



# HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

VOLUME II, NUMBER 5  
MAY, 1986

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

## THE CONNECTION BETWEEN HOMOPHOBIA AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

by Suzanne Pharr

I. **ORIGINS**--Male violence against women comes from an imbalance and misuse of power, from dominance and control. It is based on a system of inequity in which there is a belief in gender-based superiority/inferiority.

Through our work in the battered women's movement we have developed an analysis of male violence against women that goes beyond some of the simpler explanations of violence. We do not view it as being caused by undue stress, the influence of alcohol or drugs, the result of childhood violence, mental illness, etc. What we have seen in our work is that violence against women is directly related to the condition of women in a society that refuses them equal pay, equal access to resources, and equal status with males. From this condition comes the confirmation of the male sense of ownership of women, their power over women, and their right to control women for their own means. The violence of men is fed, then, by their sense of their RIGHT to dominate and control, and their sense of superiority over a group of people who, because of gender, are supposedly inferior to them.

Those of us who believe this to be a battered women's movement (and not just a collection of service-providing agencies) have known for a decade or more that if our goal is to end violence against women, then we have to provide more than safe space and service. We have to work for women's rights and equality on all fronts. We understand the relationship of pay inequity to violence, of unpaid household work to violence, of single gender (male) history and literature books to violence, of the entire system of unequal treatment to violence: this lack of equality supports male dominance and control. We know that until women find fair and equal treatment under the law, men will continue to consider it their right to dominate and control.

Given women's economic dependence upon men and male systems, we find it frightening and difficult to step out of line to seek freedom and equality, to change all of society's institutions that keep us from gaining our rights and our power. For our safety we are encouraged to curtail activities that could possibly threaten the protection and acceptance some women get from males and male institutions. Hence, many women feel too much at risk to speak and work in their own behalf and are consequently easily threatened by male disapproval, i.e. society's disapproval. Inequality thrives on the oppressed group's intimidation.

II. **PERPETUATION**--Inequality between the sexes is fed by sex role stereotyping which begins at birth and continues through life.

From the time we are very young, we are taught that there are different proper behaviors expected from each sex, and though the women's movement has worked hard to raise consciousness about these differences, these behaviors are still enforced in a child's life. We still see young boys encouraged to be directive, self-asserting, career-oriented, and young girls taught to be accommodating, pleasing, indirect and family-oriented (with perhaps a career thrown in on the side).

Women are taught that to be directive, self-assertive, career-oriented is to be not womanly, feminine, acceptable to men--and therefore, they might lose what little power and privilege that has been granted them. The myth is that for a woman to maintain roles--to be a pleaser, a giver, a nurturer, a supporter who demands little for herself--is to be repaid with a man to provide authority over her life, financial security, decision-making, and direction. To eschew roles is to be cut adrift, to be without order, to be out of proper boundaries, to be someone who gets in the way of the flow of society and the acceptable routinized order of relationships. The person who thinks that she should be able to accomplish whatever she is capable of instead of what is expected of her is a threat to society: she has stepped out of line. To know no artificial sense of boundaries gives a heady sense of freedom, a sense of release, of joy, and, once one knows it, she has to be intimidated if she's to get back in line again. She must be controlled. She must be taught that she will suffer significant losses if she stays out there in those free, open spaces.

III. **ENFORCERS--HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM.** Two primary enforcers of sex role stereotyping are homophobia (irrational fear and hatred of homosexuals) and heterosexism (the use of sexual identity for dominance and privilege).

It is not by chance that when children approach puberty and increased sexual awareness, that they begin to taunt each other by calling these names: "queer," "faggot," "pervert." Children know what we have taught them, and we have given clear messages that those who deviate from standard expectations are to be made to get back in line. The best controlling tactic at puberty is to be treated as an outsider, to be ostracized at a time when it feels most vital to conform. Those who are different must be made to suffer loss. It is also at puberty that misogyny begins to be more apparent, and girls are pressured to conform to societal norms that do not permit them to realize their full potential.

There was a time when the two most condemning accusations against a woman to ostracize her were "whore" and "lesbian." The sexual revolution and changing attitudes about heterosexual behavior may have led to a lessening of the power of the word whore. However, the word lesbian is still fully charged and carries with it the full threat of loss of power and privilege, the threat of being cut asunder, abandoned and left outside society's protection.

To be a lesbian is to be perceived as someone who has stepped out of line, who has moved out of sexual/economic dependence on men, who is woman-identified. A lesbian is perceived as someone who can live without men, who is therefore (however illogically) against men. A lesbian is perceived as being outside the acceptable, routinized order of things. A lesbian is perceived as someone who has no societal institutions to protect her and who is not privileged to the protection of individual males. A lesbian is perceived as someone who stands in contradiction of the sacrifices heterosexual women have made. A lesbian is perceived as a threat.

Lesbian-baiting is an attempt to control women by calling them lesbians because their behavior is not acceptable; that is, when they are being independent, going their own way, fighting for their rights, demanding equal pay, saying no to violence, being

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Dear Editor:

The homophobia workshops led by Suzanne Pharr were very educational and important for me. Many other women expressed feelings of increased self esteem and a real sense of hope to be able to have an effect on the world that affects us so powerfully.

I believe there is a strong sense of working community among many of the women who attended. I would like to use this letter to ask the workshop attendees ( and any women interested in learning more about dealing with homophobia) to form an ongoing educational/support group.

Women interested in such a group can contact me through Herland Sister Resources.

I also wish to publicly thank Suzanne Pharr for her commitment to all of us--to help us learn, grow and be able to live fully in a life that, by its very structure, denies us so much.

Sincerely,  
NV Godseed

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**HELP MAKE A GOOD THING IN  
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**C A L L** Laura Choate,  
672-4141

for Herland Sister Resources, Inc.

Continued from Page 1

self-assertive, bonding with and loving the company of women, assuming the right to their bodies, insisting upon their own authority, making changes that include them in society's decision-making. Lesbian-baiting occurs when women are called lesbians because they have stepped out of line. It is successful when women in their fear jump back in line, dance whatever dance is necessary for acceptability.

The dance women dance to keep the privilege offered conditionally by males is that of proper role, of behaving in such a way that does not threaten the status of men. They tone down, reduce their work or activities in order to be safe. And the conditions for privilege can change at any time. How many of us have heard battered women's stories about their abusers calling them lesbians or calling the battered women's shelter a lesbian place? The abuser is not so much labeling her a lesbian as he is warning her that she is choosing to be outside society's protection (from male institutions) and she therefore should choose to be with him and what is right. He recognizes the power in woman bonding and fears loss of her servitude and loyalty: the potential loss of his control. The concern is not affectional/sexual identity; the concern is disloyalty. The labeling is a threat.

And the threat is a real one, for women observe the penalties society places on lesbians when possible: loss of community, loss of job and economic security, loss of children, loss of family, loss of church, and sometimes loss of life. Such is the cost of stepping out of line, out of role, and seeking one's own empowerment. Women fear these losses, and to avoid them, many women not only refuse to recognize and support lesbians, but they do self-negating things to maintain approval and protection. Entire industries are built around women's needs to stay within approved, dictated roles. Observe the fashion and cosmetic industries, for example. Consider whatever motivated women to put on a pair of pointed-toe shoes with three-inch spiked heels. Was it comfort?

**IV--FREEDOM IS THE ISSUE--**Freedom to be who we are (and all of who we are), to control our own lives, is the issue.

At issue here is not whether women can wear makeup and high fashion and still be independent and free; at issue is whether women make choices against their best interests of independence and freedom in order to gain approval and protection at a high cost. At issue here is not that all women should be lesbians in order to be independent and free, but that qualities of independence and freedom and self-empowerment, through the strategy of lesbian-baiting, are identified with lesbians and that all of us as women need to look at what blocks our empowerment and, in particular, our response to lesbian baiting. At issue is not our sexual identity, but our freedom.

We need to examine our failures to assert ourselves, to demand our equality. Women working in shelters sometimes in fear agree to provide services only and not to talk about and work for lasting social change; sometimes they agree to serve only acceptable women--lesbians, differently-abled women, women of color, older women, prostitutes need not apply. These women would cause disturbances within the shelter, the community and we would lose approval, funding, etc. Other women have fear of organizations that advocate change for women; they accept the notion that to work for the empowerment of women is to present oneself as a man-hater. From fear, women lose. And what do we lose? We lose the freedom to be who we are, and, therefore, some of our essential humanness.

Our concern with homophobia, then, is not just that it damages lesbians, but that it damages all women. We recognize homophobia as one means of controlling women, and we recognize the connection between control and violence. Homophobia keeps us from stepping out of line and getting into the movement for freedom. If not a single lesbian worked in a shelter or came to a shelter for services, we still would have to work to eliminate homophobia because we know how it is used to disempower women and keep us vulnerable to violence and abuse. To work against homophobia is to work against violence against all women.

**CENTER HOURS:**

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sundays, 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## POINT OF VIEW

by Patti Weaver

I was apprehensive about attending a session on homophobia. I wondered if the women who are lesbian would think I looked "too feminine"--and I wondered if the women who are lesbian would think I was a deficient feminist consorting with the "enemy."

I was wrong. It seems all my fears were unfounded.

I didn't find rejection--I wasn't put down because my close friend is a man. What I found was a truth I found very difficult and depressing to accept--that women who are lesbians are frightened of exposure, fear for their jobs, even their lives.

I think the time has come for those of us who are non-lesbian to face reality--women are hurting from an incredible fear and hatred that is even codified into law prohibiting them from teaching in Oklahoma.

I think the time has come for us to understand that sexism stays alive and well in Oklahoma because of homophobia, that no one will be free until everyone is free.

I think the time has come for us to challenge the stupid stereotypes of homosexuals we hear so often.

To my non-lesbian sisters, I wish more of you had been there, that Saturday in April, at the homophobia workshop. If you heard and saw the pain, you would never be the same.

I will never be the same. I vow never to let anyone off the hook again when they make a slur aimed at a homosexual. I am sick at the viciousness and fear. I am sick at the bigotry. I am sick at the silence.

To my lesbian sisters, I say thank you--thank you for having the courage to tell me, and everyone else who was there that Saturday in April, your pain.

It is now my pain.

## ATTENTION, VOLUNTEERS!!!

Your contributions in time and energy to Herland are valued and needed. To show our appreciation in more than words, friendships and that sense of accomplishment toward creating a supportive community, we are offering gift certificates in return for donated time.

For each 12 hours you spend working at Herland, you will receive a \$5 gift certificate, which may be exchanged for books, music and miscellaneous items, not including consignment items.


Consider getting involved and, thank you, thank you to all our current volunteers. This gift certificate policy is effective beginning May 1, so get a volunteer log sheet at Herland and start keeping track of the hours you spend working at the store.



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**CONGRATULATIONS, IT'S A GIRL!!**  
**Making Babies on the Frontier**

by two Oklahoma Women

"Lesbians have been having children and rearing them since the beginning of time." We believed that this generalization was true, but, as lesbians who wanted to have children, the options that we were aware of (sexual intercourse, insemination from a known donor and artificial insemination) seemed\*undesirable. As a couple and a family unit, we ultimately rejected the idea of co-parenting with a male. We wanted our children to be children of our family unit, not ours and some#else's. The search for an answer to our dilemma ended when we found out about the Sperm Bank of Northern California.

This feminist, pro-people group of sensitive women and men is dedicated to reproductive freedom for all women. My partner and I were received as the family unit that we indeed are, and throughout the entire process--from orientation to positive pregnancy testing--we were treated with dignity and genuine respect and concern.

After attending orientation, we began charting cervical mucus changes and basal body temperature. After about four months of charting, we were ready to begin the insemination process. For the next 11 months we lived that roller coaster existence common to couples trying to get pregnant. Our joyful anticipation was matched by our overwhelming feelings of loss and grief each time the inseminations were unsuccessful. Eventually, we worked with the Bay Area Services Infertility Clinic "BASIC" (located in the same building) and after one inter-uterine insemination, we were expecting our baby.

The first trimester was long and sometimes anxiety filled. Nausea became an all-day-long part of our existence. And, we knew that the first trimester was the next step to get through on the road to having our baby. Excellent prenatal care beginning the first month of pregnancy (provided by the Feminist Women's Health Center, also located in the same building) played a key role in the maintenance of our pregnancy.

The pregnancy was the "best of times, and the worst of times." Feeling our baby grow and move--reveling in the unique expectation of a couple awaiting a new family member--being together and dreaming of days to come--these were the best of times. The worst of times were the emotional ups and downs--wondering if we were being fair to the baby--wondering if we could still have time for each other--trying to figure out new ways of being a family in the midst of discrimination, ignorance and sometimes hostility for not bringing this child into the world in the "traditional" way with the "traditional" family--anticipation of the pain that someday our child

\*(insert) unattainable or # -one

would face because of the fact of her/his lesbian mothers.

But, the very best of times began one early evening last October, when our daughter drew her first breath and began the marvelous process of sharing her uniqueness with us. While it is not always easy and while we are sure we share the struggles of all "new" parents, our baby is an unending source of joy and laughter in our home.

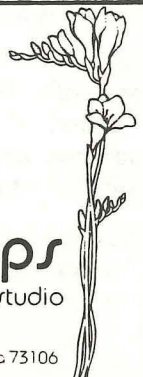
We share our story as a way of letting you know of the option we found. During the years of searching for options, we would have been overwhelmingly grateful to have known that an organization such as the Sperm Bank of Northern California existed.

We are also willing to answer any questions you may have. You may contact us through Herland.

Several more parting facts: You need not live in California to utilize the Northern California Sperm Bank, as they ship frozen sperm all over the country; the fee is based on income; our daughter's biological mother was 37 at the time of her birth and that was not unusual for women choosing insemination; we are planning to have another baby in the next couple of years--same donor--different biological mother.

For more information, you may contact the Sperm Bank of Northern California, 2930 McClure, Oakland, CA 94609, 405-444-2014.

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National Now Conference will be held in Denver, June 13-15, 1986. This is the closest a national conference has been to Oklahoma in a long time, so take advantage of this opportunity. If you are an at-large member and plan to attend, write Loretta Pecchioni at P.O. Box 21538, OKC, OK 73156, for information about delegate status for voting purposes.

--from Oklahoma NOW Newsletter, April 1986

Coordinate For Kids, May 9-10, 1986, is designed to promote a collaborative effort of parents and professionals working together to improve services for children who are emotionally disturbed and/or have special needs.

The conference is an Oklahoma Child & Adolescent Service System Program and will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, at the Center for Continuing Education, Nicholson Tower, 5th floor, Oklahoma Children's Memorial Hospital. There is no registration fee.

Coordinate for Kids is presented by the OK Dept. of Mental Health, Positive Reflections: A Parent Coalition, OK Institute for Child Advocacy, OK Commission on Children & Youth; in cooperation with the OK Adolescent Health Project, OK Alliance for Children, OK State Dept. of Health, and OK Dept. of Human Services. For more information, contact the OK Institute for Child Advocacy at 405-236-2789, or Positive Reflections, 405-751-6375.

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence 3rd national conference, July 15-19, 1986, St. Louis, Missouri. Contact Pat Reaves, conference planning committee, c/o OKC YWCA, 232-7681.

Exclusively Greece, a women's tour/the ideal vacation. July 26-Aug. 17. For itinerary and information, write: Meltemi, Ltd., P.O. Box 3333-0333, Washington, D.C. 20009, 202-483-8333.

2ND Annual Lesbian Celebration of Aging is for lesbians over 40 and friends. It will be held July 3-6 at the Wisconsin Womyn's Land Cooperative campground, DOE Farm. For more information, write Aging Celebration, 2529 S. 18th Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Crone Gathering. A Web of Crones invites all supporters and friends to a gathering on Hornby Island, B.C., Canada, the week of August 15-22. Bed & Breakfast is available on the island, Crone Haven can sleep 11. Bring music, stories, strong shoes, swimwear, and let us form our Crones Charter and plan our future, spinning dreams and schemes. Information from A Web of Crones, P.O. Box 6, Hornby Island, B.C. VOR 1Z0, Canada.

11th Annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, held in conjunction with the 6th Annual Louisiana State Gay Conference, June 5-8, 1986, at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. Four days of workshops, entertainment, speeches, a volleyball tournament, a gay-themed photographic exhibition, films, videos, Mardi Gras party, interfaith worship service, picnic, dance, swimming party and more. Keynote address by Lea Hopkins, Black lesbian poet, author of I'm Not Crazy, Just Different and Womyn, I Have Known You, and David Scondra, openly gay Boston City Councilperson.

For details about workshops, housing, special needs, etc., write for brochure: S.E.C.L.G.M., Inc., P.O. Box 51877, New Orleans, LA 70151-1877.

Disability Awareness Day '86, "Disability Doesn't Mean Inability." The physically disabled need a recreation outlet, too. Come watch the fun and experience your unique abilities and courage. Live music, carnival games, food, basketball, track, tennis, bowling, racquetball, etc.

Disability Awareness Day will be held Saturday, May 17, at Okla. City Community College, 7777 S. May, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is sponsored by American Respiratory and Rehabilitation, Okla. City Community College, Hillcrest Osteopathic Hospital and OKC Civitan Club. For further information, call Bob Daniel, 843-1471, or Maggie Keller, 843-2525.

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## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

Downtown Oklahoma City is the site of this year's annual Take Back the Night rally and march, to be held on Thursday, May 15, from 7-10:00 p.m. at Kerr Park, Kerr and Broadway.

Donna Meyer, New Orleans long-time activist in the anti-rape movement, will present the keynote speech. Peggy Johnson, vibrant City singer/song-writer, will lead the crowd in music and chants.

Take Back the Night marches take place each spring all over the world to protest rape and violence against women; to raise awareness of dangerous areas in local communities; to support survivors of rape; to publicize local available resources.

Last year's rally in Winans Park and march through the Mesta Park neighborhood was a premier event, with an incredibly empowering public speak-out.

A reception will be held to honor legislators who have contributed to the rights of women, children and men, on Monday, May 12, at 11:30 a.m., in the Blue Room at the Capitol. Everyone is invited.

Sponsored by YWCA Crisis Intervention Services.

## CINDERELLA AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT CSU

Colette Dowling, author of The Cinderella Complex, will be the keynote speaker at the summer conference of the Oklahoma Women in Educational Administration, June 19-20, at Central State University in Edmond.

The theme of the conference is "The Female Legacy," and one hour graduate credit is available. For additional information, contact Teresa Mitchell, 11420 S. Western, OKC, OK 73170.

## MULTI-ETHNIC DANCE FOR BIG MOUNTAIN

The Street People Reggae Band, the Friends of Tradition and the Oklahoma International Folk Dancers are featured entertainment at a fundraiser for the Big Mountain Support Group.

The event is Sunday, May 4, at 3:00 p.m., at the Native American Center gym, 2900 S. Harvey, Oklahoma City.

## MIDWEST WIMMIN'S FESTIVAL

The Midwest Wimmin's Festival, June 13-22, at Camp Pin Oak, Lake of the Ozarks State Park, Missouri, includes arts and crafts, entertainment, workshops, sharing of skills and ideas and wimmin energy.

Registration is on a sliding scale based on income and number of days attending. Check the Herland Bulletin Board for details, or write to P.O. Box 5945, Kansas City, MO 64111. Deadline is May 15 to assure your place.

## OK NAT'LL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN MTNG

Oklahoma NOW will hold its annual meeting for the election of officers and bylaws amendments on Saturday, May 17, from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the YWCA, 411 S. Johnstone, Bartlesville. The film "One Fine Day" will be shown. Bartlesville NOW will provide lunch. There is no registration fee, but preregistration is suggested. Inform them if you need child care, interpretation for the deaf, reader for blind, or mobility assistance. Alternative housing is available. Send registration to Sally Thomas, 2633 Chapel Hill Rd., Bartlesville, OK 74006.

## MOTHER'S DAY PEACE CELEBRATION

A Mother's Day Peace Celebration will be held May 11, from 4:00-5:30 p.m., at the First Christian Church amphitheater, 3700 N. Walker, Oklahoma City.

Activities for adults and children include an historical pageant of renowned women peacemakers, storytelling by "Miss Fran" Morris, vocal and instrumental music, and refreshments.

The purpose of the celebration is to bring alive the traditional meaning of Mother's Day as a time to reflect on and pray for peace on earth. Though the first celebration of Mother's Day is usually credited to Anna Jarvis, whose suggestion prompted Congress to make it a national holiday in 1913, it was actually Julia Ward Howe, author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," who first promoted a festival called Mother's Day in 1872, devoted to the advocacy of peace. She gave to Mother's Day a meaning it has since largely lost.

Sponsored by Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament, Peace Links, Church Women United Board, OK Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**\*\*Oklahoma City's Lambda Productions has announced its next play, "Norman, Is That You?" For more information, contact them c/o Christ the King MCC, 1900 N.W. 12, OKC 73106, 521-8352.**

**\*\*Affirmation, the United Methodist Church's ministry for lesbian and gay concerns, is forming groups in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. At this time the Dallas groups are heading the organizing efforts, so those interested should call 214-948-1546, or write Affirmation, 729 N. Winnetka, Dallas, TX 75208, for local contacts and meeting locations.**

**\*\*As of March 15, one out of four gay males tested in OKC is an AIDS virus carrier. Out of 49 diagnosed cases, 25 AIDS-related deaths have occurred.**

--from The Gayly Oklahoman, April 1986

**\*\*Women of the Year: 1985, Maria Bordas, who worked toward satisfying her need to "go on working to change things" by co-funding the Mi Casa Resource Center in Denver to increase Hispanic women's education and job skills. Her next goal is to duplicate Mi Casa's pioneering employment program for Hispanic girls throughout the US, with the help of a program manual she is developing.**

Author Louise Erdrich, who combined high-precision writing skills with the all-too-rarely heard perspective of the Native American woman to create the award winning book, Love Medicine. Erdrich's novel, her first, describes the lives of Chippewa women and men over 50.

--from Her Say

**\*\*The OU women's softball team is ranked 19th in the latest NCAA Division I softball poll.**

## VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL PROJECT

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project was organized in May 1984 as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of Minnesota, with the project's goals to build a life-size monument depicting a woman veteran of the Vietnam war and to place it in proximity to "The Wall" and "The Three Fighting Men" in Washington, D.C.

This memorial is intended to acknowledge gratefully and honor the women who served during that long and difficult war. The names of the eight women killed in Vietnam are inscribed on "The Wall," in the midst of the men's names.

The founders of the project are Diane Carlson Evans, who served as an Army nurse at the 36th Evacuation Hospital, Vung Tau, and at the 71st at Pleiku, 1968 and '69, and Donna-Marie Boulay, an Army nurse in Vietnam in 1967 and '68 at the 36th and 93rd Evacs.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Project is writing an important page in American history. Anyone wishing to contribute, please write: VWMP, 511 11th Ave., South, Box 45, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

--Emergency Nursing News, Vol. 12, No. 1, exc.

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## IT'S AVAILABLE

Lilith, now in its 10th year, is a feminist quarterly that seeks to reach the entire spectrum of Jewish women, from Orthodox to Reformed to women who have no religious or organizational affiliation. Subscriptions are \$14 for 4 issues for individuals. Write 250 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019

Taking Charge of Your Life: Proceedings of a Forum on Living Wills and Other Advance Directories, from the Older Women's League and ABA. \$4.50, including postage, from OWL, 1325 G. St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005

Feminist Forum is a bi-monthly magazine of women's issues in Japan and other parts of the world. Subscriptions are \$19 airmail, \$14 sea. Write Ohnuma-kata, 2-39-3 Zenpukuji, Suqinamiku, Tokyo 167, Japan

Transformation, Women's Project Newsletter. Your contribution is tax-deductible: \$5 low income, \$10 general membership, \$25 supporting, \$50 and above, sustaining gift. Concerned in particular about issues of importance to traditionally underrepresented women: poor women, aged women, women of color, teenage mothers, lesbians, women in prisons, etc. All are women who experience discrimination and violence against their lives. Write the Women's Project, 1601 Dennison, Little Rock, AR 72202

Lesbian Aging Project is working toward the establishment of a multicare retirement program for elderly lesbians. Levels of care being considered: nursing home, intermediate care, retirement facility, etc. Write for questionnaire to Pam Smith, Lesbian Aging Project, 11223 S.E. 21st St., Portland, OR 97214

Focus, literary journal of the Daughters of Bilitis. Focus is the oldest publication of its kind for lesbians in the US. After a two-year cessation of publication, it is now continuing in a new and improved format. A 36-page journal will be issued twice a year, summer and winter. Submissions of poetry, fiction, reviews, non-fiction, photography, art work are welcome. Subscriptions are \$8 from Focus, c/o D.O.B., Office 3, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138

**CASSIA MEALOR, M.S.**

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The Pride Institute, an in-patient treatment facility for gay and lesbian alcoholics and drug addicts, is dedicated to the proposition that these addicts have the same need for freedom from society's daily pressures as every other recovering person in treatment. Unfortunately, the homophobia prevalent in any heterosexual environment is one of those pressures on gays and lesbians. The Institute offers a complete program designed to send gay men and lesbians back into society centered in their hearts and minds, free from all mood-altering substances, and proud of it. For admissions or further information, call 1-800-54-PRIDE, or write 14400 Martin Drive., Eden Prairie, MN 55344

The Alcoholism Center for Women, Inc., in Los Angeles, is a nonprofit, community-based program with over 10 years experience providing services to women with alcohol related problems and to women at high risk for alcoholism. At high risk are adult children of alcoholics, lesbians and survivors of child sexual abuse or domestic violence. In addition, they serve family and concerned community members. Recovery services and prevention programs are available on a sliding scale. No one is turned away for lack of funds. For more information, write 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, or call 213-381-7805

Lesbian Ethics is published three times a year. \$12 for individuals from LE Publications, P.O. Box 943, Venice, CA 90294

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## ARKANSAS RACISM JOINS COMPUTER NETWORK

Reprinted from Arkansas Gazette, April 12, 1986  
article by Michael Haddigan

A computer network based at North Little Rock has joined the white supremacist computer bulletin boards at Dallas, Houston, Chicago and North Carolina that have been disseminating racist propaganda and far-rightwing political messages.

The "Arkansas Liberty Net," an affiliate of the "Aryan Nation Liberty Net" originates from the residence of Wilbur B. Hale, 6902 Pontiac Drive, North Little Rock. In a telephone interview Thursday, Hale said he was an Identity Christian, a member of the White Patriot Party of North Carolina and a former member of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Hale also was an unsuccessful candidate for the North Little Rock School Board in the 1985 election.

"This system is dedicated to the free exchange of ideas," the introductory message in the system states.

"If you are an anti-Communist, you have made the right connection. If you love the heritage, culture and traditions of the white race, then you are at home. If on the other hand you are consumed with one of the modern malignant social diseases such as liberalism, atheism or egalitarianism, then you have definitely dialed the wrong number."

One message on the Arkansas computer network requests information on homosexuals so that they could be "rounded up" for "internment and quarantine" to stem the "AIDS epidemic," a reference to the deadly disease acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Another message praises Gordon Kahl, the antitax protester who died in an Arkansas shootout, and calls him Arkansas' "new hero." The message also compares him with the seven astronauts who died in the space shuttle Challenger.

Computer enthusiasts have established thousands of bulletin boards during the last few years as a way of exchanging computer programs and equipment information. Recently the networks have been joined by computer bulletin boards specializing in ultraright-wing, racist propaganda.

Access to the new Arkansas network can be gained with a home computer and a telephone. The phone number for the system is listed under the name of "William Travis" and under Hale's address.

Hale said he was not the operator of the computer network, but that a man he knows as William Travis from Dallas came to Little Rock last week to set up the system. Hale said he did not know what else Travis did at Little Rock before returning to Dallas.

Hale, a retired electrical engineer, said he had rented a room in his house for a "very nominal sum" to Travis and that Travis had installed an Apple IIC computer in the room for the bulletin board.

Hale said he had not "interrogated" the computer system, but that Travis showed him some of the messages on the system. Hale said he knew enough about the system to know that it was "a patriotic network." He said Travis was "a real nice guy," but that he did not know much about him or how to get in touch with him.

A message titled, "Queer Watch," and headed, "We may need to round them up soon," said that "because of the terrible crisis this nation faces over the AIDS epidemic," the Liberty Net has ordered new equipment that will allow people to use their home computers to transmit information to the computer system.

"We advise all callers to start collecting now the names and addresses of queers in their local area for entry into

this online data base," the message states. "You should also include in your list the addresses of all known deviant establishments where sodomites are known to congregate, as well as the names of restaurants where they work."

The message then asked for the full names, addresses, ages and occupations of homosexuals and the names and addresses of "all family members and close associates" of homosexuals.

The information, the message said, would be included in a "nationwide hotline" and would be "acted upon when deemed expedient."

The ode to Gordon Kahl, written by Louis Beam, the former Texas Klan leader with close links to the Aryan Nations church of Hayden Lake, Idaho, compares Kahl to Viking, Spartan and Roman warriors, Christian Crusaders, American soldiers of the Revolutionary War, Texans who fought at the Alamo and soldiers of the Confederacy.

Kahl, a member of the militant antitax group, Posse Comitatus, who was being sought by federal agents for the shooting of two federal agents, was killed in a 1983 shoot-out with Lawrence County Sheriff Gene Matthews in a farmhouse near Smithville. Matthews also died in the shoot-out.

The Arkansas Liberty Net also includes numerous other messages attacking Jews, blacks, Hispanics, the news media, the federal government, homosexuals and immigrants. Many of the messages also have appeared on the Texas computer networks.

Several messages call for armed revolution against the federal government. One asks why the federal government sanctions the killing of Communists in Nicaragua, but will not allow the killing of "the Communists in Washington, D.C., and Berkeley sic."

Material by Beam and Robert Miles of Michigan, a former Klansman, who now operates an Identity organization known as the Mountain Church, also appears on the Arkansas system.

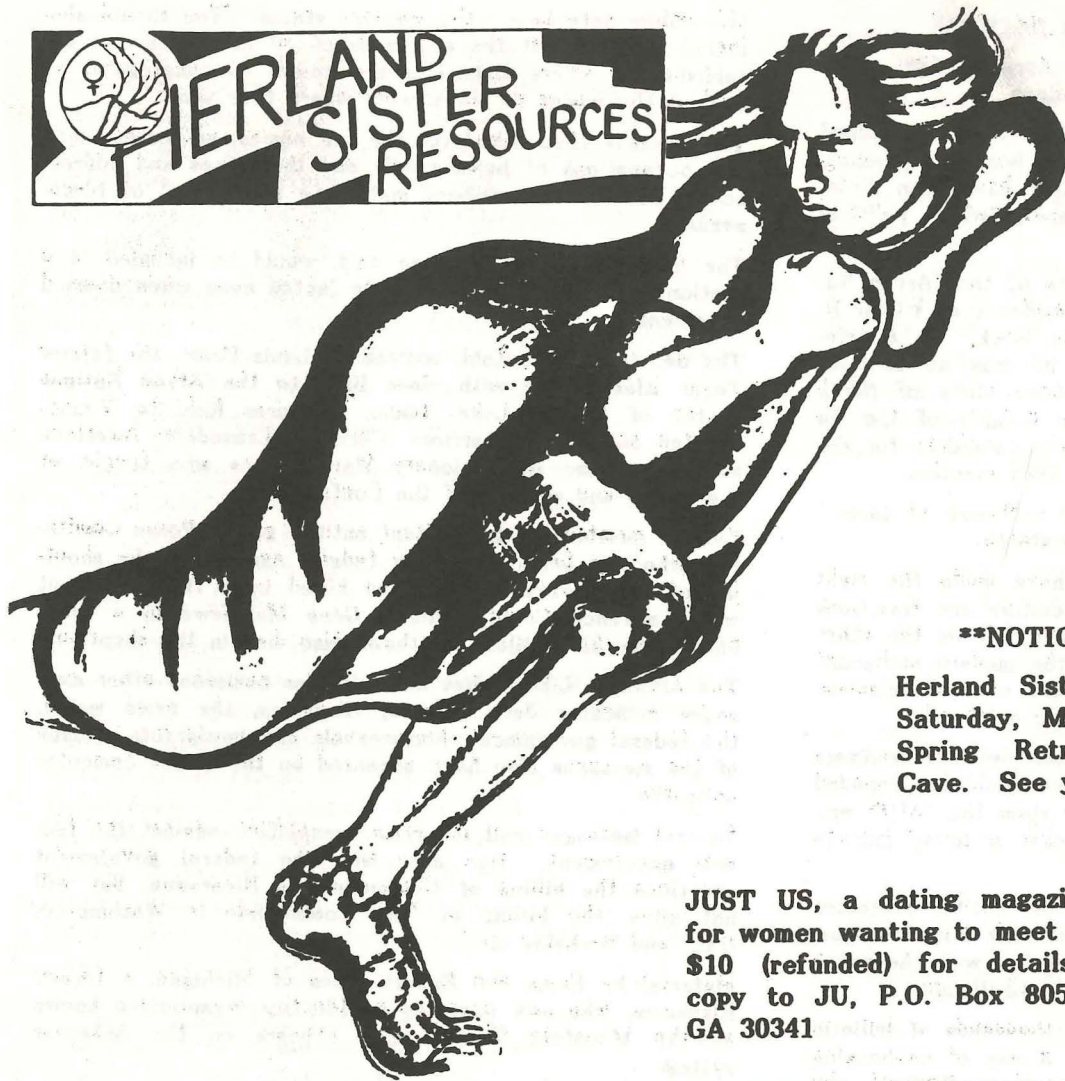
The Dallas network states that the system operator is "Nathan B. Forrest," the name of the Confederate general who also is credited with founding the Ku Klux Klan. The name is thought by watchdog groups to be a pseudonym for Beam, who previously was based at Dallas. He reportedly has dropped out of sight in recent months.

Hale said he had met Beam several years ago at a "Freedom's Festival" organized by the Christian Patriots Defense League of Licking, Mo. Asked if William Travis was a pseudonym for Beam, Hale said it was not.



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