

The

HERLAND VOICE

DECEMBER, 1989

ARE YOU A CO-DEPENDENT?

New Group Forming

Have you wondered just what the term co-dependent really means? The following are just a few of the typical characteristics of a co-dependent:

- I assume responsibility for others' feelings and/or behaviors; i.e. *It was my fault she yelled at me.*
- I have difficulty expressing feelings; i.e. *I am happy, sad, angry, scared, lonely, hurt.*
- I have difficulty in forming and/or maintaining close relationships.
- I tend to minimize, alter or even deny the truth about how I feel.
- My self-esteem is bolstered by other-/outer influences.
- I tend to judge everything I do, think or say harshly—nothing done, said or thought is "good enough."
- I am steadfastly loyal—even when the loyalty is unjustified, and personally harmful.
- I am extremely responsible - or extremely irresponsible.

The following are just a few of the patterns of co-dependency:

- My good feelings about who I am stem from being liked by you and/or receiving approval from you.
- My mental attention is focused on pleasing you and/or protecting you and/or manipulating you (to do it my way).
- My own hobbies and interests are put aside. My time is spent sharing your interests and hobbies.
- I am not aware of how I feel, I am aware of how you feel.
- My fear of rejection determines what I say or do.
- My social circle diminishes as I involve myself with you.

If any of the above seems to fit, you may want to attend Herland's newly-formed Co-dependents Anonymous group for women which will meet at the Herland Resource Center every Tuesday beginning December 5 at 7:30 p.m. The only requirement for membership in CODA is a desire for healthy and loving relationships. ■

PRO-CHOICE RALLY

by Margaret C.

The November 12 Rally for Choice at the Oklahoma State Capitol sent a powerful message to our legislature. Five thousand strong, the pro-choice turnout was more than 30 times larger than any crowd the anti-abortionists have ever been able to put together. People determined to keep the reproductive freedoms we now have came from all corners of the state to make their opinion known as forcibly as possible. Several of our most-likely candidates for governor in 1990 spoke at the rally, thereby committing themselves to the pro-choice position: Congressman Wes Watkins, Speaker Steve Lewis and David Walters. Oklahoma Secretary of State Hannah Atkins also spoke, and Rep. Freddie Williams went out of her way to stop by and briefly address the crowd on her way to a seminar. One of the few non-politicians who spoke was Vivian Ng of OU and the AAUW. Ed Asner was the celebrity speaker of the day, and Cleta Deathearage Mitchell acted as emcee.

The local chapter of NOW, Metro OKC NOW, as well as contributing many of the most decorative, well-made and imaginative signs, staged a piece of theater prior to the beginning of the festivities and again during a musical interlude. To dramatize the women who die every three minutes of illegal abortions worldwide, a wooden casket was carried to the rally, with Cindy R. dressed in black, a hanger and a red carnation on her chest (she was sometimes in the casket, sometimes walking in front

of it).

When the casket was carried up the steps to the capitol, it was led by Cindy B. playing a kettle drum. Good visuals, good message!

The rally was clearly a smashing success, a rousing, effective achievement. Yet, it would have been as good or better if in the struggle to keep freedom of choice, freedom of speech had not been stomped on. I'm referring to the censoring of signs by rally organizers. In the effort to keep women in control of our bodies, we should have been given control of our rally. The argument that it was necessary to control signs in order to keep out anti-choice signs is specious in the extreme. The one piece of relevant theater at the event should have been welcomed, not fought blindly, as it was. Women's bodies, women's speech, women's thoughts, should all be free of outside control.

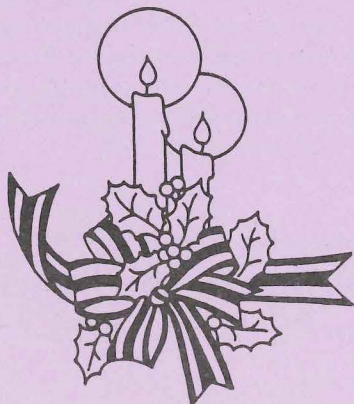
This is a problem which will probably always arise when a civil liberties position is embraced by people with no grounding in feminist/progressive thought. As an example, a local group promoting a demonstration against the wearing of dead animals seriously plans to try to keep out of the demonstration anyone who they think looks too weird or radical; and also plans total control of the signs carried by the demonstrators. This is an appalling attitude to anyone who came to her/his anti-fur position from an ever-expanding reverence for all life. through the civil rights, anti-war, equal rights and gay rights struggles.

In the most recent issue of *On the Issues*, Merle Hoffman makes the point this way: "In the struggle to win the 'hearts and minds' of the American people, the pro-choice and women's movements must take care not to lose their souls." ■



HSR — CALENDAR OF EVENTS — DECEMBER

- Dec. 5** - Co-dependents Anonymous (CODA) support group, Resource Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 6, 7, 8** - Feminist Book Fair sponsored by OU Women's Studies Program, Student Union, OU Campus. For more information call 366-7469.
- Dec. 7** - Incest Survivors Anonymous (ISA) 12-step meeting (women's group), Resource Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- Dec. 12** - Co-dependents Anonymous (CODA) support group, Resource Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14** - Incest Survivors Anonymous (ISA) 12-step meeting (women's group), Resource Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- Dec. 15** - Deadline for submissions to newsletter.
- Dec. 16** - Peggy Johnson at the Cantina del Paseo, 3007 Paseo, 9 p.m.
- Dec. 17** - Board meeting, Resource Center, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 19** - Co-dependents Anonymous (CODA) support group, Resource Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21** - Incest Survivors Anonymous (ISA) 12-step meeting (women's group), Resource Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- Dec. 26** - Co-dependents Anonymous (CODA) support group, Resource Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 28** - Incest Survivors Anonymous (ISA) 12-step meeting (women's group), Resource Center, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- Dec. 31** - Sisters of Swing, downtown at Opening Night, Liberty Bank. Check daily newspaper for time.
- Dec. 31** - **HSR NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY! Resource Center, 6 p.m. - ????** (this will be a chemical-free party).



EDITORIAL POLICY!

The HERLAND VOICE 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.

Letters to the editor must be signed by the writer with full name. Letters will not be printed with name unless writer requests it. Editing may be necessary for space or to avoid obscenity, libel, or invasion of privacy, but ideas will not be altered. Publication of all materials is at the discretion of the editors. Anyone having a complaint about the content of this newsletter may contact the editors at 521-9696.

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

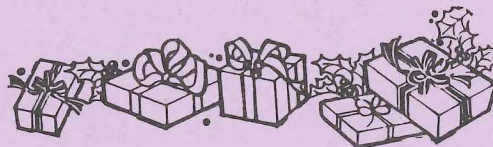
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number: () _____

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



DISPLAY ADS:

business card or 1/10 page . . . \$ 15.00
 1/4 page \$ 35.00
 1/2 page \$ 60.00
 full page \$100.00

CLASSIFIED ADS:

first 10 words \$2.50
 each additional word \$.10

DISCOUNTS: available on advance

prepaid orders only

1-3 months order none
 4 - 6 months 10%
 7 - 9 months 15%
 10 - 12 months 20%

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a minimal charge for typesetting done to any advertising.

Leave message for Ginger at HSR,
 (521-WMYN) to place an ad.



CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY GIFTS AVAILABLE AT HERLAND THIS YEAR!

- Games (Homophobia - similar to Scruples)
- Seasons Greeting Cards
- Satin Ties
- Socks
- Undies for that special woman in your life
- Audio Tapes (many women artists)
- Books
- Bumper Stickers that express you
- Fanny packs

Gift Certificates are also available for that hard-to-please woman in your life!

THE RESOURCE CENTER WILL BE OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE FROM 1 P.M. TO 6 P.M. FOR LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING.



PUBLISHED BY: Herland Sister Resources, Inc.
 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR:
 Sondra Metzger

NATIONAL NEWS EDITOR:
 Karen Lewis

CITY NEWS EDITOR:
 Sondra Metzger

TYPESETTING: Rhonda S.

CIRCULATION: 700

GENERAL INFO: (405) 521-9696

ADVERTISING: 521-9696

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the HERLAND VOICE are free upon request.



NGLTF CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW MILITARY REPORT

Washington, D.C.—A report ordered by the Department of Defense (DoD) concludes that the American military should reexamine its homophobic policy and consider ending anti-gay and lesbian discrimination.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), part of the Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project, has praised the report and called it a validation of what gays and lesbians have known for years: Homosexuals are not welcome in the military, are being severely discriminated against and are being evicted under malicious and punitive charges.

The half-inch thick report, called "Non-conforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability," was commissioned by the DoD and executed by the Defense Personnel Security Research and Education Center (PERSEREC). Theodore R. Sarbin, Ph.D., and Kenneth E. Karols, M.D., Ph.D. authored the report.

The unclassified study, dated December 1988, surfaced recently in a *New York Times* article after it was made available by members of Congress, in particular Reps. Gerry Studds (D-Mass./10) and Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo./1).

The report urges the military to end its ban on gays and lesbians. Citing changes in American society's acceptance of homosexuals, the report states the government will most likely be forced to reexamine its anti-gay policies.

The Pentagon has since rejected the report, calling it wasteful, flawed, offensive and exceeding its mandate.

Gay and lesbian activists were not surprised that the military is now vehemently distancing itself from its own commissioned report.

"The Pentagon brass believed it was hiring a group of 'yes men' to uphold a prejudiced policy," said Robert Bray, public information director. "It's the classic case of the emperor with no clothes—we see the DoD stripped of its honor and integrity and the naked truth of bigotry revealed."

Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF lobbyist and representative to the Military Freedom Project, said that credit for increased scrutiny of military policy should go to Congressman Gerry Studds. Studds has worked diligently to guarantee equality for gays and lesbians in the military, and was primarily responsible for making the new report public.

The release of the report coincidentally came at the same time as a new Gallup Poll showing increasing acceptance of gays and lesbians by the public. The poll, as reported on October 25 in the *New York Times*, shows among other things that 71 percent of the people surveyed believe homosexuals should have "equal rights in terms of job opportunities." Sixty percent said gays and lesbians would be appropriate in the military.

The Gay and Lesbian Military Freedom Project, co-founded by NGLTF, is a coalition of leading civil rights groups committed to securing equality in the Armed Forces. Other members of the Project are the American Civil Liberties Union's Lesbian/Gay Rights Project, the National Lawyers Guild Military Law Task Force, the National Organization for Women, the Women's Equality League, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Citizen Soldier. ■

GAY RIGHTS VICTORY IN MASSACHUSETTS: BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR THE NATION

Passage of the Massachusetts lesbian and gay civil rights bill is perhaps the single greatest victory for the gay rights movement in 1989. Massachusetts joins Wisconsin, becoming the second state in the nation to pass comprehensive civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians. Key to success in Massachusetts was a groundswell of public support that convinced undecided legislators and overwhelmed opponents. The Massachusetts victory is emblematic of a nationwide movement that is building momentum to spark a chain of gay rights victories in coming years.

The march on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987 marked a turning point in the nationwide gay rights movement. Never before had the gay community witnessed its own strength in such numbers. As a result, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators brought home with them a new sense of empowerment. The emerging strength of the gay and lesbian community is changing the face of our struggle for equal rights. This year's Massachusetts victory dramatically illustrates this change.

In Massachusetts prior to 1987, a quiet, insider lobbying strategy kept the gay rights bill alive, but failed to convince key legislators of its overwhelming public sup-

port. At the end of the 1987 legislative session, shortly after the March on Washington, the bill suffered its fifteenth consecutive defeat. That year, the bill had passed the House and won a majority in the Senate, but was killed in committee. This unjust defeat triggered a massive demonstration. Chants of more than 600 protestors rang throughout the State House, and 14 people were arrested when they chained themselves to seats inside the Senate Gallery.

The power unleashed by this demonstration transformed the public perception of the community as a political force and brought the voice of the lesbian and gay community at large to the Senate House. In the years following the 1987 demonstration, street activism, in the form of passionate rallies and angry protests, became a core part of the lobbying effort.

The high visibility tactics employed by organizations such as the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights brought the issue to the public eye. Extensive media campaigns drew front-page headlines and secured gay rights endorsements from public figures and the local media. The encouraging effect of this publicity drew new supporters out of the closet. Realizing the strength of our numbers, thousands of people took action at the grassroots level, contributing to letter-writing campaigns and constituent lobbying.

In 1989, the gay rights bill became an unstoppable people's initiative. A statewide poll showed 68 percent support for the bill among Massachusetts voters. Grassroots activists, building on groundwork already laid, garnered a majority support in both houses and overwhelmed powerfully placed opponents. The visibility of a unified gay community made the difference.

Public support will also be vital to preserving the Massachusetts gay rights law. Gay rights opponents are currently trying to organize a last-ditch effort to place gay rights on a statewide referendum. If the opponents succeed, the pro-gay rights majority will be crucial to defeating the repeal initiative. Gay issues are not new to Massachusetts voters, most of whom have realized that basic civil rights protections for lesbians and gay men are long overdue.

The psychological and symbolic impact of passage of the bill in Massachusetts will strengthen the fight for gay rights in other areas of the country, helping those states that are at a crossroads in their own civil

Continued on next page

continued from previous page

rights struggles. Connecticut, California, New York, Iowa, and other states where gay rights legislation has nearly succeeded in the past will look to the popular support in Massachusetts as a source of inspiration. ■

MABEL HAMPTON DIES

New York—Black lesbian community activist Mabel Hampton died of pneumonia at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital on October 26 at the age of 87.

She was one of the founders of the Lesbian Herstory Archives, and had donated her books and artifacts about lesbian life. Hampton played a pioneering role in the battle for civil rights, women's and gay liberation, and was honored by many national black, gay and lesbian organizations for her inspiration. In the past decade, Hampton appeared in several film and television programs documenting her involvement in the Harlem Renaissance and in gay life before Stonewall.

Hampton was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on May 2, 1902. She went to Greenwich Village when she was seven and in her teens joined an all-women's dance troupe that performed in Coney Island. During the '40s and '50s she starred in several productions at the Lafayette Theater and was a dancer at the Garden of Joy in Harlem. In 1937, Hampton met her life-partner, Lillian Foster. The two women were together until Foster's death in 1978.

Hampton took part in New York City's Gay and Lesbian Pride March every year and was the Grand Marshall in 1985. In a 1988 interview with Kate Rushin in *Sojourner*, Hampton said, "When the gay movement really came out, I said, 'Here it comes! Here it comes! Whoopie!... People should come out of the closet and stay out. Try to fight to do whatever you can to make our life a beautiful life to live.'" Hampton is survived by hundreds and hundreds of loving friends.

A funeral mass was held at St. Augustine Church in the Bronx on October 31, 1989. Donations in her memory can be sent to the Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1258, NY, NY 100116, and to Senior Action in A Gay Environment, 208 W. 13th St., NY, NY 10011. ■

From *Gay Community News*, Nov. 5-11, 1989.

NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE

A new report from the Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR) ties the rising tide of violence against gays and lesbians to far right and white supremacist organizations that are using anti-gay bigotry to attract new recruits.

The report is entitled *Quarantines and Death: The Far Right's Homophobic Agenda*. "Gay people have increasingly become the target of bigoted violence," explained Daniel Levitas, executive director of the Atlanta-based CDR. "This report describes the theoretical framework of the far right's homophobic agenda and outlines the basic steps needed to confront anti-gay bigotry."

The 40-page monograph was written by CDR research director Leonard Zeskind, and Mab Segrest. Zeskind is the author of numerous background documents on racist and anti-semitic movements. In 1987, he received the Paul Tobenkin Memorial Award for "fearless reporting in the struggle against bigotry" from the Columbia University School of Journalism. Segrest is a long-time lesbian activist who is currently director of research and publications for North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence, based in Durham. She is the author of *My Mama's Dead Squirrel: Lesbian Essays on Southern Culture* (Firebrand, 1985).

Quarantines and Death examines such issues as why gay men and lesbians have been targeted by far right groups, the nature of homophobic violence, and the ideology of the new right and the far right regarding homosexuality, AIDS and civil rights. It is available for \$5 (including postage and handling) from CDR, P.O. Box 50469, Atlanta, Ga 30302. A discount of 15% is available on orders of 10 or more.

The Center for Democratic Renewal, formerly known as the National Anti-Klan Network, was founded 10 years ago as the nation's principal clearing house for information on community-based responses to hate group activity and bigoted violence. It is a non-profit organization with offices in Kansas City, MO, Seattle, WA, and Atlanta, GA. The CDR implements programs of research, training, public education, community organizing and technical assistance to counter white supremacy, religious intolerance and homophobic violence. ■

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sisters,

This spring I am teaching a course called *Sexism and Homophobia* (Human Relations 5113) which may interest some of your readers who never expected to see such a course at the University of Oklahoma. Despite the depressing title, this will not be a depressing course, since it includes a celebration of gay and lesbian cultures and the rise of the gay civil rights movement.

I am very happy about the way this course is coming together. It includes history, literature, videos, music, the daily newspapers, and many many personal stories about diverse lesbian and gay lives.

This is a graduate course, open to college graduates and others who are willing to do graduate level work. If you want to participate and are not an O.U. student, you can be admitted as a special student—call the admissions office. To enroll in the course, you need a card from the Human Relations office, 730 Physical Sciences, 325-1756. It meets from 6:00-8:40 p.m. on Tuesdays.

I'd be delighted to see some of the HSR women in the seminar.

Sisterly,
Barbara Hillyer

P.S. I also teach a course called "Women's Studies Seminar" on Wednesday afternoons. It's both graduate and undergraduate, and is a fine opportunity to read feminist books with other women. Women's Studies will mail a copy of the spring course list upon request.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR CHOICE:

As a participant in the Rally for Choice held at the Oklahoma State Capitol on November 12, I am writing to express my deep concerns about the manner in which the rally was conducted.

As I approached the rally site, I became aware that signs were being collected at the entrance to the area. If the sign was acceptable to the rally organizers, then it could be retrieved. If it was not acceptable, it could not be retrieved until after the rally. Silencing the voices of women is not the way to achieve our goals. Surely there is room enough for the expression of all.

When the rally began, my concerns grew. We listened to one man after another talk

continued on next page

Happy Holidays from Herland Sister Resources



DECEMBER, 1989

SUN. MON TUES. WED. THURS. FRI. SAT.

					1	2
						RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 10-6
3 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 1-6	4	5 CODA SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 P.M.	6 FUN NIGHT 6-9 P.M.	7 ISA MEETING 7:30 P.M.	8	9 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 10-6
10 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 1-6	11	12 CODA SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 P.M.	13 FUN NIGHT 6-9 P.M.	14 ISA MEETING 7:30 P.M.	15 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO NEWSLETTER	16 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 10-6
17 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 1-6 BOARD MTG. 2 P.M.	18	19 CODA SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 P.M.	20 FUN NIGHT 6-9 P.M.	21 ISA MEETING 7:30 P.M.	22	23 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 10-6
24 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 1-6	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	26 CODA SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 P.M.	27 FUN NIGHT 6-9 P.M.	28 ISA MEETING 7:30 P.M.	29	30 RESOURCE CENTER OPEN 10-6
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 6 P.M. - ????	CENTER OPEN 1-6 ←					

NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE

IS IT TRUE THAT WOMEN ARE NOT AT RISK FOR HIV INFECTION?

COME LEARN THE

THINGS MAMA NEVER TOLD YOU:

WOMEN'S ISSUES RELATED TO AIDS

HIV PREVENTION, WOMEN'S ISSUES, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF
AND EDUCATE OTHERS

January 6, 1990

2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

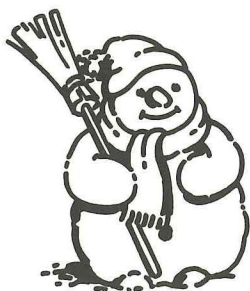
at

GUSHER'S

2200 N.W. Expressway

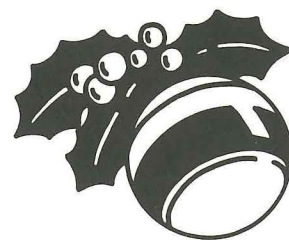
This workshop is sponsored by NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE (a series of workshops targeted at the Gay Community) and HERLAND

The keynote speaker for activities sponsored by NEW YEAR, NEW LIFE will be JEFF LEVI, Former Director of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Mr. Levi will speak at the Metropolitan Community Church at 8 p.m. on January 6th.



DJ'S

2805 NW36th
942-9658



 DEC 15 Desert Heart Band 9pm

 DEC 31 New Year's Eve \$5 cover

come early

 JAN 12 Deb Roberts & Linda Stevens 9pm
Live Country

 NO COVER on Saturdays before 9pm

 OPEN at 4pm MON-FRI

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

paid advertisement

Continued from previous page

about his daughters and his desire that they have the right to choose. All the women who spoke were well down in the agenda. At no time in the rally did we pay tribute to the many women who have died trying to exercise their right to choice. The one speaker who talked about choice and abortion as feminist issues, Dr. Vivian Ng, was apparently asked to cut her speech short by the M.C. We never heard the voices of women forced to make the difficult choice of abortion whether legal or illegal. Once again the voices of women were silenced.

The issue of reproductive freedom involves more than the right to legal abortions. It is the right to control our reproductive capacity. Reproductive freedom includes the guarantee of no forced sterilization and the freedom to live as a lesbian or gay male without discrimination. These voices were also excluded from the rally. The only Native Americans on the platform were the dancers. Surely, Native Americans can do more than dance. In this event as in others focusing on women's concerns, the work and energy of lesbians was critical to its success. Yet, their voices were silenced as well. To the public, there were no lesbians there.

I firmly believe we hold the moral high ground with the pro-choice position. The belief that individuals have the right to make personal choices free from government interference is a part of the fabric of our way of life. People of all different races, creeds, ages, and lifestyles share this belief. Let's recognize and celebrate that diversity and build on our common belief. Silencing the voices of women will not move us toward a world in which our rights will be fully recognized.

At the Oklahoma City rally, the crowd was estimated to have 5,000 participants. Wouldn't it have been a truly spectacular event to have celebrated the diversity among the women and men there. We would have truly made the point that choice is an issue supported by Americans of all sorts and we would have moved a little closer to a world where the rights of all are equally protected.

Sincerely,
Pat Reeves



IRIS GLEN FEMINIST CAMP:

A Personal Testimony

by B.G. Canis

As I entered Washington, D.C., in the midst of Friday afternoon rush hour traffic after 25 solid hours of driving, and proceeded to get lost for five hours, I was so delirious with fatigue that turning around and heading back to Oklahoma seemed a viable and attractive option. Fortunately, I stuck with it and eventually found my way.

My mission was to reach the Iris Glen Feminist Camp sometime before its conclusion 11 days in the future.

I had arranged to work at the camp as a chef for one or two meals each day in exchange for a \$50 discount off the registration fee. The camp ran for a span of 11 days encompassing two weekends. On Friday nights there were camp fires and sing-alongs. On the first Friday night we were treated to stories told by a professional storyteller followed by sing-alongs (feminist-style) lead by the Washington Feminist Chorus (whom, if you've never heard them you should). Saturdays and Sundays offered a choice of over 75 different workshops and discussion groups. While there I learned to water ski (by some stretch of the imagination); sail; whittle; identify various flora and fauna, including mushrooms indigenous to the east coast; perform therapeutic massage; identify stars, constellations and planets in the summer sky; lash together logs to make furniture and perform outdoor survival skills. I reacquainted myself with kayaking, canoeing, swimming and windsurfing.

The Girl Scout camp we rented for the occasion was on the South River, an inland extension of the Chesapeake Bay. The boats and all equipment for water sports of various types were there for the asking. Also, there were miles of trails throughout the camp to explore. I found it a real treat to once again see expanses of plush green woods and true mountains. Apparently, I had forgotten just how beautiful the east coast is, because I was quite awestruck by the surroundings. Saturday nights consisted of crabfests followed by dances; one a square dance, the other a country western dance (forgive me if I don't see the difference).

The dances were comical due to the fact that 99% of the women in attendance were from cities and were absolutely clueless as to how one goes about "dancing" to banjos, harmonicas, jugs and what have you. Most of us had to try to recall our 3rd grade gym class for the square dancing. By the look of things, none of our memories extended back quite that far.

The weekdays were much quieter and less structured. The number of women at the camp during any given weekday dwindled to 30 - 40, as compared to about 150 on the weekends. There was little doubt that most of us preferred the weekdays. The only structured activity that occurred during the week was a series of evening discussions entitled "The Essentials of Feminism." Because there were almost no structured activities during the week, we were able to spend a lot of time at the waterfront and more time getting to know one another on a more personal level.

So, what made this women's gathering different from some of the others I've been to? Without a doubt, it was the closeness, the pervasive sense of community. You couldn't have avoided it even if you tried. Many of us bonded with one another quite strongly. We didn't simply exchange pleasantries and head off on our merry ways; we communicated, laughed together, played jokes on and teased one another, walked together through the woods arms entwined, gave one another massages, went skinny-dipping in the moonlight, then slept on the dock under the stars.

I had forgotten what it's like to be on the same wave length with someone, to be unable to stop laughing. It's been a while. Perhaps the contrast seemed so great because since I moved to Oklahoma about three years ago, I've only been on the same wavelength with someone once. Close friendships demand good communication. Although it's tempting to blame my hectic schedule for my lack of bonding with people here, in actuality, that's only a very small part of it. Every time I go back to the east coast and each time make several new friends, I'm reminded of the tremendous regional differences in communication styles that result in such a chasm that spanning it becomes quite difficult. Sarcasm was once again the predominant form of humor and was appreciated as an art form rather than

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

taken literally at the camp. It was refreshing to have my sarcastic humor not taken as evidence that I'm a bitch (the fact that I'm a bitch *and* sarcastic is entirely coincidental).

Most of the women there were professionals of one sort or another; all were feminists; most were politically active, or at the very least, politically astute, and all but four that I knew of were lesbians. A few were in the process of coming out. Most people there were single, as is typical on the east coast at any given point in time, where a long-term relationship typically lasts a year or two. There's not that pressure to have to be part of a couple, at least in part because there's a myriad of things to do as a single person without being ostracized because of it.

Surprisingly, the camp was totally chemical free, especially surprising since we're talking about the east coast here. Unfortunately, lesbian and gay social activities everywhere seem to require chemicals as a rule; mostly alcohol. This camp was a refreshing break from having to deal with the sloppy, uncontrolled drunkard. Only a few women were vegetarians, which is typical of the east coast where people eat whatever is convenient. This was no problem as all of our meals were buffet style and, based on the response we got, seemed to meet everyone's needs.

The Feminist Institute, a non-profit organization founded by Caroline Sparks and Jackie Gentry, sponsored the event as they have since 1979. I was particularly fortunate in that I was given a private version of "A Feminist Tour of the Capitol" since the woman I became closest to at the camp is the guide for this tour. This is a new feature offered by the Institute. It entails a walking tour of downtown Washington and an update on the bleak past and present of women in politics, which I'm sure comes as a huge surprise to all of us. Some of the more notable landmarks covered by the tour include Congress, the Supreme Court, Library of Congress and the Sewall-Beaumont House.

As is typical when you're having a great time, hours passed quickly. We all dreaded having to leave. Those of us who were left on the last day, mostly staff members and a few of us doing

work exchange, performed a massive cleanup as slowly as possible and found every possible way to delay our departure, including one last "memorial swim." I ended up spending two days more than I had planned, the last one in D.C., before reluctantly heading back home and getting into town the morning I was scheduled to move. When I called to report my safe arrival in Oklahoma, which an inordinate number of people seemed to be concerned about, two of us were already planning trips to see one another, which neither of us can afford.

Without a doubt, Washington, D.C., and the surrounding area offers more activities for lesbians and gay men than I've ever seen in any other city, including New York and the San Francisco Bay Area. If you ever get the chance to go to the Iris Glen Feminist Camp... grab it! ■



BREAKING ALL THE RULES: A REVIEW

by Karen Lewis

Dianne Davidson, a recent addition to Olivia Records' repertoire of wimmin's music-making talent, has produced a tapeful of thoughtful, feelingful and thought-provoking, feeling-provoking music in "Breaking All The Rules"—her first release on a wimmin's music label.

This reviewer first became acquainted with Davidson's music in the early 70's when she mainstreamed an album titled "Backwoods Woman." At the time, this album was purchased solely because of the cover photograph which greatly intrigued me. Upon hearing the contents I was overwhelmed by the feeling with which this young artist interpreted her music—and with the meaningful lyrics in the four tracks she had written. The fondness with which I still listen to this early production

turned to sheer excitement and joy when I learned of Davidson's release on a wimmin's music label.

With songs that encompass Davidson's wide range of ability this new production includes styles as diverse as rock-n-roll and spiritual/gospel that make for top quality listening pleasure for the woman-centered woman. It has even surpassed my high expectations.

Of the eleven tracks making up the work, Davidson wrote the lyrics and music for six. "What'm I Gonna Do," with a soft reggae back beat, speaks of a lack of direction in one's life and the ultimate need to seek guidance from a Higher Power. Reggae gives way to blues with "Song For My Father" in which the artist sings about and to her dead father, of their less than harmonious relationship and the "gifts" with which he left her. "Tonight I'll Dream That You Care" is a slow bluesy tune about loving someone who may never return the love, yet the hope of a future relationship still lives. Rock-n-roll is the envelope in which "Killer Without a Heart" is tightly wrapped. The lyrics speak bluntly of the sadness and tragedy of death, and symbolically of the thoughtlessness of our society's attitude toward those who are dying of AIDS. In "Everything to Me," the artist uses the blues to sing of the deep love for the person she must leave to pursue her music career. The words speak of the power of love and commitment during such a separation. A spiritual/gospel beat supports the lyrics for "Heaven Bound," which describe the sadness of receiving word of the death of someone who helped raise you. Then the comfort found in realizing that person's faith was such that she would not want you to mourn—because she's happy, she's "heaven-bound."

Davidson rounds out the production with three rock-n-roll tunes: "Trouble Again," "So Lucky," "Keep My Love Light Burnin'"; a rhythm and blues tune "Built For Comfort," and a very soulful rendition of "Song of Burnadette"—each written by different artists.

Already popular with women who are familiar with her music in other parts of the country, Dianne Davidson promises to become a much-loved artist in the tradition of wimmin's music in south central America as well. "Breaking All The Rules"—a worthwhile addition to any woman-loving woman's music library—is available at Herland, and will make a cherished Christmas gift for that special woman in your life. ■

Chatterbox

by Sondra Metzger

Many thanks to the women who spent five hours at the Resource Center getting the November newsletter ready to mail . . .

the garage sale was a big success! Thanks to those who donated items and to those who donated their time . . .

there's a new magazine on the market for female bikers called *Harley Women*. It is a bi-monthly magazine published by two women that is FOR women and not ABOUT women. Let me add that this is a magazine for ALL women and does not cater to any specific type of woman other than those who are interested in motorcycles. Subscriptions are \$12. If you are interested, write *Harley Women*, c/o Asphalt Angels, P.O. Box 864, Addison, IL 60101 . . .

the bi-annual Conference for Catholic Lesbians (CCL) will be held over Memorial Day Weekend, 1990, in Estes Park, CO. CCL is an international organization for women who recognize the importance of the Catholic tradition in shaping their lives, and who seek to develop a spiritual life which enhances and affirms their lesbian identity. CCL provides a source of friendship and support for women seeking a spiritual and social community; nurtures and shapes the faith and spirituality of Catholic lesbians; advocates women's and lesbian rights in the church and society; and offers a place where lesbians stand together to love well at prayer and at play. If you are interested in CCL, you can get more information by writing to CCL, P.O. Box 606, Contract Station 2, Denver, CO 80206 . . .

if you read the article about the Iris Glen Feminist Camp and want to know more about it, here's the address and phone: The Feminist Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 30563, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 951-9040. Thanks, B.G.! . . .

the OKC Animal Shelter is once again having a pet annex in North Park Mall for the holidays. This has been a very successful event for the Animal Shelter with many animals being adopted out to good homes each year. The hours of operation will be from 1 p.m. until mall closing time, Thursdays through Sundays, Nov. 24 through Dec 23. If you're thinking about

getting someone a pet for Christmas, make sure the receiver wants it first and save yourself and the pet a lot of grief . . .

there is a newsletter available for Asian lesbians living in the U.S. It's called *Anamika*. This newsletter is for Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Afghani, Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Nepalese and Burmese lesbians. For more info, write *Anamika*, Box 652 Van Bruut Station, Brooklyn, NY 11215 . . .

the mistake a lot of politicians make is forgetting they have been appointed and think they have been anointed . . .

two corrections to items in past newsletters: the phone number for our volunteer coordinator, Pam T., is 631-3575. The correct address to send donations to help Lillian Graham in her court battle with American Airlines is: Tulsa NOW, P.O. Box 471902, Tulsa, OK 74147-1902. Please annotate that the donation is for Lillian Graham. Sorry for the inconvenience, Pam and Tulsa NOW . . .

Olivia Records has started a Home Marketing Division. This means that women everywhere will be able to have an "Olivia Party" in their own home. If you are interested in having an Olivia Party in your home, contact Olivia Records, Inc., Home Marketing Division, 4400 Market St., Oakland, CA 94608 . . .

another newsletter: *Matrices* is a nonprofit, networking resource for lesbians inter-

ested in new lesbian research, scholarship, publications, conferences, ideas, etc., out of Minneapolis. The staff has committed themselves to producing a tri-annual newsletter, with the first issue being January 1990. If you're interested in receiving *Matrices*, write *Matrices*, Women's Studies Dept., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 . . .

"A Quick and Easy Guide to Socially Responsible Supermarket Shopping" is a pocket-sized guide which ranks nearly 1400 brand-name products on ten social issues: women's advancement, minority advancement, animal testing, nuclear power, environment, South Africa, charitable giving, community outreach, defense contracts and social disclosure. To receive a copy, send \$4.95 to CEP, 30 Irving Pl., New York, NY 10003. Thanks to OK NOW for the info . . .

Margaret C. is still working on forming a consciousness raising group that will start in January. If you feel you would like to be more aware of feminist issues, this is for you. Call 528-0604 for more info . . .

'tis the season, and like everyone else, Herland has a wish list, too: security bars for the windows, someone to pay off the mortgage, plywood for shelving, 25¢ postage stamps, someone to buy the old building on NW 19th and Blackwelder, more volunteers, a new roof, new plumbing, storm windows, a computer and a copy of *The Voice* in every home. If anyone out there would like to help make any of the above wishes come true, please CALL! . . .

to all our readers: you have made it possible through the later part of this decade for us to be here for you in whatever way we can. You have contributed time, energy, materials, talent, money and sometimes shoulders to cry on when times got rough, and we cannot adequately express how much all that has meant to us. In return, we promise to continue to do our best to make life a little better for you and to be there when you need us. As we enter a new year and new decade, we look forward to your continued support and to being ready to help in whatever way we can. May you have a wonderful holiday season, and may the new year bring with it good health, prosperity and much warm sistership. ■





848-5429

SHIRLEY M. HUNTER, M.A.
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR
Emphasis on the problems of gay people.

PENN PARK OFFICE COMPLEX • SUITE 102
5009 N PENNSYLVANIA • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE "TOUCH OF GOLD."
Treat your special someone, too, for \$10 off her massage!

Touch of Gold

HEALTHFUL • STRESS RELIEVING MASSAGE

Special
discounts
available
to all
Herland
readers!

by
Melanie J. McKiddy

MASSAGE THERAPIST

360-6945

"Portable"
massage
table
available
for your
convenience.



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. ■

Karen L. Lewis, M.Ed.

Mental Health Counselor

(405) 842-7577
(405) 872-8673

4801 N. Classen
Suite 147
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$638

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