

to the HERLAND VOICE

JULY, 1991

AND WE WERE PROUD IN '91!

The fourth annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade of Oklahoma went off Sunday June 23 without a hitch. There were a few fanatical Bible quoters yelling through the loudspeaker in their truck and no article in Monday's Daily Oklahoman, but what else is new? Why can't those fanatics come up with something constructive to do with their time? This is something they can't seem to find in the Christian Bible. Perhaps they should look closer.

Anyway, Debra Couch estimated attendance at 650 and she should know—she's been to all of them and been involved in the planning. The type of work that she, Cindy Bookout, Jerry West, Candy West and so many others do for the lesbian and gay community is so much more attractive than any hate-mongering. We must focus on that. Community. Working together. Coming out. Not putting up with homosexual jokes. The list goes on and on.

There is nothing like marching in a Lesbian and Gay pride parade in Oklahoma City. The best part is that traffic is blocked and cars have to pile up waiting for us to go by. Thirty-ninth and Pennsylvania is a busy intersection, after all. Also, there's a strong camaraderie with the bystanders who come out of their houses to watch and offer the support of recognition.

The culmination of the march comes as the 3/4 of a mile long parade marches past Penn onto the strip. The street is lined with those who for whatever reasons can't march. They cheer the marchers as the heroes they really are. It's equal opportunity cheering. Courage brings out the best in people.

The groups represented at this year's parade were many. There were the AIDS Coalition, P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Oasis, Herland, ACT-UP, Y.O.U.T.H. (Young, Organized, Understanding, Talented Homosexuals), OGLPC, OUGLBA, and more. The local clubs had queens and floats (the Porthole was doing some smooth sailing) and of course there were convertibles. Harris Ford donated four cars for the day.

Honored guests included Dr. Louise Young and Vivian Armstrong of Dallas, the Human Rights Commission of OK, L.D. Nowell, P-FLAG, and ASP/The Winds House.

Logistics Coordinator Cindy Bookout was pleased with another successful parade and said "We were glad to have lots of people from out of town [Tulsa, Dallas, etc] and invite more from surrounding areas to participate next year."

Don't let next year's parade pass you by. You don't have to say anything. Showing up takes care of that. That is the main statement to make—show up. If every gay and lesbian in the greater metro area showed up, do you realize that we would have a parade of about 50,000? (Low estimate!) Seeing a group of lesbians, gays, and supporters lined from Classen Boulevard almost to Pennsylvania will show that you are not alone.

Special thanks go to co-chairs Jerry West and Keith Porter, secretary/treasurer Richard LaMonyon, and Logistics Coordinators Cindy Bookout and Paul Thompson. All participants, in front of and behind the scene—our hats are off to you! ■

RE-TREAT YOURSELF IN OCTOBER

"I loooved the tie dye!" "The best blueberry pancakes I have ever had . . ." "Women's community . . . music and dancing . . . friends vacationing . . . the pot luck Saturday night was doubly lucky . . ."

Yes the 13th Herland Retreat at Robber's Cave State Park near Wilburton, Oklahoma didn't fall prey to unlucky superstition. Rather it lived up to all the fun that the retreats have always cracked up to be. This is not one of those pie in the sky, airy type of reviews. It's just retreat stuff. Those who have been know, those who haven't have another chance in October to find out.

Imagine a cool evening, sitting around the campfire, listening to a woman's pretty voice singing as she strums the old Silvertone guitar. Or what about a hot card game in the main room? If you're having some problems that need discussing, a listener is close at hand. Being alone is just a trail away. These are just a few scenarios to expect Friday, October 11 through Sunday October 13 at Red Rock Canyon State Park just an hour west of Oklahoma City.

It's set in October just for the purpose of capturing the beautiful fall of this red dirt state. Made for women to enjoy the countryside with a group of current and soon-to-be friends, a common interest to bind the spirit.

It will follow the familiar pattern of Friday gathering, Saturday leisure and workshops, nighttime pot luck dinner and evening music. Sunday is clean-up and head for home. The park itself won't disappoint hikers and general nature lovers.

Spread the word. Mark your calendars. If you've never been to a retreat, treat yourself. If you have, re-treat yourself! See you in October. ■

MUSIC!
FOOD!

DONNA D.

AND THE

**Herland Garden Party
And Bar-B-Que**

SATURDAY, JULY 20th

2312 N.W. 39th

6:00 P.M.

VOLLEYBALL!
CROQUET!?!

\$5.00 DONATION

(MORE IF YOU CAN, LESS IF YOU CAN'T)

IDA WELLS BARNETT

1862-1931

Ida Wells-Barnett was a woman of incredible courage and strength. Her parents died of yellow fever when she was 14, leaving her to raise the family on a teaching salary she earned while pretending to be 18. She moved to Memphis in 1884 to teach in a black urban school, and while traveling on the C&O Railroad, was forcibly thrown off the train when she refused to move to the "colored" car. She sued the railroad, winning the case in circuit court, only to have the decision overturned by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1887.

Using the pen name "Iola," she began writing articles for black newspapers. She criticized the inadequate schooling available for black children in Memphis, and as a result, lost her teaching job. She bought a one-third interest in the *Memphis Free Speech*, launching a full-time journalism career.

When on March 9, 1892, three black men were lynched for allegedly raping a white woman, she investigated and published her findings. The victims had been operating a successful grocery store in the city, to which white shopkeepers were losing business. Wells-Barnett published a series of articles in which she exposed the familiar pretext of sexual misconduct as justification for lynching, which she cited as the newest tool for enforcing an economic caste system in the South. In an editorial, she admonished perpetrators that: "Nobody believes the threadbare lie that Negro men rape white women. If Southern white men are not careful, they will overreach themselves and public sentiment will then be reached which will be very damaging to the reputation of their women." Shortly after the publication of the expose, the offices of the paper were burned down.

Wells-Barnett was in New York City at the time and her life was threatened if she returned to Memphis. She launched a one-woman crusade against lynching, giving testimonials and lectures, and traveling to England where she was instrumental in establishing anti-lynching societies and committees to combat racial segregation.

Her trip attracted national attention in America, and her crusade became an international one, helping to break the determined silence of some influential American leaders.

An uncompromising militant, Wells-Barnett distrusted whites fighting racism, but worked with white women in the suffrage movement. She believed in woman's suffrage because blacks would benefit from women's votes. She founded the Alpha Suffrage Club, the first black women's suffrage association, and she marched with the delegation in the 1913 inaugural eve parade. In 1916, she was to lead the Chicago delegation in a parade of 5,000, but was told that she had to march in a special "colored" section at the rear of the parade, because of pressure from southern suffragists. She disappeared until the parade was underway, then stepped off the sidewalk and joined the ranks of the Chicago delegation.

Ida Wells-Barnett's life stands as a tribute to one of the strongest, most uncompromising voices opposing racism in our nation's history. ■

Quality Service With That Personal Touch™



TERI HOELTZEL
SUSAN BROOKS
Owners

(405) 942-5693
501 N. Meridian, Suite 107
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-5701

Kay Killgore, M.Ed.

Woman to Woman Counseling

1010 N.W. 45th
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
(405) 524-1062

Stranger than fiction... ESTHER WILLIAMS ASKED TO LEAVE COUNTRY CLUB

Los Angeles (June 5) — Actress Esther Williams said she was asked to leave a Los Angeles Country Club benefit for wearing trousers to the event—at which she was to have been the guest of honor.

Ms. Williams, 67, explained that a man instructed her to don a skirt kept on hand for dress code offenders or to leave. She was wearing an Oscar de la Renta outfit of black silk trousers, a matching camisole and floral jacket.

"I thought he was kidding, I really did," the actress said.

The MGM studios' "Bathing Beauty" of the 1940's said she took the microphone and told partygoers at the Childhelp USA fundraiser, "I haven't done anything to offend anyone here tonight, except that I have silk on my legs and they want my legs bare."

After making her announcement, Ms. Williams said she left the club.

The country club Wednesday did not return a message asking for a comment. ■

NEED TO TALK?
NEED COMMUNITY INFORMATION?

CALL **842-GAYS**
The Gay & Lesbian
HELPLINE

Hours: 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. Wednesday - Monday

Volunteers Needed: Leave a message with
a current volunteer if you are interested.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

According to the May 1, 1991 Washington Spectator, which was devoted to the "progress" of the American woman, more women were abused in 1989 than got married. The official rate of assaults against women aged 20 to 24 has risen 48% since 1974; a woman is battered every 15 seconds in the United States. Domestic violence now results in more injuries among women than auto accidents, rapes and muggings combined; and it is the crime least likely to be reported. The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence now estimates that 3 to 4 million women are beaten by their husbands or partners annually. ■

Inf from *In These Times*, May 29.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Herland has been encouraged by the tremendous interest that the community has demonstrated in recycling; unfortunately we are also a bit overwhelmed. We will still maintain our recycling center for those of you who will otherwise trash your recyclables, and remember that aluminum cans represent a (little) income for us. But we are now asking that when possible please take all other recycleables elsewhere.

Pratt's grocery stores are no longer accepting recyclables, but Recycle America, located on N.W. 4th between MacArthur and Portland, will take aluminum cans, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, glass, plastic - HDPE (milk, juice, water jugs) and plastic - PET (soda bottles) as long as everything is clean, clear of caps and rings and glass is sorted by color. They will also take certain kinds of office and computer paper, but you need to be aware of contaminants; a full list of these can be obtained at their office.

Wal-Mart has recently begun placing bins outside their stores for plastic, newspaper and aluminum. You might call the store nearest you to see if a bin is in place.

And if you're moved by the spirit, contact your local civic leaders and politicians and encourage them to develop a recycling program for the metropolitan area! It's time we had curbside recycling! ■

*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.

ECOLOGY CONFERENCE

The St. Louis Area Incinerator Network and Gateway Green Alliance will present "Don't Waste the Midwest! Incinerators & the Fight to Stop Them" on July 12th and 13th, 1991, in Eureka, Missouri. Friday evening: Talk by *Waste Not* editor Dr. Paul Connett. Saturday: Bad Fumes Rising video festival; concurrent workshops on strategies to halt incinerators and technical issues of incineration; slide show and more. Eureka High School, 829 Highway, Eureka, MO.

For more information, call (324) 727-8554 or write Gateway Green Alliance, P.O. Box 8094, St. Louis, MO 63156. ■

Office Hours
Tues - Thurs 9-3
Friday 10-6
Sat by appointment

(405) 843-3281

VISA & MC accepted.
We file insurance.

Dr. Debra K. Browning, R.Ph., D.D.S.

Comprehensive Dental Care



5009 North Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 103
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

HI! DO YOU NEED A PLACE TO WORK

on that art or craft project, etc., or space for a darkroom? If the answer is "yes!" please phone me at 787-6784 or 799-7450. Ask for Susan.

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

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:
Margaret Cox, Deborah Fox, Pat Reaves

CIRCULATION: 750

GENERAL INFO: (405) 521-9696 (leave message)

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the *Herland Voice* are free upon request.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNDER PRESSURE

Lesbian and gay organizations across the country and around the world are uniting to put pressure on AI to vote for inclusion of homosexuals as prisoners of conscience this summer. Utilizing Amnesty's own strategies of letterwriting and petition, Queer Planet (the international focus group of Queer Nation SF) has designed a series of postcards questioning Amnesty's refusal to include sexual minorities in its mandate, and demanding the adoption as prisoners of conscience those imprisoned solely on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or HIV status.

"Amnesty has been working on this for 17 years," says Julie Dorf, co-chair of IGLHRC. "A positive decision must be made at this 1991 conference, not another call for another report. Let's hope that they vote for inclusion this year for the sake of gays and lesbians around the world."

"When will Amnesty International realize that we need and deserve their advocacy?" wonders Mark Duran of Queer Planet. "It's a simple fact that sexual minorities and the HIV positive often receive severe persecution at the hands of their own governments."

The question of inclusion of homosexuals as prisoners of conscience has been unresolved for the past 17 years of Amnesty International's history. In 1974, the Danish Amnesty introduced the issue; in 1979 the International Conference decided to include in its mandate individuals arrested for advocating homosexual rights as prisoners of conscience; however it did not include individuals arrested for being homosexual. In 1987, the issue was brought to the international conference again, and they formed a task force to review the mandate and report back at the 1991 International Conference, which is taking place this August/September in Tokyo.

To voice your opinion, write immediately to both: Director of AI USA, John Healy, 322 8th Ave., NY, NY 10001; or Int'l Secretariat, Ian Martin, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X8OJ, England. For postcards or more info: Mark Duran, Queer Planet, 1046 Florida Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; (415) 648-5155 OR Julie Dorf, IGLHRC, 2978 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; (415) 647-0453. ■

...helping
people
grow

366-0923

HELEN HOLGATE

Certified Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Counselor

THOMPSON DENIED GUARDIANSHIP

On April 24, Karen Thompson was again denied guardianship of her lover, Sharon Kowalski, who is severely disabled as a result of a brain stem injury sustained in an automobile accident. Despite overwhelming testimony by medical professionals that Kowalski's interests would be best served by moving her home to St. Cloud to live with Thompson, Judge Robert Cambell awarded guardianship to a "neutral third party," Karen Tomberlin, a friend of Kowalski's family. In response to the court's decision, Thompson's attorney has initiated the appeal process.

A national "Let Sharon Kowalski Come Home" hotline has been established by a coalition of organizations to pressure Minnesota Governor Arne Carleson to intervene on behalf of Sharon Kowalski. Each call to the 800 number will generate a letter to Governor Carlson, demonstrating the level of national outrage surrounding this case and the recent decision. The hotline number is 800-325-6000, ID #9860. The charge for each call is \$6.25, a portion of which will go to the Karen Thompson Legal Fund.

The organizations coordinating grassroots mobilization to overturn the Campbell decision include the National Organization for Women, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation, and Southern California Women for Understanding. ■

M. COLEEN WOODY

MARILYN D. BEST

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW
General Practice

1518 N.W. 29th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

405-525-2174

THE HISTORY OF THE SHARON KOWALSKI CASE

1983 - 1984 — In November 1983, Sharon Kowalski sustained multiple disabilities resulting from a brain stem injury received when the car she was driving was struck by a drunk driver. Karen Thompson, Kowalski's life partner of four years at the time of the accident, was the major force in Kowalski's daily physical therapy which resulted in Sharon's ability to communicate via an electric typewriter, make hand gestures, eat, wash and brush her teeth. Thompson filed for guardianship of Sharon, but agreed out of court to Donald Kowalski's (Sharon's father) appointment in return for court ordered unlimited visitation rights, access to medical records and input into Kowalski's care.

1985 - 1986 — Donald Kowalski successfully petitioned the court for unconditional guardianship which he used to remove Karen Thompson's rights to see Sharon or have any input into her care. He also immediately moved Sharon to Leisure Hills Nursing Home (a facility three hours away from Thompson) which was previously determined to be unsuitable for Sharon by the court.

Sam L. Nicolosi, D.V.M.

NICOLOSI ANIMAL HOSPITAL

4015 N.W. 23rd
Oklahoma City

by Appointment
Phone (405) 947-5545

In August 1985, at their last visit, Sharon typed, "Karen, help me. Get me out of here. Take me home with you." While at Leisure Hills, Sharon's typewriter was removed, she was fed only through a feeding tube and she did not receive appropriate rehabilitation, causing a drastic deterioration in her condition.

1987 - 1988 — Thompson filed a new motion asking that Kowalski be legally restored to capacity, and thus receive decision-making power on her own behalf. The intent of the motion was to force competency tests for Sharon (a previous court order requiring annual testing had been consistently ignored). Judge Robert Campbell did order testing and the results showed that Sharon could communicate her wishes, understand the communications of others, and that she had asked for Thompson. The report stated that Kowalski's social and psychological well-being had been adversely affected by three years in the nursing home and that she should be moved immediately to a facility where she could receive communication and physical therapy.

1989 - 1990 — In January 1989, Kowalski was moved to Miller-Dwan Medical Center. On February 2, Thompson was permitted to see Sharon for the first time since August 1985. Thompson reported that Sharon's condition had deteriorated, but that she was alert, happy to see her friends, and was responsive to the work of her therapists. In August 1989, Thompson filed a new petition to be named guardian. Donald Kowalski sent a letter to Judge Campbell asking that he be removed as Sharon's guardian. Hearings in the guardianship case were held in early November and December, 1990.

1991 — On April 23, Judge Campbell awarded guardianship of Sharon Kowalski to a "neutral third party." Thompson's attorney has initiated the appeal process. ■

PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR RELATIONSHIP

If you have the least doubt about how your wishes might be carried out should you become unable to decide for yourself, take action now.

Establish a durable power of attorney to designate who you want to care for you if you are ill or injured. The book *A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples* provides recommendations for protective documents your lawyer can execute on your behalf.

Chatterbox

B.Y.O.B. (Paint Brush) to Herland on July 6 and join in the old fashioned barn raising. Actually we aren't building any barns but we will be giving Herland a much needed bright new coat of paint. The action will start about 10 a.m. and we'll end up with a backyard pot-luck. So bring your paint brush and overalls and come on down and enjoy the fun!.....

DON'T MISS DONNA D. AND THE HERLAND GARDEN PARTY. July 20th, 6:00 p.m. Music, bar-be-que, volleyball, croquet. \$5 suggested donation (more if you can, less if you can't).....

COME BY ANY WEEKEND and enjoy Herland's back yard. The new green lawn is the result of lots of hard work by volunteer Chris L. The regular mowing and trimming is donated by the McMow Sisters. Thanks to these women, Herland's yard has become a beautiful, woman-friendly space.....

MADWOMAN PRESS IS ACCEPTING MANUSCRIPTS by, for and about lesbians. Novel-length fiction, cartoons and comics which depict the upbeat, the tale of triumph over adversity and the story of pride in being lesbian are being sought. For manuscript guidelines send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Madwoman Press, P.O. Box 690, Northboro, MA 01532.....

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoons, strips, and cartoon stories for *New Dyke*, a book anthology of cartoons by, for and about lesbians. Cartoons can be fantasy, soap opera, humor, sci fi, feminist satire/politics, explicit sex, stories about growing up, coming out, romance, aging, etc. Deadline is 12/1/91. Send submissions and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. East, Guttenberg, NJ 07093.....

THE 13TH NATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY CONFERENCE and the 9th National AIDS/HIV Forum will be held July 24-28 in New Orleans, LA. This year's conference will feature presentations dealing with issues such as: volunteer management, lesbian and gay health, mental health, substance abuse, and lesbian and gay youth issues. For registration information call (202) 994-4285.....

DID YOU KNOW the *Herland Voice* is now printed on recycled paper—our small contribution to the welfare of the planet. You can do your part by recycling what you can.....

PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE MEDICINE has declared a new way to categorize the four food groups: grains, legumes, vegetables, and fruits. Meat and dairy have been demoted to "Options" status. The idea is to eat fiber-rich plant foods instead of foods laden with cholesterol and fat. We might add that it's an ecologically ethical choice as well, to eat foods lower on the food chain.

Also: Light hauling,
painting; inside & outside

Kiser Lawn Care & Etc.

K.D. Kiser

524-3915

WOMEN UNDER ATTACK

by Pat Reaves

The U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the "gag" rule forbidding health professionals in federally funded family planning clinics will drastically impact Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma and other family planning clinics receiving federal funds. The decision forbids even answering a patient's questions regarding abortion. A woman who asks about abortion must be told that the clinic doesn't consider abortion "an appropriate method of family planning."

The ruling effectively denies poor women the right to information about their legal right to a safe abortion. Justice Harry A. Blackmun in his dissent from the five to four decision wrote, "Both the purpose and the result of the challenged regulations is to deny women the ability voluntarily to decide their precreative destiny. For these women, the Government will have obliterated freedom to choose as surely as if it had banned abortions outright."

Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma's clinic annually receives about \$271,000 in federal Title X funds. These funds allow for a sliding fee scale for family planning services and help to support educational programs. Planned Parenthood must decide whether to continue to provide all clients with information about all their options and lose federal funds or to stop providing women with information about their options and keep federal funds.

The choice seems clear to me. Planned Parenthood originated from the work of Margaret Sanger, who believed poor women should have information about contraceptives and went to jail for providing that information. We need Planned Parenthood to stand for what is right in the face of a government which attacks the reproductive rights of women. Planned Parenthood needs those of us who believe women have the right to control their own bodies to help financially support their activities. My check is in the mail. How about you?

(Contributions can be sent to Planned Parenthood of Central Oklahoma, 619 N.W. 23, OKC, OK 73103.) ■



848-5429

SHIRLEY M. HUNTER, M.Ed.

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

Emphasis on the problems of gay people.

PENN PARK OFFICE COMPLEX • SUITE 102

5009 N. PENNSYLVANIA • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112

WOMEN'S WRITING CONFERENCE

The International Women's Writing Guild presents "Writing & Higher Values II," the 14th Annual IWWG Summer Conference, at Skidmore College, August 9 - 16, 1991. Nearly 50 workshops are featured exploring a wide range of topics from fiction, non-fiction, poetry, feature writing and publishing. Many topics also explore the writer's inner journey as well as personal expression. The conference is open to all women, regardless of professional portfolio, and attendees need not be members of IWWG. For further information on the IWWG and for conference registration, contact Hannelore Hahn, c/o IWWG, P.O. Box 810, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028; (212) 737-7536. ■

OPEN LETTER TO A RAPIST

The following letter was written by a woman living in McPherson, Kansas. Her accompanying letter to Herland read, in part: "McPherson is a small town (about 14,000), and up until 1989, folks thought it was a fairly safe town. Unfortunately, this town has to put up with a serial rapist who has victimized five women since 1989. A few weeks ago, a group of us were sitting in the cafeteria talking about the latest "news" of the rapist. We were advised to be cautious, to walk in groups, and so on. I was glad that we wanted to take precautions but at the same time I was furious that one man, through his stupid, needless actions, has been able to dictate the actions of the entire female population of this city. Keeping that anger in mind, I wrote [the letter below]."

Dear Mr. Rapist:

I just wanted to drop you a line to say thanks.

Thank you for your special brand of violence that has robbed too many women of their right to choose where, when, and with whom they want to express their sexuality.

Thank you for the fear you've instilled in many women who don't even know you (and if they did, they probably wouldn't want to), and for making it impossible for me to take a walk around the block at 8:30 pm. like I used to do.

Thank you for making me lock my door during the middle of the day, and for making me sleep with the lights on and the closets checked in the home that I paid hard-earned money for.

Thank you for the rumors about you—where you are now, how many women you've conquered, what type of person you are, when you were caught, and so on.

Thank you for the lack of trust you have so graciously given us. I don't know what I would do if I wasn't able to look at every man on the street and wonder if he was the one. I'd probably lose my mind.

Thank you for confusing the police department. Every now and then they need a good scandal to keep them on their toes, and by golly, you've really got them going.

Thank you for adding the necessary fuel to an already raging fire of ignorance; for the stereotypes that continue to chase after the victims of your "selfless" habit because they just had to live in that house and they just had to go to sleep at that time in that four-piece floor-length flannel pajama suit with mud packs on their faces and curlers on their heads.

Thank you for causing us to lose the support of our families and friends who just can't understand why a person like me could let herself be raped.

Thank you for a court system that allows you more rights than it allows your victims, for the security in knowing you will be out on probation in a year's time to pick up where you left off, and for making me so frustrated that I could kill you if I saw you (which, actually, I couldn't, because guess who would go to jail?).

Thanks for nothing.

Sincerely, An Unadoring Fan

 **usie**

Southwell, M. Ed.

COUNSELOR

2912 N. Classen, Suite 102
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
Telephone: (405) 556-4105

ENCODINGS

Volume 1, No. 2

NEW POETRY AND ARTWORK BY WOMEN IN HOUSTON

Leslie Lopez, Carol Snyder, Cathy Stern,
Sharon Stewart, Monica Vaughn, Fabian Worsham

AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE, OR WRITE:

LIAUD: A Women's Press
P.O. Box 6793, Houston, TX 77265-6793

\$4.50/copy

THELMA AND LOUISE — A REVIEW

by Rhonda Smith

I almost didn't go see this movie because the review I read about it in our local newspaper gave it such a thumbs down. The reviewer said it was vaguely entertaining but that most of the situations were not believable and that the movie was weak. Upon seeing the film for myself, I am going to venture a guess that the reviewer (a man) was uncomfortable with seeing women stand up for themselves and bond together, and in all fairness, there really aren't many positive male characters in the film. (Hey, Jack, welcome to the world of unfair portrayals.)

Susan Sarandon (Louise) and Gina Davis (Thelma) portray two women who decide to get away from their respective male partners for an innocent weekend of fishing. Thelma is so cowed by her relationship with her jerk of a husband that she can't even find the courage to ask his permission to go, so she just leaves a note and goes (Yay!).

Beginning with Thelma being rescued from rape by Louise and Louise's violent answer to the rapist's insolence, you know that this is not going to be such an innocent weekend after all. The consequent situations in which the women find themselves involved bring about a transformation in both of them—a coming into their own, taking their destiny into their own hands, knowing what it is to be awake.

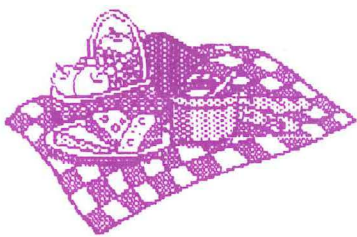
My only difficulty with the movie is the over-consumption of alcohol. But overall, there are poignant moments of pain, fear, strength, humor and courage throughout the film, and the ending is... different. ■

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

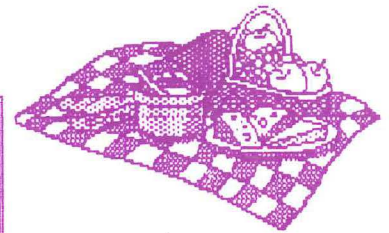
Rape is not a private issue but a public one. It is a problem that concerns all men and women because it violates our personhood, disrupts our trust of one another, and closes down communications. It is estimated that 80% of all women who have been raped knew their attacker. Yet acquaintance rape is least likely to be reported due to the myths that shroud it in acceptance, or view it as the victim's fault.

An anthology of writings about acquaintance rape is being compiled. If you want to share your story, send prose, poetry, journal or letter so that others will more fully comprehend the depth and urgency of acquaintance rape. Write to P.O. Box 4624, St. Paul, MN 55104. (Feel free to remain anonymous or to use a pseudonym.)

The patterns and consequences of rape will only change if the perception of rape by society and the law undergo a massive reconstruction. This reconstruction cannot begin until women speak out and describe their experiences with rape. Our voice needs to be that of the educator. ■










JULY 1991



Memorable dates in July:

- Emmeline Pankhurst, 1858 - 1928; born July 14.
- Woody Guthrie, 1912 - 1967, born July 14.
- Storming of the Bastille, July 14, 1789.
- Sandra Day O'Connor the first and so far only woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court; July 7, 1981

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Thurgood Marshall born 1908	2	3	4  FOURTH OF JULY	5 CoDA, 6:45 pm at Herland	6  PAINT PARTY AT HERLAND - All Welcome!
7 MARY REYNOLDS in Concert in TULSA at TNT's 8 - 10 p.m.	8	9	10  Mary McLeod Bethune 1875 - 1955	11	12 CoDA, 6:45 pm at Herland	13  PEGGY JOHNSON at the COYOTE CLUB 9 - 12 p.m.
14  MARY REYNOLDS at the COYOTE CLUB	15	16	17	18	19 Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, in 1848 * CoDA, 6:45 pm at Herland	20 COOK-OUT at Herland 6 p.m. * SISTERS OF SWING at the COYOTE CLUB
21 Board Meeting 4:30 p.m. * MISS BROWN TO YOU at TNT's in TULSA 8 - 10 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26 Ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 * CoDA, 6:45 pm at Herland	27 PEGGY JOHNSON at POETS 575 South University in Norman; 8 - 11 p.m.
28  PEGGY JOHNSON at the COYOTE CLUB 8 - 12 pm	29	30	31	<p>Music lovers get lucky in July! lots of Peggy & Mary; Mary alone, Miss Brown To You, & The Sisters of Swings; plus Donna D at the July 20th Cook-Out at Herland.</p>		

The McMow Sisters



Mowing • Fertilizing • Trimming
• Light Hauling •

"We Are Insured"

KAY
794-0081

SANDIE
794-6884

Edwina V. Johnson, D.D.S.

*"Catering to Cowards needing Tender Care"
in Comprehensive Dentistry*

5009 North Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 103
(405) 840-5410

Night & Sunday practice by appt. only
Emergencies welcome

VISA Insurance accepted **MC**



2312 N.W. 39th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Permit No. 861