



# HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

VOLUME II, NUMBER 4  
APRIL, 1986

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.  
1630 NW 19, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73106

## WHAT IS HOMOPHOBIA?

## HOW ARE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED BY HOMOPHOBIA?

## HOW ARE NON-LESBIAN WOMEN AFFECTED BY HOMOPHOBIA?

## HOW ARE LESBIANS AFFECTED BY HOMOPHOBIA?

## WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT HOMOPHOBIA?

These questions, and more, will be addressed in a series of three workshops facilitated by Suzanne Pharr, director of the Arkansas Women's Project.

### SESSION I Saturday, April 12, 1986 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Session I will be devoted to consciousness-raising about homophobia and its impact on all women, and the development of strategies for eliminating personal and institutional homophobia. All women, both non-lesbian and lesbian, interested in learning more about homophobia and its effects, are encouraged to attend.

### SESSION II Sunday, April 13, 1986 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Session II will provide the opportunity for lesbians to examine internalized homophobia and to discuss the ways homophobia affects their lives.

### SESSION III Sunday, April 13, 1986 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

In this workshop, participants will develop strategies for improving the lives of lesbians.

SESSIONS II AND III are open to lesbians only.

### HOMOPHOBIA WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend: Session I \_\_\_\_\_  
Session II \_\_\_\_\_ Session III \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:

Herland Sister Resources, Inc.  
c/o Pat Reaves  
2215 N. Douglas Ave.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

All workshops will be held at the YWCA, 129 N.W. 5, Oklahoma City. For more information, contact Pat Reaves, 525-8013, or Elaine Barton, 525-5691.

Funded by a grant from the Chicago Resource Center to the Arkansas Women's Project and Herland Sister Resources, Inc.

Early registration is encouraged, as space is limited.

### CONCERT TO BENEFIT RAPE AWARENESS

Peggy Johnson, Mary Reynolds and Mary Black will perform a benefit concert for the YWCA Crisis Intervention Services, Thursday, April 17, 1986, from 7:30-10:30 p.m., at Oklahoma City's downtown YWCA, 129 N.W. 5. Parking is available.

Funds raised from the concert will support honoraria and travel for a speaker at the Rape Awareness Rally, to be held in conjunction with the Take Back the Night March.

Each year, educational and public awareness events such as these provide thousands of women with support and empowerment. Rape and violence is every woman and man's issue and your involvement is encouraged during Rape Awareness Week, May 11-17, 1986.

A donation of \$3 is requested for the benefit concert.



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

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

Mail or deliver your letters to HSR, Inc., 1630 N.W. 19, Okla. City, OK 73106. Deadline is the 15th of each month.

#### A LETTER MS. DIDN'T PRINT

by Annie McCombs  
(from Lesbian Ethics, Vol. III)

##### Dedication

I dedicate my letter to the memory of Cynthia Engstrom, a 19-year-old Union Square San Francisco prostitute who, on or about June 17, 1985, was bound, gagged and drowned in a bathtub on-the-job allegedly by a \$72,000 a year Marin County, CA, banker named L. Arthur Byrd; Byrd also had been charged last year with sexual harassment by two female bank employees. The media reported that Engstrom had been warned "not to allow the client to bind her." It also reported that this man had been arrested "on suspicion of murdering the prostitute during a bizarre sex fantasy (my emphasis)."<sup>1</sup> Cynthia Engstrom joins Dorothy Stratton in the otherwise faceless and nameless body count of our "disappeared"—although some of us could add those we knew personally who didn't survive male supremacist sexual practices.

March 29, 1985

Dear Editor of Ms. Magazine:

I was forced to drop out of high school because I was gay.<sup>1</sup> The story is classic; the viciousness still stuns me. John Kennedy was president. As a consequence, but not the only cost, I lost an education I wanted. The loss has been permanent, like much damage is.

A major reason why the loss remained permanent is class-based hierarchy. I understand "poor" to mean that when my family went on welfare, it was an improvement. Unlike women published, quoted and admired, "working class" has been a goal, both elusive and disabling. I personally understand what poverty and lack of education mean for women.

You don't know how many women who come from my reality have been assassinated because they were women; none of us ever will. I do know that while poverty set them up, being born a woman painted a target on them. And, while money or education can and does help, neither guarantees a woman's life. These sisters were young, usually teenagers, not always. Many were not white. Some already had kids. Some were prostitutes. I was only lucky—I stayed alive. They weren't so lucky. You know?

If any of these dead women had been luckier, she might have read Mary Kay Blakely's article titled, "Is One Woman's Sexuality Another Woman's Pornography?" in Ms. April, 1985, like I did. Then again, some of us didn't read. Not stupid, not disinterested, just illiterate. Also, what we wanted was something to help us out. She might instead have spent the \$1.75 on a drink at The Study, a 4 a.m. breakfast at Pam Pam East, or an El Faro burrito. None of us were feminists, then. But our lives—and their deaths—are largely why feminism exists for me as a political practice. We're all in a lot of trouble if it doesn't work. Murder and torture are male supremacist sexual practices epidemically forced on women and children. What our dead sisters thought or hoped, we can't know; there is no record. We can guess that they would rather be alive. I do know

that for those women hideously tortured to death "for the sex,"<sup>2</sup> there is no freedom of speech. No freedom. No speech. No life. And, no credibility even in death. Other victims of political repression are understood politically; it is a death-right. I mean, when a man is tortured to death anywhere, people see political persecution; when the same thing happens to a woman the same people see sex.

As editors, you frame a make-believe question, puffing it up as important by emblazoning the plain red cover of Ms. with one-inch-high white letters focusing the word "sexuality" dead-center. (My alternate title for Blakely's work: "Is One Man's Pornography Another Woman's Life?") You, like the ACLU and their phony lawsuit in Indianapolis, attempt to erase the harm, the pornography and the pornographers entirely. You frame your question as if to structure an internecine feminist fight. You call it a "Philosophical Debate."<sup>3</sup> I say that women's right to our own lives is not debatable.

You allow the harm to continue unabated while so-called pro-sex feminists pressure other women into accepting male supremacist sexual practices. This includes practices such as: The glorification of the Marquis deSade; the protection and pursuit of male privilege over other women; the exploitation of women's personal sexual histories complete with details of abuse.<sup>4</sup> If you think otherwise, your first responsibility is to figure out why you think it's OK for you to cost us our sisters (an also our lives, our sexuality).

Those of us who know what pornography looks like up close, know what it took to make it. We know how it's done; how the editors lay it out cover to cover, reel to reel. We know what to look for: name a sexual crime against a woman or a child—we will show it back to you in the pornography sold as sexual entertainment. We know how it works and what it does. We know real names of real women in it and what they really say about it. Some of us are those women.

You quote F.A.C.T.<sup>5</sup> member Barbara Kerr, who was also quoted in the N.Y. Native, Jan. 14-27, 1985, faulting anti-pornography activists because we "always talk about the body count." By that, I gather, dead bodies don't count. Not mutilated or brutalized ones either. Those sisters are the "disappeared" of the women's movement. I will call out their names until the day comes when sex means something else besides women's dead bodies. I live for that day. On that day, I will be silent. I will remember those sisters who have been permanently silenced. Then, I will thank those who changed the world.

##### Notes

<sup>1</sup>On fantasy: Andrea Dworkin's AMICUS CURIAE brief filed in support of the law against pornography (co-authored with Catharine A. MacKinnon, 7th Court of Appeals #84-3147, Feb. 28, 1985, pp. 3-4): "The vocabulary of sexual fantasy often applied to pornography as a genre, is in fact the language of prostitution where the act that a man wants done and pays to get done is consistently referred to as his 'fantasy,' as if it never happens in the real world. He goes to a prostitute and pays her money so that she will do what he tells her to do, and it is this act that is called 'fantasy.'"

<sup>2</sup> "gay" then; "dyke" now; "lesbian" to you.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Lee Lucas likes to say that he did it "for the sex" about his 360+ victims, which include his 63-year-old ex-prostitute mother, who is now being blamed for what he did to her and the others (S.F. Examiner 10-28-84).

<sup>4</sup> Materially, your editorial sidebar policy allowed you to give your side of the pornography question 6 1/2 inches more copy; the parenthetical reference pointers refer to your side 30% more often; the number of sidebar voices run 2-1 in your favor in 3 out of 5 cases. Only Blakely knows what you did to her article.

<sup>5</sup> This practice became undeniable in a class on lesbian-feminism; one student's goal was to destroy serious inquiry while creating a false consciousness-raising situation wherein she could consume live pornography, i.e., listening to "sexual histories."

<sup>6</sup> F.A.C.T. is a small, elite group of leftist-professional types organized only to obstruct other women's attempts to have an anti-pornography civil rights law as written by Dworkin/MacKinnon. (Your editorial gambit turning this tiny group into half of the women's movement is a fraud.)



## NEWS SHORTS

Using United Way's own 1984 statistics on nationwide allocations for Girl's Clubs, Boy's Clubs, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Margaret Gates, executive director of Girl's Clubs of America, pointed out that boys' programs received \$2.38 for every \$1 for girls. The growth of Women's Funds, from four to 27 in the past six years, has raised consciousness at local United Ways. A check of their recent allocations shows that battered women's shelters are finally beginning to receive funding.

--excerpts, Marge Wyngaarden, New Directions for Women, Vol. 15, No. 1, p. 8

Despite advances, "women remain concentrated in 'female intensive' occupations--jobs that have 60% or more women," according to a recent report from the Census Bureau. The leading occupation for women was still that of secretary, followed by elementary school teacher, bookkeeper, cashier and office clerk, most of which are relatively low-paying jobs. The report showed that there is still a large gap in income between men and women holding the same jobs. Among men in professional speciality jobs, medium earnings were \$29,550 in 1983, compared with \$19,200 for women in the same positions. For production craft and repair occupations, the medium pay for men was \$21,520 compared with \$13,250 for women. In all major job groups, the earnings of women working full-time were only about 2/3 of men's earnings.

--from New Directions for Women

"Torch Song Trilogy" opened to great critical acclaim in London last fall, but, because of the customs crackdown, copies of the play cannot be imported into the country. The ban is so strict that customs officers seized 16 autographed play scripts which author Harvey Fierstein sent to the London cast and stage crew as opening night gifts.

In February, 1985, the shipment to Benton Ross, New Zealand's largest importer of lesbian and gay books, was impounded. Thirteen Naiad Press titles were seized, as well as Lesbian Sex from Spinster's Ink.

In Canada, The Joy of Gay Sex recently joined hundreds of other books and magazines on the "customs banned books list." So far, The Joy of Lesbian Sex and The Joy of Sex are not on the list, but the former appears to be threatened. A women's bookstore in Vancouver has reported that copies of the book have mysteriously not arrived when ordered. The threat is especially worrying in Canada, where approximately 80% of all gay and lesbian publications are imported from the U.S.

--excerpts, June Thomas, Off Our Backs, Vol. XVI, No. 2, p. 5

## HERLAND COFFEEHOUSE

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At Greenham Common, there are rumors of a sinister kind of crowd control. A Canadian Broadcasting Corporation TV documentary about the peace camp at the base suggested that the women there are being "zapped" by microwave radiation. Many of them have experienced symptoms associated with such radiation, including drowsiness, headaches and ringing of the ears, as well as severe menstrual disorders, vomiting and sunburn. The women were initially reluctant to publicize these effects, since the British media seizes on every opportunity to portray them as "hysterical." But, though there is no proof that they are being deliberately "zapped"--a military base puts out all kinds of radio emissions--there is some evidence that the base's disc cone antennas may be so aligned that they beam energy at the women.

--Maria Margaronis, Nuclear Times, March/April, 1986

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## NAT'L WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL COMING UP

The National Women's Music Festival will be held May 30-June 1, in Bloomington, Indiana. Featuring main stage performers Pat Parker, Debbie Fier, Linda Moakes, Chris Williamson & Band, the Wallflower Order, Alix Dobkin, Sue Fink, Deidre McCalla, the Robin Flower Band and the NWMF Chamber Ensemble, this year's festival promises all the exhilaration of the tradition it has established.

Other programs include spirituality, writers and music industry conferences, series for children, older women and on women's classical music. In addition, festival favorites, the performer showcases, coffeehouses/open mikes, general workshops and visual arts exhibits, tradeswomen's area, and the traditional dance will fill every minute of the weekend.

Preregistration must be postmarked by April 30, 1986, for reduced rates. A full pass is \$67. For specific programming and registration information, write NWMF/WIA, Inc., P.O. Box 5217, Bloomington, IN 47402.

## SOUTHERN WOMEN'S MUSIC & COMEDY FEST.

The Southern Women's Music & Comedy Festival will be held May 23-26, Memorial Day weekend, in the northeast Georgia mountains, 80 miles north of Atlanta. Performers include Holly Near, Teresa Trull, Alix Dobkin, Mary Watkins, Beth York, Deidre McCalla, Karen McCay, Gayle Marie, Melissa, Hunter Davis, The Washington Sisters and Adrienne Torf.

Others on the program are comics Linda Moaks, Lori Noelle, Pici, Lynn Lavner, Jan Oxenberg and Robin Tyler; speakers Eleanor Smeal, Kate Millett, Rosemary Curb, Susan McGreivy and Margaret Sloan-Hunter. A film festival, dances, crafts and games are also planned.

Write SWMCF, 13514 Hart St., Van Nuys, CA 91405, with SASE, or call 818-904-9495 for information.

## FAMILY VIOLENCE & CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Bright Sky will present the first statewide conference on Family Violence and Chemical Dependency, April 17-19, 1986, at the Excelsior Hotel, 616 W. 17, Tulsa.

Conference topics include the relationship between family violence and chemical dependency, profiles of the abuser and the chemically dependent, and treatment approaches/community solutions.

Write Bright Sky, 1508 S. Denver, Tulsa, OK 74119, for additional information.

## CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

The Women's Resource Center of Norman is sponsoring a Prevention of Child Sexual Assault workshop on April 11, 1986. The main presenter, Steve Kreidler, executive director of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Cleveland County, has helped the agency develop a national reputation for interviewing and screening of potential volunteers.

Dr. Terri Gallmeier, director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, Oklahoma State Department of Health Guidance Services, will provide the keynote address.

For more information, contact Karen Carlson at 364-9424.



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## IT'S AVAILABLE

**\*\*The Oklahoma Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights** publishes a bi-monthly newsletter full of national and local news, updates on clinic violence, legislative reports and vote summaries, and programming activities.

Mary McAnally, state coordinator fo ORCAR, writes, "1986 promises to be full of more attempts to limit our religious and reproductive freedoms, sometimes using economics as a scapegoat." For more information, write ORCAR, P.O. Box 50193, Tulsa, OK 74150, 918-587-1626.

**\*\*Lesbian Friendship Club** for women over 50 and women interested in older women. A warm, reliable and caring service. Nationwide. IDs and unmarked envelopes assure confidentiality. Send SASE to Golden Threads, P.O. Box 2416, Quincy, MA 02139

--from Broomstick

**\*\*UP & COMING** newsletter for women. Subscriptions are \$4.50 for six months. Write them at P.O. Box 718, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72702.

**\*\*The Older Women's League (OWL)** has launched a national women's pension literacy campaign to help women understand basic pension concepts and urge them to plan for the future. A free OWL publication, Special Edition on Women and Pensions, explains basic planning, various aspects of coverage, as well as important pitfalls. Write OWL, Pension Project, 1325 G. St., N.W., Lower Level, Washington, D.C. 20005.

**\*\*If you are planning to come near the gulf coast this next year or so, you may wish to stay at the Naiad Press house at the Gulf of Mexico.** Through the generosity of one of their supporters, they are able to have this place and to make it available to any and all of the people they work with in any capacity--bookstore personnel, writers of future books they may publish, artists, illustrators, distributors, other publishers with like publishing programs, etc. What this will involve is a free place to stay without any rental or utility costs, so that the expense for staying is just food, transportation (if you fly, you will need a rental vehicle as this is very rural north Florida with nothing resembling public transportation). Availability is simply a matter of applying by writing or telephoning and giving the long weekend or one-week period you would like to spend at the beach house. There is a detailed list of information about the place, plus a list of things that cannot be done there. The house sits facing the Gulf of Mexico, a few moment's casual stroll to the water, with the activities most highly recommended going shelling, walking

the beach, fishing, watching the sunrise and sunset, sitting on the screened-in porch. For company, there are sea birds and shore life, plus whoever you bring with you. Up to four women may stay comfortably. Write Barbara Grier and Donna McBride, Naiad Press, P.O. Box 10543, Tallahassee, FL 32302, or call 904-539-9322 for more information.

**\*\*"Everylesbian's Guide to Colleges and Universities."** If you are interested in contributing or helping organize a guide for lesbian students to help them find out where they might find supportive faculty, lesbian courses, an accepting environment, even Lesbian Studies, contact Clare Bright, Box 64, Mankao State University, Mankato, MN 56001.

--from Matrices

**\*\*Applications are being accepted for the 3rd National Festival of Women's Theatre in Santa Cruz, CA, September 18, 1986.** Performances, films, lectures, discussion groups, workshops, play readings, cabaret, stand-up comedy and poetry reading will be a part of the festival. Works written by women and with casts in which at least half the actors are women will be considered. Requests must be made in writing and received by May 1. Deadline for completed applications is May 15. Write NFWT, P.O. Box 1222, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

**\*\*Harpies Monthly**, a woman's newsletter, is currently seeking submissions for a spring issue. Articles and short stories should not exceed 3500 words. Open to topic suggestions. Poetry should not exceed 40 lines. Send SASE for free copy to Harpies Monthly, 701 A. Shotwell, San Francisco, CA 94110-2611. Payment in contributors copies.

**\*\*"Coming Out to Your Parents,"** a 16-page booklet for those considering coming out to parents, is published by Philadelphia Parents of Gays. It identifies six stages most parents go through when they learn of their child's sexual orientation. For free single copy, send SASE to Parents of Gays, P.O. Box 15711, Philadelphia, PA 19103. (Additional copies are 25¢ each. \$20 per 100, includes postage.)

--from Matrices

KRISTINA S. MAREK

Attorney and Counselor at Law



1137 N.W. 31st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
405-521-8434, after 5:00 P.M.



**FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.  
December 31, 1985**

**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets:</b>	
Cash on hand and in bank	\$937.00
Inventories	<u>874.00</u>
	\$1811.00

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

<b>Current Liabilities:</b>	
Sales tax payable	\$148.00
Fund Balance	<u>1663.00</u>
	\$1811.00

**STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE SUPPORT**

Grants and contributions	\$1197.00
Donated services, matls.	<u>2979.00</u>
	\$4176.00

**REVENUES**

Dues, memberships	\$1425.00
Service programs	1655.00
Gross profit from sales	1741.00
Sale, adv., newsltr.	<u>743.00</u>
	\$9740.00

**EXPENSES**

Administrative, gen.	\$ 989.00
Program services	3767.00
Operating exp., center	1631.00
Newsletter, pubcs.	<u>1690.00</u>
	\$8077.00

Net excess of revenue over expenses	\$1633.00
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Fund Balance - Jan. 1, 1985      ..

Fund Balance, Dec. 31, 1985      \$1663.00

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION**

**SOURCES OF FUNDS**

<b>Funds from operations:</b>	
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$1663.00

**APPLICATION OF FUNDS**

Increase in working cap.	<u>\$1663.00</u>
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Continued on Page 7

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**ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN WORKING CAPITAL**

	<u>12-31-85</u>	<u>1-1-85</u>	Working Capital <u>Inc./Dec.</u>
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Cash	\$ 937	--	\$ 937
Inventories	<u>874</u>	--	<u>874</u>
	\$1811	--	\$1811
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Sales tax payable	148	--	148
Working capital	\$1663	--	\$1663

**SCHEDULE OF GROSS PROFIT FROM BOOKSTORE SALES**

	<u>Books</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Posters</u>	<u>Consignment</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Sales</b>	\$3354	\$1162	\$27	\$380	\$369	\$5292
<b>Cost of Sales</b>	2352	736		190	273	3551
<b>Gross profit</b>	\$1002	\$ 426	\$27	\$190	\$ 96	\$1741

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**

	<u>Adm. &amp; Gen.</u>	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Bkstr. Op. Exp.</u>	<u>Nwsltr. Publs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Performers fees</b>		\$1043			\$1043
<b>Accounting</b>	\$270				270
<b>Supplies</b>	285	2323			2608
<b>Postage, shipping</b>	170	65		\$ 718	953
<b>Rent</b>		366	\$1500		1836
<b>Insurance</b>	158				158
<b>Printing</b>	100			972	1072
<b>Utilities</b>			131		131
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	6				6
	<u>\$989</u>	<u>\$3767</u>	<u>\$1631</u>	<u>\$1690</u>	<u>\$8077</u>

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c/o Kris Marek  
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