesbians at work, individual portraits, lesbians engaged in sports, Black, White, Asian America, Latina and Native American, lesbians of all ages, lesbians who are abled and differently abled, are being sought. Lesbians who are national or local movement leaders are also desirable subjects for photos.

"I'm looking for photographs that portray

lesbians as women who are making positive contributions to society, enjoying life and interacting in a positive way with others," Ms. Vida said.

Photographers will receive \$35 for each photo published in the revised edition, payable upon publication. Photos must be black and white, professional quality, and all persons pictured must sign a release which the editor will provide. Photographers will be credited in the book.

*Our Right to Love* is an anthology of lesbian writing that includes more than 40 essays, dozens of personal testimonies, more than 100 photographs of lesbians plus some lesbian rights supporters. The original edition was published in 1978 by Prentice Hall.

Photos may be submitted to: Ginny Vida, Editor, *Our Right To Love*, 45 Plaza St., #1-G, Brooklyn, NY 11217. (718) 789-0391.

From Dimensions, Oct. 1988, Vol. 3 No. 4

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# Meet the Board

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## DEDICATED BOARD MEMBER SISTER #3 MEET JILL W.

By Sondra Metzger

Up to this point in time, you have met Sisters #1 and #2 who have presented themselves as serious, dedicated professionals striving to make Herland better for all women. For what it's worth, the entire board is like that. By the time I finish this series (there are 12 more board members at this time, folks), you will know that Herland is kept afloat by one main ingredient: dedication.

When I think of what the word dedication means, the definition that comes to mind is Sister #3, Jill W. As Sister #3, Jill is the treasurer whose duties are to keep track of Herland's income and expenses, maintain accounts receivable, prepare monthly sales tax reports, and generally make sure Herland has enough money in the bank to cover expenses. As of late, this has not been an easy job since Herland's account usually operates in the red.

Jill also serves on the library, volunteer, fundraising, and executive committees. One would think that that would be enough, wouldn't one?

Nine times out of ten, it's not, for Jill can usually be found doing something for HSR whether it's at home or at the resource center. Her work does not go unnoticed. All of us know where we would be if it wasn't for Jill, and are very grateful for her gift of time.

Jill was the first person I met when I started coming to HSR. She was the one who trained a friend of mine on how to run the bookstore. A year later, I find out that Jill herself had never been properly trained.

"My first day at the bookstore was a nightmare," she recalls. "The person who was supposed to train me on the operation of the store never showed up. I had to snoop around and pick things up on my own."

This dedicated Sister considers herself a fun lady who doesn't inhabit the bars, majored in English and library science at Central State (the school, folks, no the hospital — she's not out on a pass), graduated in 1970 with a BA, and is a native Oklahoman.

Jill works in the medical field during the day. So how did a librarian end up in the medical field?

"When I got out of college," Jill explains, "it was an in between time for getting a job. I applied at numerous libraries and everyone said 'We'll keep your application on file.' We all know what file that is — the dumpster. I needed a job, so I went to work for the Department of Human Services as a medical abstractor. I really liked being involved in the medical field. I went from there to the

medical records department of Oklahoma Memorial Hospital and realized that I enjoyed working with medical records. That's the career I've followed for the past 14 years. I've been in my present job for four years. My goal now is to get certified in the area I work in."

Jill calls herself a homebody, but she adds that she does like to travel. She also collects owls and music, is involved with her church, and enjoys being with family and friends. She likes to read and cook and would love to entertain her friends at her apartment but it's so small, she says, that more than four people is a real crowd. Jill is the first board member I have interviewed who is not only single but also available! She thought I was kidding when I said I'd quote her on that.

Jill first heard about Herland in 1983. Unlike the other two board members, Jill did not hear about HSR from Barbara Cleveland. Believe me, she is one of the few and far between.

"My boss at that time told me about this neat bookstore," she explains, "so I went exploring one Saturday and ran into an old college friend, Barbara Cleveland (bet you readers couldn't have guessed that). The stories I could tell about my college days and Barbara Cleveland!"

"My first impression of Herland was that it was something that was needed for a long time," she recalls. "I was excited about it. I didn't realize that it had been going on for as long as it had. I sort of felt left out, but I had no way of knowing about it because I really wasn't a bar person and didn't get around much."

When asked how she became involved with the board, Jill's answer was that she was railroaded. Really, Jill? Now who would possibly do a thing like that?

"Barbara Cleveland did a lot of talking over the phone," she says. "Everything she said made sense, and I just felt like I had a lot to offer. I had a lot of good ideas that I would like to have seen incorporated into Herland. It was, and still is, a good bunch of women. They're like family, even the ones who have gone on to other things. It's like a family because they're all there for one another."

Surely you weren't railroaded into becoming an officer, too!

"Now, that I really was railroaded into," she says. "It was one of the coldest nights of the year and my car wouldn't start. Since it was a meeting night, two of the board members picked me up and told me they were going to put my name in for Sister #4. I said 'the hell you are,' but they insisted. I really didn't want to do it. When we got to the meeting, they suggested my name and I said 'oh well, what the heck, why not,' and that was that. I think there was a conspiracy at that meeting but I have yet to prove it."

One of Jill's dreams for Herland is to see it operating in the black and not running on a month-to-month basis. She feels the only way to do that is to really push the fundraising aspects and get the resource center

stocked with items that are of interest to the whole community, then have enough volunteers to have the center open during the week.

"I think networking is going to be a key factor as we move into the nineties," she says. "We're going to have to do more of that, as well as work on getting volunteers. I know it's a lot of work, but the sacrifice will be worth it in the long run. Some people say they don't have any money. Who does in this economy? Sure, we need money, but we also need physical help. If someone has a little spare time, they could come over and help. There are a lot of people out there who have a talent that could be put to good use working with us."

According to the rules of rotation, Jill will become Sister #2 in January 1989, then Sister #1 in July 1989. After that, she is planning on keeping herself busy with whatever Herland needs, like the lending library. She feels Herland could have one of the best lending libraries in the state. She hopes volunteers can be instructed on how to work it and will be able to do it on weekends.

"I feel Herland's purpose for being in existence is to be there for all men and women in the community," she explains. "There's a lot of room for compassion in our work and we need to be there for everyone who is struggling, for people that just want to come in and talk. We are there to provide a service, and if we don't have the answers, we need to be able to tell them where to go to get them. I think we need to really strive to be a better instrument of that image as far as helping one another."

Jill feels very strongly that Herland needs to get more people involved in itself and let the community know that it is sincere and that it is a business.

"Herland is not out to make a great profit," she says. "That's not our goal. To be self-sufficient, yes, but not to make millions of dollars. Just to provide a service for our community. We can do that. We've been restructuring, and we really need to put forth all the effort we can muster into making a go of it. We've had a lot of struggles, and the way I look at it is, those are behind us."

To Jill, Herland means freedom — freedom to be yourself. She feels that people can express ideas and have them listened to.

"It's been good for me," she explains. "I've seen a lot of change in me and I'm not a 'me' person. I also see a lot of growing I still need to do. I like being involved in Herland because there's some really wonderful people here. I don't think the community knows us well yet, but they're learning. We have fun, but it's not all fun and games. It's a serious matter, too."

If you have the time, come by the resource center, meet some of the board members and see if everything I've been writing so far is the truth! The board meetings are held the third Sunday of each month, which means the next one will be November 20 at 4:30 p.m. In December, our featured board member will be Sister #4. Stay tuned!

## Classifieds

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