

The HERLAND VOICE

JANUARY 1992

WOMEN: BEWARE OF DIVIDE AND CONQUER TACTICS

by Nancy Dwyer

Tactics by our male dominated society were best articulated in the Friday, December 6, 1991 editorial titled "A NOW Kind of Love." Citing an interview *The Advocate* had with Patricia Ireland, NOW's President elect, *The Daily Oklahoman* attempts to divide women through homophobia and deflect their attention from the real issue: equality for all women and freedom of individuality.

Memberships in all organizations generally range from a conservative point of view to a more radical one. Perhaps this explains the success the National Organization for Women (NOW) and other women's organizations have in addressing wide ranges of issues that are important to all women such as: sexual harrasment, discrimination in the work place, freedom for women to control their own bodies, freedom to express one's sexuality, as well as enforcement of child support laws and rape laws.

The successes of the past 20 years are being challenged daily by the conservative right.

Women of all backgrounds need to band together and not fall for "divide and conquer" tactics of our patriarchal society. With the testimony of Anita Hill, before the Senate committee, women are stepping "out of the closet" daily to exclaim that they too are suffering from harrasment. A reformation of consciousness-raising groups would give women a chance to see that the successes of the past 20 years are being challenged daily by the conservative right.

Domination of women by men is not a recent issue. Documentation goes back as far as 800 BC with the rise of the Roman Empire. Issues and roles for women ahve not changed in 2800 years. Do not allow yourself to be deflected from the true meaning of the women's movement, equality and individuality for all.

As for the past Presidents of NOW, Eleanor Smeal and Molly Yard, we should look to these two great women as examples of the forcefulness and lifelong dedication needed to win this war on male domination. The time is *now* to fight for the rights we currently hold so dear and exclaim "we will never go backwards again!"

PRESIDENT OF NOW COMING TO STATE

Patricia Ireland, President of the National Organization for Women, will speak at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on Monday, January 27, 1992. Ms. Ireland will speak at 8:00 p.m. at the Seretean Center on the southeast side of the OSU campus. There will be a reception following for those who would like to meet her. Admission to her talk and the reception is free.

Those who would like to carpool or caravan to Stillwater should call Herland at 405/521-9696; leave your name and number on the machine and we will call you back; or call LoReacy Moses, Coordinator of Cleveland County NOW, at 405/325-9259. For those in the Tulsa area call Phyllis Hearn, NOW State Coordinator, at 918/476-8574.

Also, keep your eye out for notice of receptions, etc., for Ms. Ireland in other Oklahoma cities besides Stillwater. Plans are underway for such events, but are not yet firm. ■

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN REACTIVATED LOCALLY

Cleveland County NOW's first organizational meeting on Saturday, November 23, 1991 drew seventy women ready to work and fight for women's issues. Their next meeting will be Saturday, January 4, 1992, at 2 p.m. Anyone interested in attending the meeting or participating in the following committees: Nominations, Bylaws, Reproductive Rights, Newsletter and PR; should call LoReacy Moses at 405/235-9259. Also call LoReacy for the details of the January 4 meeting.

Among other plans of CC NOW is a Clinic Defense Team, to undergo Clinic Defense Training and be ready in the event Operation Rescue targets any of our local clinics.

A fundraiser is planned also, for Sunday evening, January 5, 1992, at the Vista Restaurant in Norman. Requested donations will be \$5, and there will be a cash bar, a band and of course great munchies. See you there. ■

ACLU Luncheon Honors Women

by Peggy Johnson

December 15, 1791—U.S. Bill of Rights ratified.

December 15, 1991—American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma celebrates the Bill of Rights' 200th anniversary.

I was honored with a ticket to the ACLU luncheon celebrating the anniversary of the Bill of Rights. The highlight of the day was the introductory speech for Mandy Welch by Mark Henricksen. Welch, an attorney, was the 1991 recipient of the Angie Debo Award for her lifelong commitment to civil liberties. In particular, she has represented death row inmates in Oklahoma and Texas in their appeals to avoid execution. Even for those who don't know her or know her only slightly, Welch was described so movingly by Henricksen that some of her energy and courage surely rubbed off on each person in the crowd. Congratulations to Mandy Welch for her selfless battle against the murder by the state of its citizens. (By the way, Angie Debo, for whom the award was named, has written several books on the history of Oklahoma, if you're interested.)

Also on the podium was Anita Hill to receive special recognition from the ACLU for her courageous testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee about her experience of sexual harassment from Clarence Thomas in the workplace. She continues to speak out and speak up. They gave her the limelight, accused her of grasping it, left her to fend for herself and fend she did. Now she promises not to be silent for the many, many women from whom she has received letters of their own experiences similar and even worse than her own abuse in the workplace.

The keynote address was given by Tom Wicker, a columnist for the New York Times. He gave an interesting talk about the current state of national politics. He and the questioners in the audience were particularly interested in the 1992 presidential campaign. When asked his choice for president, he replied, "Whoever can get elected... you don't want."

Strangely enough, I find myself somewhat interested in this election. The highlights of presidential politics for me have been campaigning for McGovern in 1972, voting for Geraldine Ferraro in 1984 and voting for Jesse Jackson in the 1988 primary (plus his speech at the Democratic convention). Actually, voting for Carter by absentee ballot in my first-cast vote in 1976 at West Georgia College was rather exciting—especially since he won.

Speaking of presidential politics—who are the eligible women? I know U.S. Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D - MD) gave a rousing speech in the U.S. House of Representatives against Clarence Thomas and in favor of Anita Hill's testimony. Her pro-woman remarks were wonderful to hear from such a forum.

Look for such speeches and let their spirit incite you to continue the ongoing trudge of equality. I certainly got a surge on Bill of Rights Day when I had the privilege to hear two Oklahoma women who have kept walking, even in the face of major obstacles. Join us. We will not be turned back. ■

THE DEATH PENALTY IN OKLAHOMA

by Pat Reaves

On January 10, 1992, a new execution date will be decided for Robyn Leroy Parks, setting the stage for Oklahoma's second execution by injection of a lethal drug.

There is no evidence that the death penalty deters murder. If it did, states with a death penalty could be expected to have lower murder rates than states which do not perform executions. In fact, the FBI reports that states without the death penalty averaged 4.9 murders per 100,000 population and states with the death penalty averaged 7.9 murders per 100,000.

Executions are more expensive than a life sentence without parole. The complicated judicial procedure and long appeals process necessary to make sure that no innocent person is executed are much more expensive than life without parole in prison. Florida estimates a cost of \$3.7 million per execution.

The death penalty is applied in a discriminatory manner. A 1990 Government Accounting Office (GAO) report found "significant disparities in the charging, sentencing, and imposition of the death penalty" in Oklahoma and other states. Defendants who are persons of color are more likely to be sentenced to death than are white defendants, and defendants who kill white persons, regardless of their race, are more likely to be sentenced to death than those who kill African-Americans. Additionally, persons without resources for adequate legal representation are most likely to receive the death penalty. In Oklahoma the death penalty may be imposed on Children and mentally retarded individuals.

Innocent people are executed. Since 1990, 350 persons are known to have been wrongfully convicted of capital crimes. Of these, 23 have been executed.

Death is an absolute punishment. No rational or moral reasons can be found to justify the state taking the life of a human being.

(This article based on the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty brochure, Nine Reasons to Abolish the Death Penalty in Oklahoma.) ■

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HERLAND'S NEW CONSIGNMENT CRAFTS PROJECT IS ON THE MOVE!



Craftswomen gained a new opportunity to display (and sell) their wares when a new crafts consignment area was opened by Herland on December 7, 1991. The opening, celebrated with a ribbon cutting and appearance by Santa Claus (a woman, for sure), featured the work of 14 craftswomen. The variety of crafts includes jewelry, hand-sewn crafts, woodworking, and pottery.

Remodeling and assistance in developing the consignment area was donated by Shatzy. Thanks to Shatzy, Carol and all the women who worked to build shelves and remodel the crafts room.

Any craftswoman wanting to show her crafts at Herland should contact Herland at 521-9696 for more information. ■

GUATEMALA WOMEN ORGANIZE

Women workers at U.S. owned apparel factories in Guatemala are attempting to organize the first new union in three years in Guatemala's maquiladora sector.

With cheap labor, Guatemala has become a choice location for U.S. apparel companies. Clothing is assembled for such companies as Levis, Guess, Van Heusen, Sears, and K-Mart.

Workers, mostly young women, are paid about \$1/day, well below the \$4-5/day needed for a minimal standard of living. Workers tell of being locked into plants overnight and of being forced to work until 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. Others talk about a factory (producing clothing for K-Mart) where supervisors stand on women's stomachs to be sure they aren't employing pregnant women, on the theory that a pregnant woman would not allow someone to step on her stomach.

The U.S./Guatemala Labor Education is supporting efforts to unionize by workers at the plants owned by Phillips-Van Heusen. Further information is available from the U.S./Guatemala Labor Education Project, c/o ACTWU-Chicago Joint Board, 333 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60607. ■

Information from Labor Notes, November 1991

PEACE ACTIVIST JOBS

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is advertising two job openings in Washington, D.C.; for Legislative Director and Legislative Associate. The Legislative Director will develop the legislative components of WILPF's program priorities, through following legislation and directing WILPF legislative strategy. Qualification: Commitment to the vision and political goals of WILPF, legislative advocacy; knowledge of current issues and legislative process; political activism at the grassroots level; office administration; written communication, editing and public speaking. The salary offered is \$20,000 plus fringe benefits, and the minimum commitment is two years.

The Legislative Associate will work with the Legislative Director to implement grassroots and Capitol Hill lobbying strategies around WILPF program issues. Salary offered is \$16,000 plus fringe benefits, with a term commitment minimum of two years.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume by January 20, 1992, to Pamela Jones-Burnley, WILPF, 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 18107-1691. ■

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- ★ toll-free (does not show up on your phone bill)

1-800-333-SAFE (7233)

Hearing Impaired Persons, call 1-800-873-6363

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is operated
by the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



KEEP THE VOICE COMING

The monthly cost for printing and mailing *The Voice* is approximately \$500. If you enjoy reading *The Voice* each month, please consider making a donation to help cover these costs.

- Please add me to the mailing list for *The Voice*
- Please change my address
- I'd like to receive *The Voice* in a sealed envelope by first class mail. I'm enclosing \$10.00 for the additional cost.
- I would like to contribute \$_____ toward continuing to bring *The Voice* to our public.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Chatterbox

LESBIAN ONLY THERAPY GROUP—Wednesday evenings at Herland. Call Jo Soske. M.Ed/MHR/CADC for further information. (405) 364-5708....

FREE HIV RISK ASSESSMENT OFFERED. The OASIS Resource Center, 2135 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, is offering free anonymous HIV risk assessment as a public service in cooperation with a project supported by the National Cancer Institute of the U.S. Public Health Service. People seeking to use this service can walk in during OASIS evening hours; do not have to identify themselves, the software is easy to use, and there is no charge. Free anonymous HIV antibody testing is available across the street from the OASIS at Testing the Limits, and is also available at the Monday Night Clinic at 4400 N. Lincoln Boulevard....

LESBIAN WRITERS FUND ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR 1992 AWARDS. Now in its second year, the Lesbian Writers Fund was established by the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation to support the work of emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry. Five awards of \$11,000 each will be made in June, 1992: 3 fiction, 2 poetry. Applicants must have published at least one piece of work in a magazine, newspaper, literary journal or anthology. Write for guidelines, eligibility criteria, and application form to: Lesbian Writers Fund, Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, 666 Broadway, Suite 520, New York, NY 10012. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 13, 1992....

POETS AND WRITERS INFORMATION CENTER offers assistance to authors and arranges readings of their work, matches authors with libraries, bookstores, churches, community centers and other forums and publishes A Directory of American Poets and Writers. Contact Poets and Writers Information Center, 212/226-3586....

NATIVE ARTS UPDATE is a quarterly letter containing sources of information and opportunities concerning Native American exhibitions, performances, programs, arts issues and resources. Contact ATLATL, 402 W. Roosevelt, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Phone: 602/253-2731....

LESBIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS NETWORK. Keeping Lesbians in Focus: The network is seeking global contact with lesbian photographers for networking and mailorder catalogue of select photos celebrating our geographical and cultural diversity (from every day life to sensual settings). Write for information with a sample of your work to L-SEA-L, 348 Carlisle, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106....

WRITERS' RETREAT. The Syvenna Foundation's Writers' Retreat for Women offers four three-month residencies each year for women writers of all genres, at beginning and intermediate level of craft. The Foundation provides a recipient with a private cottage and a stipend of \$300 a month. For an application, write Syvenna Foundation, Route 1, Box 193, Linden, TX 75563. 903/835-8252....

THE CHARLES BANNERMAN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP, which honors outstanding community and labor activists of color is seeking applicants. Bannerman Fellows receive stipends of \$10,000 for sabbaticals of three months or longer, providing time to reflect and re-energize. Activists must have at least 10 years organizing experience to qualify. For information and an application contact the Charles Bannerman Memorial Fellowship Program, c/o Partnership for Democracy, 2335 18th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009. Phone 202/483-0030....

WOMEN IN AMERICAN LIFE, 1942-1955, a twenty minute video telling the story of women who went to work during WWII is available for sale or rent through the Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492 (Phone 707/838-6000). For a complete catalog of materials available through the Women's History Project send \$1 to the same address....

HERLAND LIBRARY REORGANIZED! Profuse thanks go to Michelle and PJ. If you haven't checked it out lately, come on over....

GULF COAST WOMEN'S FESTIVAL will be held April 15 - 19, 1992 south of Jackson, MS. For information contact: GCWF, 1806 Curcor Dr., Gulfport, MS 39507.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

BOLD INDICATES HOME GAME

OU

1/3	Texas Christian	7 pm
1/5	Southern Methodist	2 pm
1/13	Arkansas	7 pm
1/16	Iowa State	7 pm
1/18	Kansas State	1 pm
1/22	Missouri	7 pm
1/26	at OK State, Stillwater	2 pm
1/29	at Nebraska, Lincoln	7 pm
2/1	Colorado	Noon
2/3	at Baylor, Waco	7 pm
2/5	at Kansas, Lawrence	7 pm
2/9	at Missouri, Columbia	1:30 pm
2/12	at Kan. State, Manhattan	7 pm
2/15	Nebraska	2 pm
2/17	at S. Methodist, Dallas	7:30 pm
2/20	Oklahoma State	7 pm
2/22	at Colorado, Boulder	TBA
2/23	at Prairie View A & M	7 pm
2/26	Kansas	7 pm
3/1	at Iowa State, Ames	7 pm
3/7-9	Big Eight Championship, Salina, Kan.	

UCO (LADY BRONCHO)

1/3-4	at Cameron Classic	TBA
1/9	at Southeastern (OK)	6 pm
1/15	Cameron*	6 pm
1/18	Eastern New Mexico*	6 pm
1/20	Texas Woman's*	6 pm
1/25	at Angelo State*	6 pm
1/27	at Abilene Christian*	6 pm
2/1	at Texas A&I*	5:30 pm
2/3	at East Texas State*	6 pm
2/5	Southeastern (OK)	6 pm
2/8	East Texas State*	6 pm
2/10	Texas A&I*	6 pm
2/15	at Eastern NM (MST)*	5:30 pm
2/17	at Texas Woman's*	7 pm
2/22	Abilene Christian*	6 pm
2/24	Angelo State*	6 pm
2/27	at Cameron*	6 pm
3/3	LSC Post-Season Tournament	

*Lone Star Conference games

OCU

1/1-6	Pensacola Tournament	TBA
1/11	Southwestern OSU	5:45 pm
1/14	at Northeastern State	7 pm
1/18	at Southern Nazarene	5:45 pm
1/20	at Northwestern OSU	7 pm
1/23	USAO	5:45 pm
1/25	at Oklahoma Christian	5:45 pm
1/30	Phillips	5:45 pm
2/1	at Oklahoma Baptist	5:45 pm
2/4	at East Central	5:30 pm
2/6	at USAO	5:45 pm
2/8	Oklahoma Christian	5:45 pm
2/10	at Oral Roberts	TBA
2/13	at Phillips	5:45 pm
2/15	Oklahoma Baptist	5:45 pm
2/20	Southern Nazarene	5:45 pm

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Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request.

The Voice is printed on recycled paper.

WOMEN'S HEALTH EQUITY ACT NEEDS YOU

The Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus has begun sponsoring a letter writing campaign to their congressional delegation on behalf of H.R. 1161, the Women's Health Equity Act. The act is sponsored by Congresswoman Pat Schroeder (D-Colorado). The WHEA would promote greater equity in the delivery of health care services to women in the U.S. through expanded research on women's health issues, improved access to healthcare services and the development of disease prevention activities responsive to the needs of women.

Among its provisions, the bill would require that women and minorities be included in clinical trials, except where such inclusion would be inappropriate. Currently, according to the American Medical Association, women are likely to receive inadequate treatment for such conditions as cardiovascular disease, because diagnostic treatment protocols are based on studies done on men alone. Although heart disease is the number one killer of women in the U.S., the two most recent clinical trials in the area of heart disease included 15,000 and 22,000 men, and no women.

The bill would also increase funding by \$25 million for basic cancer research. Recent studies show an alarming increase in the rate of breast cancer including a fourfold increase for older women. Another provision of the bill sets national quality standards for mammography. Currently, 75% of the facilities performing mammographies do not adhere to the quality standards established by the American College of Radiology. Other components of the bill pertain to women and AIDS, ovarian cancer research, Medicaid coverage for mammographies and PAP smears, and alcohol and drug abuse amongst women. ■

from Bi-Women via Women Oughta Know

NEED TO TALK?
NEED COMMUNITY INFORMATION?

CALL **447-GAYS**
The Gay & Lesbian
HELPLINE

Hours: 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. Thursday - Monday

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

HOMOPHOBIA DIGEST

Reader's Digest, which sells 28 million copies monthly, may be the most anti-gay general circulation magazine in America. A recent example of the magazine's viewpoint: In September "That's Outrageous"—a column purporting to "spotlight absurdities in our society" with the aim of "eliminating them"—featured an item condemning the Centers for Disease Control for funding safe-sex education programs sponsored by "a homosexual group called the National Association of Black and White Men Together." Said the item by arch-homophobe Cal Thomas, "This bolsters homosexual efforts to give their sexual behavior the same kind of legal approval that minority groups have . . ."

It was unclear which offended *Reader's Digest* more—the fact that taxpayer money went to a gay group, or the fact that the money was used to teach gay men how to avoid contracting AIDS. The editors seem unaware that it is both more compassionate and more economical to spend \$800,000 to prevent a disease than millions to treat it. ■

from GLAAD Bulletin, Nov/Dec 1991

P-FLAG SEEKS PSA VOLUNTEERS

Families of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals proclaiming their love for all their family members will appear in a groundbreaking public service announcement currently in production, according to Tom Sauerman, P-FLAG Executive Director.

Volunteers are needed to assist local P-FLAG chapters in placing the PSAs on local television stations nationwide. "Personal contact between P-FLAG volunteers and TV station officials will be of key importance in getting the PSAs aired on local stations," said Sauerman. "These volunteers will be a part of history in-the-making, as we air the first nationally-distributed lesbian and gay-themed PSA. Imagine TV viewers trying to determine which persons are the lesbians and gay men!"

Volunteer team members and team leaders need not have media experience—a willingness and desire to influence their local stations to air the PSA are all that is required. Distribution of the PSA will begin in March, 1992, and may require a commitment of several weeks or even months in order to persuade some stations to air the spot.


Readers are invited to apply to serve on media teams by February 1, 1992. For more information write to: PSA Director, Federation Parents FLAG, 1012 14th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005. ■

JANUARY 1992

Doc Herland figures it this way: Chocolate and coffee come from beans, and beans are legumes, and legumes are a very important food group, right? So, ipso facto, chocolate and coffee are good for you. Wow! And a Happy New Year to you too.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

* * * Congratulations to Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski on their recent Court victory. It's about time. * * *

1  HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2

3 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 pm

4 Cleveland County NOW meeting. 2pm 325-9259 for details

5 Cleveland County NOW Fundraiser, Vista Restaurant, Norman

6

7

8

9 Carrie Chapman Catt, American Suffrage Leader 1859-1947

10 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 pm

11  MISS BROWN TO YOU at the Coyote Club

12 Police seized 800 copies of The Well of Loneliness, in 1928. (But now for sale at Herland)

13

14 7TH GRADE BRIGADE 6:30 PM, NSO BUILDING


15 Martin Luther King 1929 - 1968

16

17 CoDA Meeting. 7:00 pm

18 MISS BROWN TO YOU at the Coyote Club * PEGGY JOHNSON at POETS

19  Board Meeting 4:30 p.m.

20  M. L. KING HOLIDAY

21 Herland Discussion Group: Tonight's Topic: Confronting Racism

22 Roe v. Wade Decision in 1973

23

24 The Sisters of Swing at JR's in Bricktown, 13 East California * CoDA, 7 pm

25 The Sisters of Swing at JR's in Bricktown 13 East California

26  PEGGY JOHNSON 8 pm at the Coyote Club

27 Patricia Ireland Speech & Reception, Stillwater, 8pm

28

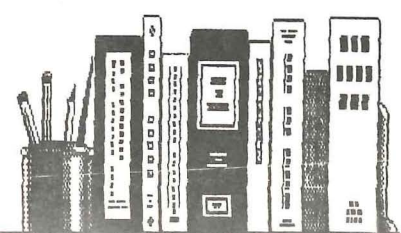
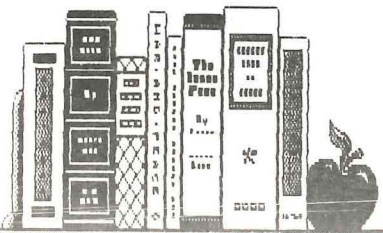
29

30

31 Slavery abolished in the US, 1865 * CoDA Meeting, 7:00 pm

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

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