SEPTEMBER 1991

RETREAT COMING

The Red Rock Canyon State Park group camp is the place to be October 11-13 for the annual Herland Fall Retreat. Registration will open at 4 p.m. with the formal opening ceremony at 9:30 p.m. Activities will wind up Sunday morning with checkout time at noon.

The featured entertainer will be singer-songwriter Nancy Scott of Austin, Texas. Many of you will remember Nancy from coffeehouses, or from our previous retreat when she opened for Karen Williams, the comic. Well, we've decided we've got to have her all to ourselves for a complete evening. None of these teasers anymore! She is a talented, witty, fun entertainer and songwriter. We're looking forward to a great concert.

If you can't make it for the retreat but would like to catch Nancy, tickets for the concert only are \$10.

Workshops at the retreat will provide opportunities for discussion and learning. Those planned include "Women's Herstory," "Out is In," "Revising the Matriarchy," and "The Catharsis of Creativity." Others may be added by retreat time.

Saturday evening features (of course) the famous potluck supper. Look for sing-along campfires with Peggy Johnson on Friday night and Saturday after Nancy Scott's performance. Other activities are limited only by your imagination—expect 12-step meetings, spades tournaments, softball, volleyball, hiking, political discussions and more.

The pre-registration fee is on a sliding scale, ranging from \$15 -\$40 based on your ability to pay. (Please see page 6 for a guide for determining your approprate fee.) Registration on-site will be \$40. Scholarships are also available for the destitute.

Registration includes the Friday evening meal and brunch on Saturday and Sunday breakfast. Please remember, if you bring pets, they must be on a leash at all times.

Red Rock Canyon State Park is located near Hinton, Oklahoma about a one-hour drive west of Oklahoma City. The park is nestled in the bottom of a canyon with steep sides which are popular rappelling sites. Trails provide a view of ruts left by pioneer wagons traveling the California Road. A small lake offers fishing opportunities. The canyon environment supports a wider variety of plants than most of western Oklahoma, including the Caddo Maple which should be displaying splendid foliage by retreat time.

For information, leave a message at Herland (405) 521-9696. Phone messages will be checked and returned daily.

YES, I'll meet the 16-month challenge to help pay off the Herland

Barbara Cleveland, the founding mother of Herland, was honored with a backyard barbeque at Herland on August 18, 1991.

Barbara praised the women of Herland for their work in renovating the Herland building. She pledged \$200 over the next two years to the building fund and challenged others to make a similar pledge, saying, "If I, a poor graduate student can give \$200, surely anyone can. If 150 other women will make pledges of \$200, this building will be paid off by 1993. She observed that Herland has always been kept alive by the support of dedicated women, even when it seemed impossible.

Barbara began Herland in 1982 as a privately run organization providing a women's bookstore and producing women's music events. She recruited other community women to be involved and by 1986, Herland was reorganized as a nonprofit corporation. Herland is governed by a board of directors and relies on volunteer labor and contributions to sustain operations.

Herland decided to purchase a building of our own and moved to its present location in 1989. With faith in the commitment of the women who have supported Herland, the Board entered into a mortgage with a ba on fu att

alloon payment of \$30,000 due in January 1993. The	e eleven women
the Herland board have pledged the first \$3,000 tow	ard the building
nd. Additional building fund pledges of \$1000 were r	nade by women
tending the barbeque.	,
Join us!	

İ	building by January 1, 1993.			
	In support of the Building Fund Drive of Herland Sister Resources, I/we pledge:			
l	□ \$400 (25/month) □ \$160 (10/month)	□ \$200 (12.50/month) □ \$ 80 (5.00/month)		
Enclosed is my initial contribution of \$				
	ADDRESS			
	CITY ST.	ATEZIP		
	Please return to HSR, 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. THANKS!			

The Coyote Club O First Anniversary Celebration presents in concert Redwood Recording Artist

Hunter Davis

with Special Guest O Peggy Johnson

Sunday, September 22nd O 8:00 pm \$4.00 at the door O 2120 NW 39th St.

ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

Recently Edward Albee, the well-known playwright, spoke at the gay and lesbian writers' conference in San Francisco, OutWrite '91; and he really made a lot of people mad: During his keynote speech he declared that he's a member of many "minorities," namely: he's white, male, middle-aged, a WASP and a college professor—and oh yes, by the way, he's gay, too.

He went on to say that belonging to these beleaguered "minorities" has not caused him any problems. "None of them have gotten in my way and stopped me from saying whatever I wanted to say as a writer."

Jorjet Harper, writing in Outlines, says that he forgot to mention two other minorities he belongs, to: wealthy and famous. She doesn't suppose those have

What do you think of all this? He's right, those are all minorities; but it's still poppycock, isn't it?

Sincerely . . .

Iessabit O'Fended

Dear Jessabit (and what a lovely old-fashioned name you have, my dear), Well, Mr. Albee is trying to be cute, I suppose. He must figure that being a

playwright entitles him to play with words. But this little game is also played by other privileged folk from time to time, and really they should all cut it out. It is not cute, and it is not harmless.

Of course, it was during the Civil Rights movement, when African Americans held center stage, that the word "minorities" came to be a catchword for any group being denied a full share of the American pie. It has remained the word of choice for the various other Rights and Independence groups—Hispanic, Women, Gay and Lesbian, etc; even though women of course are not a minority, and people of color in the world are definitely not either. It is a bit of a wonder that we don't sometimes hear farm and fur animals referred to as minorities. That would be really silly sounding, but it would actually be closer to the meaning that the catchword has taken on than "male" and "wasp."

So as one who cares about the treatment of farm animals and hopes for the abolition of fur-wearing by non-fur-bearing animals, and as one who shares your ennui at hearing people like Albee play semantics at the expense of reality and humanity, I'd like to try suggesting a new word to replace the old, sometimes inaccurate and possibly inappropriate, stand-by, "minority."

Nonwhitenonmalenonmiddleclassnonstraightnonrichnonwasp—I don't know, I don't think that one will get off the ground, although it might keep Albee from claiming membership in it. My new friend K. Marx, Patron Saint of the Unread and the Misunderstood, says that he still likes "The Exploited Masses," but he reluctantly agrees that it might not fly these days either.

Let's try some acronyms; maybe we'll come up with something catchy.

NOCs: Not of the Opressor Class. That will keep Albee out; it's easily punnable, too, as in "school of hard NOCs, NOC NOC, let us in, etc.

OOPs: Out Of Powers. I like this one; it implies something which might possibly be remediable, like "OOPs, I seem to be on the wrong path, but if I retrace my steps I can get on the correct one."

TOPs: Temporarily Out of Powers. This one has a nice ring to it, and a good subtle threatening sound, as if TOPs might just become TIPs one day, if they get together and work at it.

WAADs: We're Armed And Dangerous and out to get you!: Just kidding! Just playing around a little, no harm in fantasies if you don't act on them, ok? Jeez, I swear, this newsletter has one of the most pacifist group of readers in the world! Just a trifle humor-impaired, too, you know?

ARWOS: Armed with Righteousness and Will Overcome. I suppose you like that better, but face it, it's boring, boring, boring, even if it is true.

So much for word play; it really isn't appropriate, anyway. Who we're talking about here are the used, the abused, the discriminated against; the forgotten, the forlorn, the overlooked, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the exploited, the scapegoated, the helpless, the hopeless, the despised.

It's hard to understand people who mock and belittle these groups and their very real grievances. Mr. Albee listing his various accesses to privilege seems like an excess of self-indulgence to me. It is not cute, it is dishonest and sophomoric. We know that he knows what the word "minority" represents, so who is he trying to kid?

Dear me, this whole thing is making me very tired; I think I'll go see if I can persuade Saint Sister Kenny to give me a massage.

Until we talk/write/communicate again, take care, take power and trust



P-FLAG TO COLLECT DISCRIMINATION STORIES

The Federation of Parents and Friend of Lesbians and Gays is conducting a national campaign to collect stories to be used in observance of National Coming Out Day, October 11, 1991.

Members and friends of P-FLAG are asked to write a story or keep a journal of approximately one week in which they document the ways that anti-gay and lesbian discrimination affects them and their lives. They can describe overt or subtle affronts to their dignity, the emotional and practical costs of living in the closet, anti-gay violence, or discrimination in employment and housing services.

"We want people to use this exercise as a way of documenting not only overt and outrageous examples of discrimination, but also the more subtle ways that homophobia daily touches their lives," said Tom Sauerman, executive director of P-FLAG. "For example, we need stories about the loss of employment or housing caused by the disclosure or suspicion of sexual orientation. Or a parent might write about playing bridge with someone who made homophobic remarks and how they dealt with the situation, about the pain of a daughter's partner being omitted from the guest list of a family wedding by a relative who wasn't accepting of the relationship, or about activities or conversations at work or in the community that they could not participate in because of homophobic discrimination."

"Sharing these stories will empower the individuals who write them;" Sauerman added, "and P-FLAG will publish some of them as a consciousness-raising device for National Coming Out Day. They will also be used to document discrimination in meetings with public officials and for testifying in favor of legislation such as the 1991 Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill."

Stories and diaries will be accepted in any form, preferably type-written, one or two pages in length. They can be signed or unsigned and should be sent by September 15 to P-FLAG Discrimination Diary Project, Post Office Box 27605, Washington, DC 20038. P-FLAG will contact writers before using stories for media or press purposes.

The Federation of Parents FLAG is a tax-exempt, non-profit network of support groups founded in 1981 to help families learn to understand, accept, and respect their gay and lesbian members; and to advocate for the civil rights and concerns of lesbians and gay men. P-FLAG's outreach is to members of over 235 local chapters and information helplines across the United States, Canada, and six other countries; and countless others who call local helplines and hear of the Federation's work through the print and broadcast media.

Readers who wish to receive a packet of information about Parents FLAG may do so by sending \$3 to the Office of Family and Chapter Support, Post Office Box 27605, Washington, DC 20038.

M. COLEEN WOODY

MARILYN D. BEST

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STATISTICS ON HIV/AIDS AND NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

(Statistics provided by Lorrelle D. Pintado, Prevention and Community Education Department, Seattle Indian Health Board, April 1, 1991.)

Many Native American women have been lulled into a false sense of security because past published statistics show small numbers of women who are HIV positive. However, in the United States today, women are the fastest growing group to be infected with HIV: 150,000 women nationwide have become HIV positive and 14,816 have gone on to develop AIDS.

Currently, 34 adult female Native Americans in the United States have full-blown AIDS. In addition, four Native American females who are age 12 or under (pediatric cases) have AIDS.

As of April 30, 1990, there were 30 Native American females nationwide who were diagnosed with AIDS, 3 of whom were female pediatric cases. Therefore, between April 30, 1990 and June 1991, a 26 percent increase occurred in the number of Native American females with AIDS.

As of October 31, 1989, 26 Native American females nationwide had AIDS, 2 of whom were pediatric cases. Therefore, a 46 percent increase in AIDS occurred from October 1989 to June 1991 in Native American females nationally.

In comparing national data, females account for 5 percent of white persons with AIDS but for 17 percent of Native Americans with AIDS, a substantial difference.

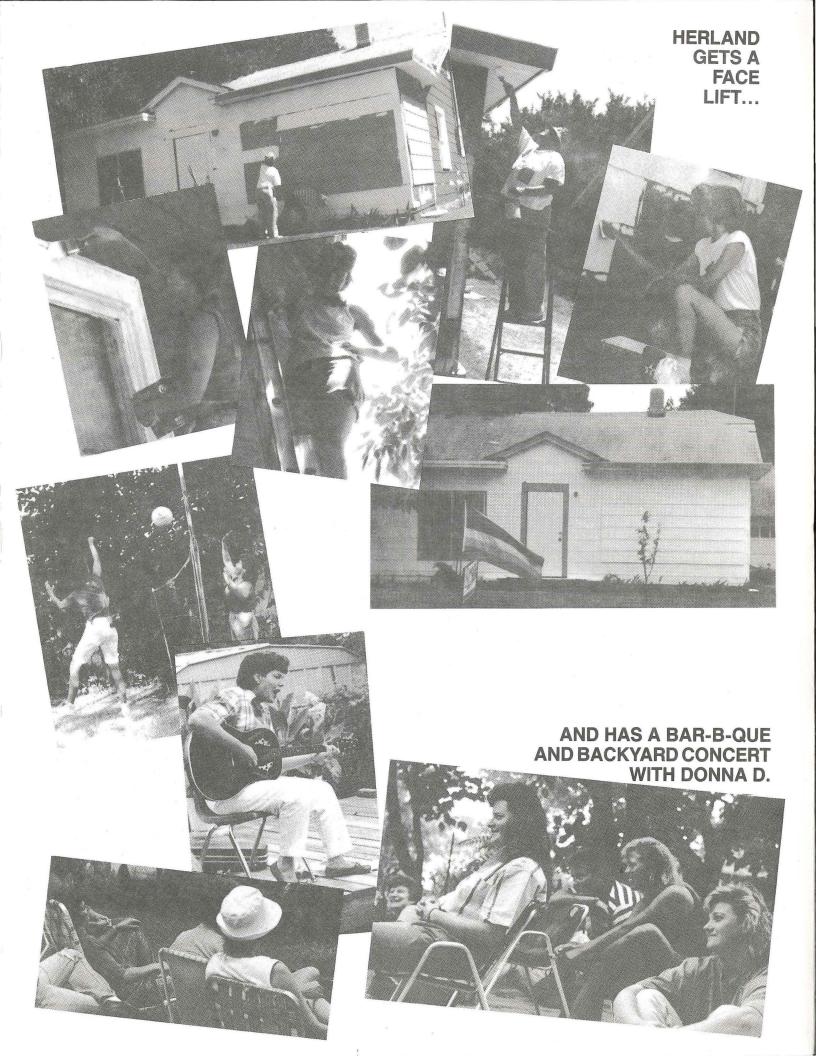
It should be emphasized that these numbers represent only full-blown AIDS cases that have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and do not include seroprevalence and underreported cases, as well as persons whose racial ethnicity was misidentified.

It was not until late 1988 that CDC created a separate category for Native Americans for disease reporting purposes. Therefore, it is important that all people of color, male and female, make sure that they self-disclose their race on report forms; this will help increase the accuracy of reporting the types and numbers of people who are infected with HIV.

Women of color need to be included in clinical trials that study the benefits and risks of using new treatments for a disease. In addition, diagnostic models, testing programs, and benefit packages in health care facilities need to be set up with women in mind to address their HIV-related problems.

In the Oklahoma City area, HIV/AIDS information for women is available from:

SunShine Shillings Southeast Area Health Center (405) 632-6688 Gloria Bellymule OKC Indian Clinic (405) 232-1526



MAILING LIST ANALYSIS.

If you receive the Herland Voice in Hawaii or Alaska, you probably think that you are the only one in your entire state who gets it; and you're quite right, you are. Also if you live in a few of our other states, or in the two foreign countries on our list.

On August 3, 1991, our mailing list contained exactly 800 addresses, and we thought it would be interesting to see how it breaks down. Oklahoma, of course, leads the list with 574; and most of these are in the Oklahoma City/Norman area. Not surprisingly, our sister states of Texas, Arkansas, and Missouri have the next largest numbers, respectively 27, 24 & 20. (Except for California, sister state to the world, who has 21.) Here's the entire breakdown:

Oklahoma 574	Massachusetts 6	New Mexico 2
Texas 27	Oregon 6	Alabama 2
Arkansas 24	Ohio 6	lowa 2
California 21	Washington, D.C 5	Kentucky 2
Missouri 20	Virginia 4	Mississippi 2
New York 13	Wisconsin 4	Alaska 1
Georgia 9	Louisiana 4	Hawaii 1
Arizona 8	Indiana3	Idaho 1
Colorado 7	Maryland 3	New Hampshire 1
Kansas 7	Minnesota 3	Utah 1
Illinois 7	North Carolina 3	Germany 1
Tennessee 7	Pennsylvania 3	The Netherlands 1
Florida 6	Washington 3	



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GAY GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN NORTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PROGRAM

After being sued by the American Civil Liberties Union, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has reversed its decision to prohibit a gay group from participating in a highway beautification program.

The North Carolina Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project has filed a lawsuit in December in federal district court in Raleigh challenging the state's decision to deny a request by the Southern Applachian Lesbian and Gay Alliance (SALGA) to participate in the highway program.

In addition to allowing SALGA to fully participate in its Adopt-A-Highway program—in which community groups keep designated portions of selected highways clean of trash—North Carolina has also agreed to pay \$7,500 in costs and attorney fees. The state also agreed to install a sign with SALGA's name on it—including "lesbian" and "gay"—on the portions of highway that the group will maintain. The lawsuit will be withdrawn.

The chairperson of the 200-member group, Carlos Gomez, welcomed the settlement. "We wanted to use our name and say who we are," he said. "We are Americans—gay and lesbian Americans—and just like anyone else, we want to keep this state clean."

"We have defeated North Carolina's attempt to render lesbians and gay men invisible," said William B. Rubenstein, the director of the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "This victory should put state and city governments around the country on notice that they cannot stand in the way of our First Amendment freedoms."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Herland,

Thanks to the Voice staff for continuing to publish articles and responses about women's spirituality. Patriarchy still binds most of our world—it's refreshing to have a newsletter written by women who refuse to behave like mindless breeding stock—and who welcome and respect opposing views within the women's community.

Gail

Dear Herland Voice,

Bravo to Deborah Fox on the article "Sisters Beware." I am all for spirituality and for women choosing their own Higher Powers etc. I also KNOW from much experience that there are many dangerous groups out there, from money-hungry scum to sexually abusing, drug-pushing, mind-controlling money-hungry scum! There is a vast array of information on the New Age Movement from the Cult Awareness Network in Chicago, Ill. There is an information outlet in Enid, OK. The Cult Awareness Network is also having their yearly conference in Oklahoma City this year, November 1, 2 & 3. For more info write: C.A.N. 1991 National Conference, P.O. Box 60653, OKC, OK 73146. It will be at the Sheraton Century Center Hotel.

My partner was in a cult for eight years. We have many friends who are also survivors of religious cults. Any type of deceptive, manipulative, totalistic group can be called a cult if it meets the eight requirements of mind control.

Your newsletter is informative and we enjoy receiving it. Thanks.

Mary Verkler

Dear Herland,

The August newsletter was especially attractive and informative. The article by Deborah Fox about the corruption of the New Age movement expressed some thoughts I have had but had yet to put into words. Her rejection of the idea that starving children and, indeed, abused children have "created their own reality" is well founded. I even recently heard such a theory in an altered form—the troubled child's karma is somehow an expression of the mother's turmoil!

The times are lending great support to subtle (to some) forms of sexism, homophobia, racism, etc. Most likely Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas's hard knocks, up-by-the-bootstraps story will become the black version of "anybody can grow up to be president." Minorities can add one more line to their scapegoat list of personal guilt for underachievement. Of course, I am not defending slothful people. It's just that opportunity does not always knock on the physical plane becuase one's spiritual ground is fertile. The powerful and greedy can stand in the way.

Anyway, thanks Deborah for writing. I don't always agree with you but you

are risky and courageous. Look for the answers!

Peggy Johnson

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Chatterbox

A RUN FOR LIFE '91 a fun run and walk sponsored by the Oklahoma City Area HIV/AIDS Coalition will be held September 29 in Bricktown. the run will be followed by a concert and picnic in the Myriad Gardens. Contact (405) 946-9628 for more information....

THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER of Norman and the Norman Alcohol Information Center will present the second annual state-wide conference, "Chemical Dependency and Family Violence: Painful Realities" September 30 - October 1 at the Sheraton Hotel in Norman. Registration is \$55 for both days. Special rates are available for students and one-day attendance. For information contact: NAIC at (405) 321-0021 or Women's Resource Center at (405) 364-9424.....

LESBIAN ONLY THERAPY GROUP. For further information call Jo L. Soske, M.ED./HRC/CAC, at 360-5708.....

THE BENEDICTINE PEACE HOUSE is celebrating its ten-year anniversary with a Family Picnic for Peace. Sunday, September 8, 5:45 to 8:45 p.m. at the Picnic Shelter at Lake Overholser Park, in Bethany. Bring kites, frisbees, yo-yos, earth balls, musical instruments, hula hoops, and join in celebrating life and one another.....

Don't miss Hunter Davis at the Coyote Club, 2120 N.W. 39th, on September 22nd, 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$4 at the door.....

CARLA SCIAKY, folk musician from Colorado, will be appearing at the City Arts Center on October 18th. Look for a feature article in next month's newsletter.....

FALL RETREAT — OCTOBER 11 - 13. Mark your calendars now. Nancy Scott of Austin, Texas will be our headliner.....

THANKS TO P.J. for creating a computer listing of Herland's library!

REMEMBERING MARY BROWN

by Pat Reaves

The headline in the *Daily Oklahoman* read "Female Inmate, 38, Dies of Heart Ailment." The article reported that Mary Brown died while incarcerated at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center and went on to remind readers of her crime for which she had been in prison for the last 8 years. I imagine there are those who after reading the story were satisfied that she finally got the punishment she deserved for her crime. Nowhere in the story were we told of the person Mary Brown was.

I remember Mary Brown as a person—a woman much like any of us. She was a sensitive artist. She survived battering by her husband and she struggled to survive the battering of daily prison life. Mary faced the challenge of an emotional handicap complicated by heavy medication imposed by the prison. Sometimes the medication was so strong she could barely function.

It's a simple formula—reduce a woman to one act which is easily judged harshly. Then condemn her. It happens every day with women offenders, pregnant women who use drugs and women who abuse or abandon their children. Women—people—aren't easily reduced to a single event. Mary Brown helped to teach me that none of us can be reduced to a single act.

Remember Mary Brown. Honor her struggle.

Kay Killgore, M.Ed.

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HERLAND FALL RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

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\$ 6,500-\$13,250
\$13.250-\$19.500
over \$19,500

Retreat Preregistration fee \$15

\$15 \$25 \$35 \$40 Household Annual Income (2 or more persons)

under \$13,300 \$13,300-\$18,000 \$18,000-\$26,000 over \$26,000 Please choose the registration fee most appropriate for you based on these suggested income guidelines. Complete and return the pre-registration form to Herland, 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

HSR FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION

NAME:	PH	PHONE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:	STATE	ZIP	
Registration fee enclosed: □ \$15 □ \$25 □ \$35 □ \$4	10	¥	
☐ I'm enclosing an additional \$to provide	retreat scholarships.		
☐ I need a scholarship to attend.		Return to:	
☐ I would like to ride with someone.		HERLAND 2312 N.W. 39th	

☐ I can help provide rides to the retreat.



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Wednesday Thursday Sunday Monday Tuesday Friday Saturday PEGGY JOHNSON at Kerr Park 11:45am-1 pm 30,000 march in first Labor Day Parade in NewYork, 1882 1st Meeting of Daughters of Bilitis CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m. LABOR DAY 8 BPH Picnic 5:45-8:45 pm 10 CoDA Meeting. Herland Discussion Group, Issues of the SISTERS OF SWING 7:00 p.m. PECCY JOHNSON Rosh Day; 7 p.m. Tonight's issue: CHOICE COYOTE CLUB PEGGY Hashanah POETS 8:00-Midnight Coyote Club 9pm H 8 - 11 p.m. 17 18 20 21 19 M 15 BoardMeeting 4:30 p.m. SISTERS Backyard BarBQ, Games & Sing-along w/Peggy Johnson, 6:30 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m. SHING Yon Kipper at the STATE FAIR FA p.m. 25 26 27 28 11 FALL EQUINOX 22 MISS BROWN TO YOU at the Hotel Bohemia 9 p.m. \$5.00 cover PEGGY Emergency Orive opening for HUNTER DAVIS at the COYOTE CLUB CoDA Meeting. 7:00 p.m. for Health Care Rally and Caravan 29 30 Margaret Sanger, September 14, 1883-1966; US pioneer of birth control and a staunch feminist, set up the first birth-control clinic in the US in 1916. She was frequently vilified and imprisoned for her views. Jane Addams, September 6, 1860 - 1935. American social reformer who pioneered the settlement

Silent Vigil for peace in Central America. On the steps of the Federal Building, NW 4th & Robinson, OKC; each Wednesday at Noon

house movement in the US. An ardent pacifist, she became first president of the Women's

International League for Peace and Freedom, and was co-winner of the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize.



HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES INC. 2312 NW 39th Street Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112 (405) 521-9696

Hours: Saturdays 10 - 6; Sundays 1 - 6



SEPTEMBER 1991

9-13-1663; 1st attempted slave revolt in North America; African slaves conspire with European indentured servants, in Gloucester County, Virginia.

9-2-1869; Estner Morris, first female Justice of the Peace in Wyoming, holds tea party asking citizens to work for women's suffrage.



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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.



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