

## Around the Corner

### OKC POLICE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONERS MEET WITH GAYS

In a community meeting at the Metropolitan Community Church that lasted over two hours, representatives from Oklahoma City's Police Department and several members of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) spoke with a room full of lesbians and gay men about recent incidents of anti-gay violence and what can be done about them.

Representatives of the HRC spoke at length about the potential usefulness of Article IV of Oklahoma's Municipal Code, which follows this story. Complaints of anti-gay harassment or physical violence may be filed using this new City law. Victims of such violence were strongly encouraged by the Commission to exercise their rights under this code. The representatives also stated that the justice system cannot work for us if we do not file complaints against our perpetrators. Anti-gay violence will not end if we as a community are not willing to fight it through the legal system. Another source or recourse for the community is the Civil Court system, through which punitive and compensatory damages may be sought against someone who violates our right to live in peace.

HRC Chair Tulio Ramirez advised lesbians and gay men to attend city council meetings and the meetings of the Human Rights Commission, which meets the third Sunday of every other month—the next meeting is scheduled for May. There will be another community meeting at MCC at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. All who are interested in Oklahoma City's gay rights are invited to attend. ■

## HERLAND SPRING RETREAT IS COMING!

Herland's fourth annual Spring Retreat will be held at Boiling Springs State Park near Woodward in northwestern Oklahoma on May 19, 20, and 21, 1989.

Start planning now for a wonderful weekend of fun, friendship, and roughing it easy (this is camping?). Fish in the nearby lake, hike in the plentiful woods, investigate the museum in Woodward, or spelunk in Alabaster Caverns just 16 miles from the camp. Or, just lay about viewing the various videos that are planned, play D.Y.K.E. Pursuit, softball, volleyball, football; juggle, read a book, fly a kite. It's YOUR weekend, away from the stresses of real life, away from men and a homophobic society. This is a chance to be yourself and relax.

Judy Fjell—humorist, romantic, political singer/guitarist from Oakland, California will entertain and delight retreaters with her performance on Saturday night.

Save money by pre-registering. For those of you who feel you cannot afford it, please don't say "no, I can't go." Scholarships and work exchanges are available. But, they are in limited supply, so call Laura, camp director, at 672-4141 now.

Workshops are being solicited now. If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see covered by a workshop, or if you would like to present a workshop on a favorite topic, or if you would like to volunteer to help set up at the retreat site, give Laura a call at 672-4141. **Registration form on pg. 2.**

## ARTICLE IV

### Intimidation Or Harassment

#### Sec. 25-53. Purpose.

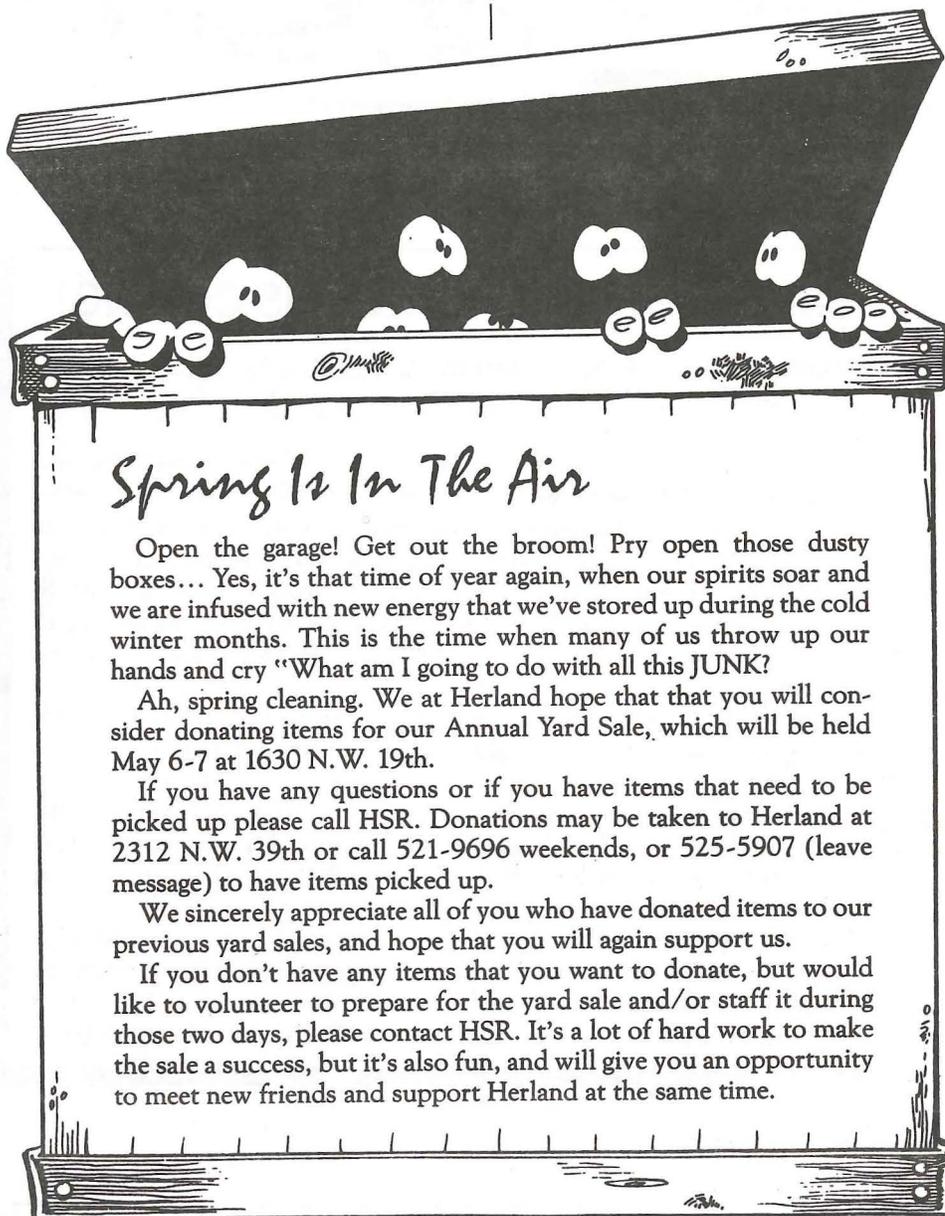
The Council finds that acts of vandalism, degradation and brutality intended to intimidate and harass other persons because of their membership in a particular racial, religious or minority group, is unacceptable in a democratic society such as ours.

It is the intent of Council that such acts shall not be tolerated within the City of Oklahoma City but shall be punished to the full extent that the law allows.

#### Sec. 25-54. Intimidation; harassment; damage, destruction or vandalism of real or personal property of another.

No person shall, maliciously and with the specific intent to intimidate or harass another person because of that person's race, color, religion, creed, ancestry, age, sex, **sexual orientation**, ethnicity, national origin or disability; damage, destroy, vandalize or deface any real or personal property of another person or of any religious organization or institution.

# Come out of Hiding!!



## Spring Is In The Air

Open the garage! Get out the broom! Pry open those dusty boxes... Yes, it's that time of year again, when our spirits soar and we are infused with new energy that we've stored up during the cold winter months. This is the time when many of us throw up our hands and cry "What am I going to do with all this JUNK?"

Ah, spring cleaning. We at Herland hope that that you will consider donating items for our Annual Yard Sale, which will be held May 6-7 at 1630 N.W. 19th.

If you have any questions or if you have items that need to be picked up please call HSR. Donations may be taken to Herland at 2312 N.W. 39th or call 521-9696 weekends, or 525-5907 (leave message) to have items picked up.

We sincerely appreciate all of you who have donated items to our previous yard sales, and hope that you will again support us.

If you don't have any items that you want to donate, but would like to volunteer to prepare for the yard sale and/or staff it during those two days, please contact HSR. It's a lot of hard work to make the sale a success, but it's also fun, and will give you an opportunity to meet new friends and support Herland at the same time.

## SPRING CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

April 1 - Nancy Scott with 3 of Hearts at Hi-Lo Club, 1221 N.W. 50th, 8 p.m.

April 7 - Mary Reynolds solo at the Cantina del Paseo, 3007 Paseo Blvd., 9 p.m.

April 7 - Friday Night Video. "Feds" plus "Two in Twenty -Part II". 7:30 p.m.

April 9 - Cleanup day at Herland. 10 a.m.

April 9 - Art show & benefit for The Names Project, Hi-Lo Club, 1221 N.W. 50th, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. \$3.00 admission.

April 18 - Gay/Lesbian Community Meeting, MCC, 1900 N.W. 12th, 7 p.m.

April 21 - Friday Night Video. "I Heard the Mermaid Singing" plus "Two in Twenty - Part III". 7:30 p.m.

### Lambda Rising BOOK REPORT

A Contemporary Review  
of Gay & Lesbian  
Literature

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## HERLAND SPRING RETREAT FOR WOMEN — REGISTRATION FORM

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 May 14, 1989.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Pets \_\_\_\_\_ (Pets must be kept on leash and no pets in main building.)

I would like a scholarship

Things I liked at other retreats were \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a work exchange

\_\_\_\_\_

I will provide \_\_\_\_\_ scholarship(s)

Things I disliked about other retreats were \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to lead a discussion group on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend a discussion on \_\_\_\_\_

Other Suggestions or Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Herland Sister Resources, c/o Laura, Camp Director, 4924 S. Kathy, Oklahoma City, OK 73135

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# Around the Country

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## KOWALSKI AND THOMPSON REUNITED

by Karen Lewis

Duluth, MN—Referring to Thompson as her lover, and asking if she could be with her all the time, Sharon Kowalski was finally reunited with her lover, Karen Thompson in an emotion-filled visit on February 2, 1989.

The two women had not seen each other since August, 1985, shortly before Kowalski's father and court-appointed guardian moved her to a nursing home in Hibbing, Minnesota. Barred by Donald Kowalski from ever seeing her lover again, Thompson has been fighting since 1984 for Kowalski's rights to rehabilitation and freedom of association (see Feb. 1989 HSR Newsletter). In Dec., 1988, Minnesota district judge Robert Campbell ordered Kowalski moved to Miller-Dwan Medical Center in Duluth for 60 days of intensive rehabilitation at the end of which an evaluation was ordered to determine whether such rehabilitation was effective in helping Kowalski. Based upon the medical evaluation, the court will decide to continue rehabilitation or send Kowalski back to a non-rehabilitative nursing facility.

The December 12 ruling also stated that her doctors and Kowalski herself would determine who her visitors would be. Until the ruling Donald Kowalski had censored her mail and prohibited visits by his daughter's friends.

Reached by telephone on March 21, 1989, Tacie Dejanikus, co-chair of the National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski said "Karen has been visiting Sharon at least twice weekly since Feb 2," and has been going to rehabilitation therapies with her. At Kowalski's request, therapies are done to Chris Williamson's music.

Although only in December her doctors doubted its possibility, Kowalski is mastering the use of a motorized wheel chair, and is improving her communication skills. She is also receiving long-needed dental care. Dejanikus said that, based upon Kowalski's improvement her supporters are hoping the court will

order rehabilitation to continue. She agreed that they were waiting "on pins & needles" for the judge to return from vacation and make his final decision on Kowalski's future. This decision should be made by the first week in April, 1989. Watch for a complete update on the Sharon Kowalski story in the May issue of HSR Newsletter. ■

## NOW ORGANIZING MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION TO PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

NOW President Molly Yard is predicting that the anger and fear generated by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear a major case challenging legalized abortion will result in the April 9 March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. being the largest March for women's rights in U.S. history.

On January 9, the Court announced it would hear *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, an appeal to uphold the constitutionality of Missouri's abortion law which also seeks to challenge the constitutionality of *Roe v. Wade*. On November 10, 1988, two days after President Bush's election, the U.S. Department of Justice sent a message to the High Court asking it to hear the *Webster* appeal and to use the Missouri case as a vehicle for reviewing the *Roe* decision to overturn it.

In addition to the general March call, the NOW president has issued a special call to the nation's lesbian and gay communities to join the march on April 9.

"This call to the lesbian and gay communities goes beyond NOW's long-standing support and advocacy for lesbian and gay rights," she explained. "We have long recognized the connection between reproductive rights and lesbian and gay rights as basic issues of privacy. The enemy is the same—a fanatical, organized Right Wing that seeks to control others through government intrusion in very private, very personal decisions and lifestyles.

"This fight is about the right to privacy—in which the *Roe v. Wade* decision is grounded—as well as the

right to safe, legal abortion. If the Court should overturn *Roe*, it would be a major setback for the right to privacy as well as women's right to choose abortion, and the cause of lesbian and gay rights would suffer as well."

Among the more than 100 national groups and organizations that have endorsed or announced participation in the March for Women's Equality/Women's Lives are many of the national lesbian and gay organization, including: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Gay Rights Advocates, Human Rights Campaign Fund, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Lesbian Rights Project, Dignity, The National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski, and the Lesbian and Gay Democrats of America.

"Lesbians and gay men understand that our right to live our lives as first class citizens of this country is as much on the line as a woman's right to choose when and whether to give birth," said Rosemary Dempsey, chair of National NOW's Lesbian Rights Committee and member of the National NOW Board of Directors. "The feminist and lesbian and gay communities must stand together to fight for *Roe v. Wade*. Everyone's rights are on the line."

Jeffrey Levi, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, echoed Dempsey's sentiments. "We will be there on April 9," he said, "for our sisters and for ourselves. If we don't hold the line now, we lose 16 years worth of ground and everyone who cares about fundamental human rights should recognize that and make a commitment to this fight."

Groups and individuals interested in organizing a delegation or simply participating in the April 9 March should contact their local or state NOW chapters or contact the National NOW Action Center. The address is 1000 16th Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20036-5705, and the telephone number is 202/331-0066. ■

## GAY LUTHERANS ADOPT MORE RADICAL STANCE

No longer willing to be ignored by the Church, Lutherans Concerned/North America, a Lutheran Ministry for

Lesbian and Gay Understanding, has issued *A Call for Repentance*. Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, the group's biennial Assembly unanimously approved the document which labels the churches' treatment of the gay and lesbian community "sinful" and calls on the churches to publicly repent. Articulating eighteen specific charges, the document demands that the leaders of the churches meet with representatives of Lutherans Concerned for dialog and action.

Since the group's founding in 1974, Lutherans Concerned has attempted to work with the churches in addressing the needs of the lesbian and gay community. Fourteen years later, that offer having been for the most part ignored, Lutherans Concerned/NA has adopted a more aggressive stance. In addition to confronting the churches with their failure to minister to the gay and lesbian community, the group plans to be visibly present at upcoming conventions of various Lutheran church bodies alerting delegates to the group's demands.

In a related action, the Assembly approved a speaking tour of three men who were denied ordination at the completion of their seminary education because they refused to remain silent about their sexuality. ■

## GAY MAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

San Francisco—On January 9, 1989, Harry G. Britt became the first openly gay man to serve as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Britt is one of the most prominent elected gay officials in the country. In January, 1979, he succeeded the late Harvey Milk who was slain along with Mayor George Moscone by former Supervisor Dan White. Harry Britt was a close political associate and personal friend of Supervisor Milk.

President Britt was sworn into office by the Honorable Mary C. Morgan, a lesbian municipal court judge for the City and County of San Francisco.

Elected to a full term in December, 1979, Harry Britt was the only chal-

lenged incumbent to retain a seat on the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Britt has been re-elected in November of 1980, 1984, and by an overwhelming margin, in 1988, in city-wide races. In the 1988 election, Britt placed 1st in a field of 25 candidates.

Harry Britt has emerged as one of the strongest progressive voices in San

Francisco politics. While effectively advocating the rights of gay people, he has also been a strong proponent of the rights and welfare of working people, seniors, women, minorities and the disabled. Britt has also authored landmark legislation responding to the AIDS epidemic. ■

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## Potpourri

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### THE INSTITUTE FOR THE MUSICAL ARTS

Started by June Millington, the Institute for the Musical Arts is a multi-cultural, non-profit, national teaching and performing arts organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Its primary goal is to support women, especially women of color, pursuing careers in music and/or music business. Through a series of classes, apprenticeships, studio recording and live performance experiences, students will gain knowledge in such areas as:

- Songwriting/composition
- Music ethnology
- performance techniques
- stage lighting
- artist management
- marketing
- voice/instrument development
- recording/engineering
- sound technology
- video
- entertainment/music law
- promotion

The Institute's purposes are:

- 1) To empower women in their pursuit of careers in the field of music
- 2) To enhance the technical and management skills of musicians and producers by providing a program and facilities for classroom and hands-on experience.
- 3) To provide role models through encouraging a mentorship program and education in the history of women in music
- 4) To document the contributions and draw upon the wisdom of women who have hitherto gone generally unrecognized through an on-going guest lecture and per-

formance series

- 5) To provide a national networking base and clearinghouse for women who want to enter into music, music business, or music technology as a career
- 6) To develop a performance network for IMA students
- 7) To bridge the gap between women in the mainstream and "women's music" industries
- 8) To encourage girls to pursue musical careers through an outreach program in the primary and secondary schools
- 9) To expand audiences for and appreciation of women in all facets of the musical arts
- 10) To promote social justice and equality within the music industry and other social and cultural spheres.

For further information write I.M.A., 2021 East 24th St., Oakland, CA 94606. ■

### 8TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT - April 21-23

The Arkansas Women's Retreat will be held in a state park lodge that has bunk beds for 110 people, a lounge, and showers. They also have the use of a dining hall that has a fireplace, walk-in coolers, an ice-maker, and cooking facilities. There is a lake with boats and canoes for rent, and tennis courts are available.

The weekend will be a time to have fun, meet people, relax and hold discussions on important issues. Women can call together discussion groups on any topic they wish. Come prepared to give work-

Continued on next page

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shops and lead discussions.

Please bring musical instruments, your voice and song, poetry, things to share or sell (such as records & crafts). The Women's Project will sell books. Children are welcome; bring toys and books and games to entertain them.

The retreat will not be highly organized so that you can make of it what you wish it to be. Bring ideas and creative energy.

**What else to bring:**

- Bedding for bunk beds. It may be cold—bring blankets and warm clothes.
- Food for the weekend. You must supply all your own food. There are refrigerators for storage, but you will need cooking utensils, cups and glasses. Bring something special that can be shared with others at a large

group meal Saturday night.

- Sports equipment or games that you and others might enjoy.
- Flashlights, towels, toiletries.
- Children, friends, family.

**What to leave at home:**

- Animals, unless you can keep them in your car or on a leash.
- Alcohol and drugs.

The cost of the retreat is \$20 for the weekend. Make checks payable to the **Women's Project** and mail by **April 15th** to the Women's Project, 2224 Main, Little Rock, AR 72206. Upon receiving your registration, we'll send you a receipt for use for admission and a map to the park. For further information, call 372-5113.

## GAY ILLINOIS ALUMNI ORGANIZE

The University of Illinois Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association (GALA) is seeking to increase national membership. Alumni/ae from both the Champaign-Urbana and Chicago campuses are welcome. The GALA will offer social and professional networking, as well as information and support to current lesbian and gay students and staff on campus.

There is no membership fee, but contributions are encouraged. Alumni/ae wishing to join the mailing list should write: University of Illinois GALA, P.O. Box 53336, Washington D.C. 20009, or contact organizer Larry Cohen at (202) 328-6227.

If you never attended the U of I but know someone gay who did, please pass the word along! ■

## HERLAND NEEDS YOU!

What does Herland Sister Resources mean to you? Many of you have passed through the doors of both our old location and now our new home on 39th Street. HSR has affected all of us in one way or another: through new friendships, sisterhood, love, caring and support. We've grown through the years and will continue to do so with support from all of you.

We always are in need of volunteers to either staff the center or work on the building. We have several committees that need volunteers, including the Resource Center committee, Fundraising, Programming, Library, Newsletter and Volunteer Committee. The continued success of HSR depends on people getting involved and making a difference in our community. We must all work together to ensure our place in society.

Think about this and your involvement with HSR, because without your help we could be another statistic like the Bookstore in San Antonio and Several others across the United States.

In these depressed economic times in Oklahoma it is difficult to make ends meet and HSR fully understands that. Many of you see us in a new location, but we too have needs.

We know many of you give faithfully of your time, talent and money, and we are very appreciative of your continued support. We cannot survive without you. ■

# HELP!!!

Herland needs you now more than ever. Herland's monthly bills:

Mortgage	\$260
Utilities	
Gas	\$ 40
Sewage	\$ 38
Electric	\$ 25
Insurance	\$ 75
Newsletter printing & postage	
(This cost is defrayed somewhat	
by paid advertising)	\$200
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$638</b>

Herland extends sincere thanks to those precious few who have sustained her through regular donations.

Herland's new location has caused her expenses to almost triple. With fewer donations coming in due to difficult economic times for everyone Herland is left perched precariously close to extinction. This potentially disastrous financial situation can be alleviated if Herland's 700+ newsletter subscribers donated just \$1 a month. Please ask yourself if Herland is worth the price of 2 Cokes or a pack of cigarettes a month to you. If so, please let us hear from you via the form below.

PLEASE HELP!

Thank you!

YES! I WILL HELP. I AM SENDING MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY STATE ZIP

## CHANGE VIA INFILTRATION

by B.G. Canis

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is the opinion of the above author. The views of the author are hers, and are not necessarily shared or supported by the editor or Herland's Board of Directors. We encourage anyone with an opinion to express it. This is where communication begins.

As women we've grown accustomed to objectism, sexism, and invalidation. As women-identified women, lesbians, we get a double dose of the above not only from men, but from male-identified women as well. How society manages to brutalize us and ignore us completely is utterly beyond explanation, but it has managed. Were it not for our knowledge of the existence of society's unenlightenment, fear, and insecurity resulting in this bigotry and hatred we would probably perish, at least in spirit.

What is unpardonable is apathy; not amongst the ignorant, we don't expect much from them, but amongst our own ranks. If we're being oppressed and aren't even concerned enough to work CONSTRUCTIVELY for change, who else is going to and why should they?!

Over the years I've noticed some ways people try to "deal with" being "societal dregs," "sick, depraved, loathsome, perverts," "niggers," "dykes," "faggots," "jews," "sluts,"... have I left anyone out? I wouldn't want anyone to feel they've not been properly categorized.

Some gay people, for example, discover the gay bars, but they don't leave it at that, they live for Friday and Saturday night, for any night their favorite bar is open. They drink every shot and do every drug... this helps one remember how much fun one is having, don't you know, and they they kiss the ass of society in gratitude for granting them the "privilege" to be segregated and kept powerless. Many all too willingly pay this price for what they think is acceptance and affirmation... destruction by design!

Denial. My personal favorite is why we don't exist. I do hope you are aware that we don't really exist! We are a mist with a faint lavender hue... merely an illusion. Priceless, is the fact that we deny ourselves!

Some choose to be a living, breathing "eyesore." I don't have much insight into this one. Being comfortable I understand; being one's self I understand; reflecting back society's narrow, biased image of the "dyke" or "faggot" I really don't understand. These are the major counter-productive strategies I've noted. As testimony to the effectiveness of these "strategies" we can see that all of our problems have been solved.

Some of the neutral strategies that come to mind are the use of words like "wimmin," "herstory," or "garbage PERSON." Cute, creative, but so what? Who cares? The other

one that comes to mind is "outcast communes." Don't get me wrong, this one is really quite appealing esthetically... telling society to kiss off and divorcing it. The problem is, nothing changes. By seceding, as it were, you can't affect change. If anyone loses, you do... defeat by design! So... what to do in light of the realization that self-destruction, degradation, and euphemisms don't work! Hmmm...

As a last resort we could always employ a little common sense. We can JOIN those organizations we already have reason to be members of—religious, professional, recreational, political, social, fraternal—it really doesn't matter what the organization is as long as it's pertinent to you as an individual. The more conservative and biased the better, that's where new opinions need to be heard

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### **What is unpardonable is apathy. Not amongst the ignorant... but amongst our own ranks.**

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the most. If you want to make an impact, however, and here's where I'll lose many of you, you'll have to be ACTIVE. You'll need to be one of the LEADERS. No, you can't always be president or vice-president, but many organizations have committees, coordinators, boards of trustees, etc. If you can't do that at least let your position be known. One need not get on a soap box to have a voice. One need not be a soldier to fight a war. The right to be heard, to be counted, to be acknowledged is achieved through education not alienation. *We can be ourselves tactfully or we can be ourselves obnoxiously*, the only difference being that with the former we have a chance of succeeding whereas with the latter we'll surely fail. Our goal should be to provoke thought, not anger... there's already an abundance of anger.

The dictionary defines invasion as "entrance or advent of anything TROUBLESOME or HARMFUL such as DIS-EASE. Infringement by intrusion." Intrusion implies being unwelcome... we must make ourselves welcome. The sixties were invasive times. As we all walk through our beautiful gardens in awe of the world peace, brotherly love, and equal opportunity for all that is ours we can ruminate over that successful era of protests, parades, riots, and sit-ins. I've done all of these things and there's a place for them. With the exception of riots, they are fun and inspiring. They're a great outlet and consciousness raiser and I can think of no better way to bond with people than to work for a common cause, be it on the field or in the picket line. We need these outlets because we often get discour-

aged and are easily divided by internal conflicts.

is a personal decision and no one has any right to interfere with your personal life. There are also degrees of being out. Again, that's not the point here. You can join Radicalesbians and you can join AFL-CIO... you'll be a more effective agent for change in a position of power at AFL-CIO, although, undoubtedly, Radicalesbians would be much more fun.

It's not easy infiltrating. Usually you're alone in your beliefs; you must be assertive, able to support your stance, able to put people in their place firmly but tactfully. You must be patient and persistent and somehow you must be able to put all this together in such a way that you command respect from yourself and others. It's necessary to be persuasive, confident, and not too terribly sensitive. Invariably you'll be controversial and some people won't like you... so what? Chances are you don't particularly like them either. That's alright, the only prerequisite here is to maintain a good working relationship.

If you don't work for change you have no right to bitch. I don't know about you, but I'm far too fond of bitching to relinquish my right to it. So, if you have the personal strength to encourage yourself when everyone else discourages you, and if you are determined to succeed when everyone around you is pushing for you to fail, then perhaps there's a role for you to play. You *can* do it. If this isn't the role for you, that's alright too. We aren't all fitted to the same tasks.

If we support and encourage each other we'll all go a little further. When you are your only support system the going is a little tougher and not as enjoyable. But if you just don't care, I feel sorry for you. ■

## HERLAND HAS GOT A PHONE!

Herland Resource Center now has a telephone! The number is (405) 521-9696 or 521-WMYN. Thanks to an anonymous pledge covering the monthly telephone expense and to a local attorney who dropped by the center one Saturday offering a \$60 donation for the purpose of installing a telephone, communication is now a reality.

For information on what's happening about town or what's available at Herland Center call 521-WMYN. Hours are 6 - 8:30 p.m. Thurs.; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday; and 1 - 6 p.m. Sunday.

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# Meet the Board

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## THE EDITOR OF OUR NEWSLETTER, KAREN L.

By Sondra Metzger

According to Karen, she blew into this world in 1949 in the borough of Staten Island, NY, thanks to the howling wind and generally blustery New York weather that day. Her father's transfer with the Public Health Service brought Karen and her family to Tahlequah in 1959, where he served as commanding officer of the Public Health Service Indian Hospital. Karen said that he was less than pleased with the service for putting him here, that he thought it was a desolate, backward area. Now he loves it here and won't leave.

Karen chose to continue her education at OSU, majoring in fine arts with a minor in backstage theatre.

"In the Spring of 1971, I had to fly to New York for my brother's wedding," she said. "On the way back I sat next to a woman who had a copy of *The Village Voice*, which was an underground newspaper in Greenwich Village in New York. On the front page was a picture of two women kissing. I knew that I had to go back to New York to come out because New York had gay people and Oklahoma didn't."

After receiving her bachelor's degree, Karen toured Europe for three weeks with her parents. When they flew back, her parents came back to Oklahoma. Karen didn't.

"I spent seven years in New York," she said. "I used to do some crazy things in those days. I would ride the subway at night by myself to go to a gay bar 30 blocks away. Then, around 3 or 4 a.m., I would ride the subway back, again by myself. It's a miracle I wasn't killed."

Karen describes herself as being "disgustingly and dangerously naive" during that time. She slowly started meeting people and did all the things one does when one first comes out. She moved back to Oklahoma when she got fed up with the crime.

"I interviewed for a computer job at OSU," she said, "but they took their sweet time with it. By the time they finally got around to processing my application, I had applied for a job at

OU and was hired almost immediately. I've been in or near Norman for 10 years now."

Karen finds herself still in school, studying at OU to get her master's degree in community counseling. With that in hand, Karen has set some high goals for herself.

"It's going to take a few years," she said, "but I want to be in private practice someday specializing in lesbian marriage counseling. Because society puts little credence in gay relationships, this is an area in which resources are devastatingly lacking."

Her interest in counseling began when a friend tried to commit suicide in the early 1970's. In 1976, the friend succeeded, turning Karen's feelings of inadequacy to feelings of despair.

"I thought that if I had only had the skills that I could have maybe made a difference," she said. "In the late 1970's I took a few classes and got shot down by an instructor when he said that anything a psychologist does could be done by anyone because all it takes is empathy. Hearing him say that his degree was worthless really shot me down. So, I stopped going to school and got more involved in my job with computers."

A few years ago, Karen became unhappy with the lack of personal involvement that computer programming had to offer. She found out about the counseling program and is now very broke but very happy.

Along with trying to keep up her grades, Karen does a great deal of volunteer work for Herland and is slowly becoming involved in another volunteer organization, Habitat for Humanity.

"It's an international organization that purchases solid but ramshackle houses," she said. "The houses are then renovated and sold for \$22,000-\$26,000 to needy families and are paid through no-interest loans that Habitat gives the people. It's almost exclusively volunteers who go to the houses and renovate them."

After she graduates in May, Karen is hoping to get back into the hobbies she loves: photography, dog training, water color and oil painting, jogging, traveling, volunteering for Herland and fixing things. The last two almost go hand-in-hand.

"Back in the early 1980's, my first impression of Herland was not a good one," she said. "The women were great, but I was disappointed in the size of the stock. My impression of a bookstore was more than what I saw. Since then, I've seen Herland grow in leaps and bounds. We're much more sophisticated

now, and the board meetings are more organized and have more direction. We're getting more done, reaching out to the community more, increasing the size of our library, servicing the community better. We have a nice place that's warm in the winter. Our retreats are dependable and twice a year. These are things we didn't have a few years ago."

Karen also sees Herland going in a new direction, becoming more politically involved. She would like to see a political committee formed out of the board instead of trying to encourage everyone to get involved.

"I originally got involved with Herland because my lover was involved," she said. "I also saw something happening that interested me. It woke me up. I became a board member because of my interest in Herland and my ideas. I wanted to be able to have a say and I felt that just sitting in on the meetings didn't give me the right to say much."

Karen would like to see Herland more politically involved in the future, as well as an increase in the stock in the store and events so that Herland offers just about anything and everything a lesbian community could want. She would also like to see more decent literature for men, lesbian support groups and a video tape library with a place within the resource center to view the tapes.

"If we could find a benefactor somewhere that would make a hefty donation of several thousand dollars we could really stock the resource center and have more money to offer more things," she said. "Until then, we're going to have to rely on fundraisers."

Karen has been the editor of the newsletter since September 1977. According to her, it was given over to her when she offered to help her predecessor in August and wound up with the newsletter in September.

"It's my baby and I'm not ready to give it up," she said. "It used to take me 30 hours a month before Sondra and Rhonda came along. Now it takes me about 18. I used to collect and write articles, type them into the proper format, go to Kinko's and reduce them to the right size, go back home and paste it up, then take it to Kemco for printing. Now Sondra and Rhonda do much of this."

Karen would like to see the advertising in the newsletter pay for the printing of it, as well as a new masthead, more subscriptions, more up-to-date national news and a

*Continued on next page*

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name of its own.

"I would also like to see Herland become a nationally known organization," she said. "It's slowly becoming that now with about 20% of our newsletters going to subscribers in states other than Oklahoma. Herland offers a woman a place to meet other women, a place to grow personally, a place to become involved, to feel like she is doing something for her community, for herself. Herland also offers the individual a place to have a lot of fun."

This slight-statured woman has some pretty big dreams for this organization. But to Karen, Herland is a home away from home. It's a place where she feels she has grown personally, where she has met wonderful, loving, caring people like herself and where she has developed friendships with people who are professionals and are interested in something other than going to the bars to drink or find a sleeping partner.

"I want to lead a support group at Herland after I finish school," she said. "I want to be there when things really start happening for Herland as it grows, because it has started happening. I think it's a good, positive resource for the community."

Karen's love for Herland has shown through quite a bit in this interview, but not as much as her presence at functions or at the resource center. She constantly putters around (she calls it "putz") at the building and at the retreats. The woman barely sits still.

Karen takes great pride in the healthy environment found at Herland.

"Herland gives a person a chance to meet others in a healthy environment," she said, "and all kinds of opportunity to grow. You can learn how to stock a bookstore, how to put out a newsletter, how to repair a building. It can give you the prestige of being on the board of a nonprofit agency. It gives an individual lesbian a place to build a healthy self image. A positive self image." ■

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Herland,

I'm writing on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign (HRCF) with great news! Now, through the Campaign Fund's new "Speak Out" program, you can enhance our chances of wining vital AIDS and lesbian/gay rights battles in Congress.

I know my colleagues often perceive the lack of mail on an issue as a lack of support back home. Too often, it leads them to avoid taking a stance on the issues or to go with the best organized, more vocal, and presumably most popular position.

Unfortunately, constituent mail to Congress from our side of the issues has been sadly lacking.

That's why the new HRCF "Speak Out" program is vital. "Speak Out" is a strategy enabling fair-minded citizens, gay and non-gay alike, to have their voices heard loudly, clearly and repeatedly on Capitol Hill.

By pre-authorizing brief messages to Congress on AIDS and lesbian/gay rights, participants in "Speak Out" are heard—and make a difference.

The results last year were phenomenal—I'm told almost 10 times more mail than ever before was generated to Congress. In fact, my good friend Senator Ted Kennedy spoke specifically of the impact of the mailgram strategy on passage of the Federal AIDS Policy Act, the first comprehensive AIDS legislation in history.

Now the HRCF "Speak Out" mail program builds on that solid base of success. I urge you to join this vital program. By doing so, you'll authorize the campaign fund to send brief messages on your behalf to Congress at a cost of just \$2.95 each.

Because of your demonstrated concern about turning back the Far Right's vicious attacks on lesbians and gay men, I know you'll want to participate in this important

program.

Without pressure and mail from their voters, it'll be hard to convince my colleagues that the polling majorities on our side reflect opinion in their districts.

Our community's lobbyists are very effective. I and other members of Congress committed to fairness will continue to work hard on these issues. But we really need your help—in the form of repeated and timely constituent mail to your representative and senators. "Speak Out" is quick, easy and inexpensive.

Please take a moment, right now, to join the "Speak Out" program today. We're in a race against time. There's a lot at stake. Pending legislation, and the seemingly inevitable anti-gay amendments all could be acted on before we know it. If you wish to participate in the "Speak Out" program, write to: HRCF Field Division, P.O. Box 1723, Washington, D.C. 20013, or call (202) 628-4160.

Sincerely,  
U.S. Representative Gerry Studds

The HSR Newsletter is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Materials printed herein reflect the beliefs and opinions of the authors of the articles or letters, and not necessarily those of the Newsletter or the Herland Board.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

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. For your protection the Post Office will not forward the Newsletter, and Herland will not change your address without your authorization. Therefore, to ensure 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 your name to the mailing list.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a workshop on Intimacy and Sexuality for lesbians *only!*

Presented by Jo S., M.Ed. and Linda M., MHR/CADC on May 19, 20, 21. Cost is \$65 if paid in advance. Call 843-5319 or 842-6069 for further information.

Herland extends its sincere appreciation to OU's Gay & Lesbian Alliance for its donation to the Herland Video Library of J.E.B.'s "For Love and For Life: The Gay & Lesbian March on Washington" video tape.

## THANKS FOR THE PHONE!

The HSR Board extends its appreciation to Sally Hall of Designs With Lettering for installing the wiring for Herland's new telephone. Thanks to Sally's donated time, energy and materials the Herland Center has a phone—and the number is: (405) 521-9696. thank you, Sally! ■

## HELP MAKE HERLAND BETTER

Mark your calendars for Herland's work day, Sunday April 9 at 10 a.m. Come with tools and any clean-up supplies you have in hand! Help make Herland a better place for the women's community. For further information call 794-7464. ■



**KEMCO**  
PRINTING INC.

340-4301

1601 S. Broadway, Unit D  
Edmond, Okla. 73013

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CIRCULATION: 700

GENERAL INFO: (405) 794-7464

VOLUNTEER INFO: 528-0604

ADVERTISING:

DEADLINE on all advertising and submissions is the 15th of each month.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to this Newsletter are free upon request.



**HERLAND  
SISTER  
RESOURCES**



## ANNOUNCES

### FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO

April 7, 7:30 p.m. - "Feds"

plus

"Two in Twenty - Part II"

### FRIDAY NIGHT VIDEO

April 21, 7:30 p.m. - "I Heard the Mermaid Singing"

plus

"Two in Twenty - Part III"

### HERLAND'S ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT

May 19 - 21st at  
Boiling Springs State Park  
(Registration Form on Page 2.)

Watch for details of Herland's upcoming Scavenger Hunt.

Note: Laura has relinquished the position of Advertising Director to Sondra. Henceforth, Sondra at 271-2101 can handle all of your advertising needs.

**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  
4:30 p.m.**

## 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.

All of Herland's services are free, including the Newsletter. This is why your donation is so important. It is Herland's lifeblood.

## Classifieds

**Buy or Rent** - this very nice 3BR, 1½ bath brick home on 9/10 acre in Noble. 405-872-8673.

**HOUSECLEANING**, Pet Sitting and Grooming, Housesitting, Odd Jobs. Affordable rates. References on request. 842-4225.

**STEP BACK IN TIME! PLUMS B&B** for women only, antiques, private baths, full breakfast, parking. For brochure: 160 Bradford St, Provincetown, MA 02657. (508) 487-2283.

**SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC AND COMEDY FESTIVAL!** Anyone going to SWMCF? I would like to arrange ride from Atlanta airport to the land. Call 405-525-8522.

**FREE LESBIAN MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE:** Descriptions of over 300 books/videos. Send two 25¢ stamps. Womankind books, Dept. HS, 5 Kivy Street, Huntington Sta., NY 11746.

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## Please Support the Businesses who Support Herland!



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*HSR would like to thank the women of DWL for their generous donations of signs for our new building.*



**848-5429**

**SHIRLEY M. HUNTER, M.A.**  
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

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