

The HERLAND VOICE

FEBRUARY 1992

Interview with Susan Shown Harjo

"We Have No Reason to Celebrate an Invasion"

Susan Shown Harjo is president and director of the Morning Star Foundation in Washington, D.C. The foundation sponsors the 1992 Alliance, formed to provide an indigenous peoples' response to the Columbus Quincentenary. Harjo, a 45-year-old Cheyenne-Creek, agreed to answer questions about why some people are not celebrating the quincentenary. She was interviewed by Barbara Miner of Rethinking Schools.

Why aren't you joining in the celebrations of the Columbus quincentenary?

As Native American peoples in this red quarter of Mother Earth, we have no reason to celebrate an invasion that caused the demise of so many of our people and is still causing destruction today. The Europeans stole our land and killed our people.

But because the quincentenary is a cause celebre, it provides an opportunity to put forth Native American perspectives on the next 500 years.

Columbus was just "a man of his times." Why are you so critical of him? Why not look at the positive aspects of his legacy?

For people who are in survival mode, it's very difficult to look at the positive aspects of death and destruction, especially when it is carried through to our present. There is a reason we are the poorest people in America. There is a reason we have the highest teen suicide rate. There is a reason why our people are ill-housed and in poor health, and we do not live as long as the majority population.

That reason has to do with the fact that we were in the way of Western civilization and we were in the way of westward expansion. We suffered the "excesses" of civilization such as murder, pillage, rape, destruction of the major waterways, destruction of land, the destruction and pollution of the air.

What are those "positive" aspects of the Columbus legacy? If we're talking about the horse, yeah, that's good. We like the horse. Indians raised the use of the horse to high military art, especially among the Cheyenne people and the tribes of the plains states.

Was that a good result of that invasion? Yes. Is it something

we would have traded for the many Indian peoples who are no longer here because of that invasion? No.

We also like the beads that came from Europe, and again we raised their use to a high art. Would we have traded those beads for the massacres of our people, such as the Sand Creek massacre [in which U.S. soldiers massacred hundreds of Native American men, women, and children at Sand Creek, Colorado in 1864]? No.

Why do we focus on Columbus rather than any number of U.S. presidents who were also responsible for the death and destruction of Indian people? Because it's his 500 years; it's his quincentenary.

Isn't criticism of Columbus a form of picking on the Spaniards? Were they any worse than other Europeans who came to America?

In my estimation, the Spaniards were no worse than any number of other Europeans. The economy of slavery and serfdom that existed in northern Europe—how do you measure that in cruelty and in long-term effects against the Spanish Inquisition?

I view the issue more as the oppressive nature and arrogance of the Christian religions. And that continues today.

Our Indian religions are not missionary religions. We are taught to respect other religions. It was a shock when we were met with proselytizing zealots, especially those who thought that if your soul can't be saved, you're better off dead—or if your soul can be saved, you should be dead so you can go to heaven. And that's the history of that original encounter.

How does that arrogance and ignorance manifest itself today?

How? Well, for example, the Catholic Church has said that 1992 is a time to enter into a period of grace and healing and to celebrate the evangelization of the Americas. My word, how can you be graceful and healing about the tens of thousands of native people who were killed because they would not convert to a religion they didn't understand, or because they didn't understand the language of those making the request?

It's difficult to take seriously an apology that is not

(continued on page 3)

ST. SYBIL

(St. Sybil, Matron Saint of the forgotten woman, answers the occasional odd question in the "Voice.")

Dear St. Sybil:

With the elections coming up, I am wondering who the Republicans are going to get to replace poor ridiculous Dan Quayle on the ticket. He is so pathetic I am beginning to feel sorry for him.

Democratically yours, if you know what I mean,

Sophie Baer

Dear Sophie,

You are quite right about one thing; it is easy to make fun of Dan Quayle: a pampered rich boy of modest intellect, whose horrendous faux pas and disastrous off-the-cuff comments have resulted in his near-disappearance from the public eye. And, when seen, he does cut such a foolish figure. On the slopes of Vail, Colorado, last Christmas, for example, where he was spotted vacationing: what was our boy doing? Was he taking up downhill skiing, a sport of grace, finesse and daring? Well no, not our Danny. Did he choose cross-country skiing, a tranquil, mature and reflective past time? Not he; what Danny Quayle chose was the world's most adolescent and obnoxious winter sport ever devised; the sport of bullies, the winter equivalent of kicking sand in a weakling's face, the sport voted most likely to annoy: Snowboarding. (A snowboard, according to Henry Beard's Skiing Dictionary, is "a short, wide, ski-shaped board designed for 'snowsurfing,' with a flat surface on one side and a fathead on the other.") Get a grip, Dan! You're not 15 anymore.

So: Who will the Republicans replace him with next fall? Well, don't be too sure that they plan to. While you are dismissing him with a contemptuous sneer and a shake of the head, a skyward roll of the eyes and a "Grow up, Dan!", he, through the Council on Competitiveness, which he chairs, is quietly gutting laws designed to protect the environment; this, in the classic "good cop - bad cop" routine, allows the Bush administration to develop a decent reputation for accepting environmentally responsible laws, while secure in the knowledge that Quayle and the Council on Competitiveness will eviscerate those same laws. And, at the same time, through his work with the Council, Quayle is expanding and solidifying a power base among the country's wealthiest and staunchest conservatives; men and businesses who are quite likely to have the will and the power to keep Dan Quayle on the ticket in November.

You just can't believe it? Remember, twelve long years ago you were snorting derisively at the idea of anyone voting for Ronald Reagan for president; and four years ago Bush's reputation as a "wimp" and a loser was as well established as Quayle's is today as a "dork." So, you had better get busy, pay attention, and shine a bright spotlight on Quayle and his COC, or you may have to try to form your mouth around the words "President Quayle" in 1996. But if you stay alert and work hard you may be able to issue, instead, that musical, mystical, mellifluous mouthful, that dizzy, delicious, delightful directive, that gratifying, edifying, soul satisfying decree, "Dan, you bum, get a job!"

Apolitically as always,

Love
Sybil

Dear St. Sybil,

What are you wearing to Herland's Valentine Party?

Jess Wondrin

Dear Jess,

I'm wearing a #3 cloud, a #7 rainbow, the spirit of fifty-two lop-eared rabbits and the ribbon from a box of Godiva chocolates. See you there?

Love,
Sybil

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AUDRE LORDE GARNERS NEW HONOR

New York State has selected Audre Lorde as its official State Poet. Audre Lorde said she accepted the two-year honor on behalf of "all the poets of the oppressed, disenfranchised, and silenced peoples within this state."

Lorde said in an interview with *The Washington Blade* that her selection as State Poet reflects "intense contradictions," as New York is a state where "black woman can be raped and sodomized and her white college student attackers be freed in court; a place where date-rape and street violence against lesbians and gay men is on the increase.

"We must find ways to use the best we have—our selves and our work—to bridge these contradictions, to learn the lessons they teach. That is the job of the poet within each one of us—to envision what has not yet been and to somehow make a reality pursuit of those visions irresistible."

Lorde, who is self-described as a "Black lesbian feminist warrior poet mother," is the author of *Zami, A New Spelling of My Name*; *The Cancer Journals* and *A Burst of Light* and many volumes of poetry, including *Our Dead Behind Us* and *The Black Unicorn*. ■

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coupled with atonement. It's as if they're saying, "I'm sorry, oops, and we'll be better in the next hemisphere." That doesn't cut it. We've had empty platitudes before.

The combination of arrogance and ignorance also results in making mascots of Indian people, of dehumanizing and stereotyping them—in the sports world, in advertising, and in society at large. The Washington Redskins football team is an excellent example.

There is no more derogatory name in English for Indian people than the name Redskins. And the Redskins is a prominent image right here in the nation's capital that goes by unnoticed. Because we are an invisible population, the racism against us is also invisible for the most part.

You don't see sports teams called the White Trash, the Black Chicks, the Jew Boys, or the Jack Mormons. And if we did see that, it wouldn't go on for long, you can be sure of that.

Why can't we use the Columbus quincentenary to celebrate American diversity and the contributions of all, Europeans, and Native Americans alike?

There will be lots of people who will be putting forth the perspective of rah rah Columbus, rah rah Western Civilization. Our perspective is putting forth native peoples' views on our past and present. We also want to get into the public consciousness the notion that we actually have a future on this planet. This is something missed by even what is hailed as the most progressive of American movies, *Dances with Wolves*.

We're more interested in the 500 years before Columbus and what will go on in the next 500 years. The truth of the intervening 500 years is really known in the hearts of people worldwide, even though the particulars have been obscured by a cotton-candy version of history.

Aren't some of the criticisms of Columbus just substituting Native-centrism for Euro-centrism?

Oppressed people need to be centered within themselves. Racism and centism become a problem if you are in the dominant society and are subjugating other people as a result of your centrism. I don't accept the question. I think it's an empty argument.

Aren't criticisms of Columbus just another form of insuring "political correctness?"

The Eurocentric view, having been exposed for its underlying falsehood, now wishes to oppose any other view as either equally false or simply the flip side of reality: a secondary or dual reality?

Feelings are usually dual realities; perspectives are dual realities. But there are some things that don't have a dual reality. For example, if we look at who has polluted all of our water, causing a whole lot of death and a whole lot of illness in this country alone, then we have a bit of a clue where the problem might rest. We have a clue whose reality might expose the truth and whose reality might obscure the truth.

It's about time for the people who are the true historic revisionists, who are on the far right side of this whole political correctness debate, to stop lying to themselves, to their readership and to their students. They must stop their silly ivory tower kinds of debates about whether multiculturalism should be used, and so forth.

What is the true history? Just start dealing with some undisputable realities. The world is a mess. This country is a mess. The people who fare the worst in this country are poor, non-white children and poor, non-white old people Societies who do not care for their young people and old people are decadent, decaying societies.

I think there are a lot of good minds that are reflecting that decadence and decay when they choose to spend their time on these

kinds of ivory tower debates. There are things about which they can do much, and they are doing nothing.

What should be the goal and perspective of teachers when telling their elementary and high school students about Columbus?

First, that no one knows the truth about Columbus. His story is a very complex history in and of itself. Too often, this history is posed as romantic myth, and the uncomfortable facts about Columbus are eliminated.

Explaining the unpleasant truths about Columbus does not take away from the fact that he was able to lurch over to these shores in three little boats. In fact, it gives the story of Columbus more dimension. It also makes it easier for kids in school to accept not only Columbus but other things.

Teachers need to respect the truth. What happens if I'm sitting in a classroom and teachers are telling me that Thomas Jefferson was one of the greatest men in the world, and I also know that he owned slaves, but they don't tell me that? What am I going to do when I'm told "don't use or abuse drugs or alcohol"? Will I think there may be another side to that too? What else am I being told that isn't true?

Kids are smart. And they have not experienced enough setbacks to know that they have to be sheep. But that's what they're taught in the public schools—how to exercise not personal discipline, but top-down discipline. It's the "do as you're told" approach to the world, rather than trying to help kids understand their place in the world.

We have to inject more truth in the classroom generally. And that only comes from discussion. I guess I'm a fan of the Socratic method.

What are the key struggles that native people face today?

We need, in the first instance, basic human rights such as religious freedom. Or how about life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and other things that many people in the United States view as standard fare but are out of reach for Indian people?

There is also the issue of land and treaty rights. We have property that we don't own and we should, and we have property that we own that we don't control and we should.

We have treaties with the United States that are characterized in the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Yet every one, without exception, of nearly 400 treaties signed between native peoples and the U.S. government has been broken. Every one of them.

A good place to start would be for the United States to live up to every treaty agreement. It's also the way you get at resolving some of the problems of poverty, alcoholism, unemployment, and poor health.

If we don't handle the big things, we can't get to the manifestations of the problem. We have to go to the basic human rights issues, the basic treaty rights issues.

If we don't resolve these issues, then all people in this country are going to be complicit in the continuing effort to wipe out our Indian people. It's as simple as that. ■

Reprinted from "Rethinking Columbus: Teaching About the 500th Anniversary of Columbus's Arrival." Available from Rethinking Schools, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

THERAPY SISTERS AT THE COYOTE CLUB!

If you've never seen them, you've got to, and if you have, you'll be there. A dynamic, talented, FUNNY group of women, there to entertain you. Saturday, March 7, 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Cost? A measly \$4, and believe me, it's worth it. ■

DON'T LAY THAT TRASH ON OKLAHOMA!

by Deborah Fox

We're being targeted for Landfill sites by out-of-state companies because our charge of \$6.50 per ton is cheaper than anywhere else in the country, and also because we have areas in the State that are sparsely populated and thus offer less opposition. I urge everyone to get involved to keep out-of-state waste out of Oklahoma and to help those fighting in sparsely populated areas to gain a greater voice.

Once again the men in power are trying to treat symptoms rather than face the problem head on. Of course, because facing the problems means acknowledging their greed, stupidity and arrogance. The beneficiaries of rampant capitalism are so enraptured by their accumulation of financial excess=power and self-aggrandizement they refuse to think of the future. They've lost the capacity for thinking ahead in their narrow-minded rut. And as environmental scientist Jessica Tuckman Mathews tells us: "We are up against a lot of limits that require us to think ahead and to act in advance of damage, rather than going back to clean it up—because there are some things we can't clean up."

What's happened to Americans?! Why weren't Americans outraged by Watergate, the Iran-Contra scandals, or the Pentagon scandals? Why aren't Americans panicked, even hysterical over the life-threatening hole in earth's ozone layer? In general, most Americans have become apathetic, accepting rising crime rates, acts of violence, mounting destruction to the earth, governmental deception, violence glorified on TV and so on as "normal" now. Many Americans seem to have become emotionally and mentally deadened, even crippled. And if not that, then paralyzed by fear. Our society is like a colt running reckless with its nose wide open having no thought for the past and no thought for the future. It is only in the past 50 years that such fatal environmental destruction has been incurred upon the earth. And our tax dollars are primarily used (literally poured into) technologies for destruction. Why aren't Americans *demanding* that our tax dollars be used for technologies that sustain and support life? Why isn't solar power subsidized by the government, making it available to the masses?! Why aren't our tax dollars being used for energy efficient technologies that do not depend upon fossil fuels?! Why isn't the automobile industry developing the cars that get 70 - 110 miles per gallon? Japan has them, Western Europe has them. In fact, Japan has all sorts of energy efficient appliances—we don't need to fear violent takeover from another country but we could be taken over economically.

What has happened to democracy that *the people* do not have a say in whether or not an industrial waste landfill is put in our backyard? In the American Revolution Americans fought for independence and to establish a new government, but today we have the very same qualities operating in American government that we fought to liberate ourselves from; tyranny and the rule of the rich. Of course, as women, we have never benefited from the "new government" and "The Rights of Man."

As women we have been denigrated along with the Earth. Our prepatriarchal ancestors literally worshipped the ground they walked on, and also Woman, whose biology is inextricably linked with the cycles of the universe. Matricentered culture's religion deified the female and was earth-based; when the patriarchies conquered, Woman and the Earth suffered the most. Now women and the earth would be relegated to the dominion of man. But, as Susan Griffin points out; *we are Nature*. What we do the earth and to women we ultimately do to ourselves. Oklahoma is one of the last states to remain environmentally preserved (as it is we already have

two cancerous landfills, one in Tulsa and one in Lone Wolf). We should be looking to cultivate Oklahoma's tourist trade; building up our small, quaint Western towns, our Wildlife Conservation areas, our outdoor recreational trade, our Native American and country art, not cultivate Oklahoma as a dumping ground! We have a fast diminishing resource; Nature. Our land is rich in paleohistory, the Wichita Mountains are one of the oldest exposed landmasses and so on. Oklahoma is a diamond among broken glass and we must fight to keep greed from stealing this gem, leaving us nothing in the end. No one can tell me that "industrial" (read; toxic) landfills won't destroy the resources Oklahoma does have.

The environmental problem will not be solved by more landfills—that only treats the symptoms. What's needed is *large scale reduction of waste* and a unity of Nations embracing the destiny we share. There is no other solution. As a species we'd better wake up before we go the way of the dinosaur, and as Oklahomans we'd better fight against more landfills before our land can no longer support life.

As a woman and as a feminist I am proud of my alliance with the Earth, and I take up her cause along with my own. ■

COFFEEHOUSE SATURDAY, FEB. 22 7:00 P.M.

Come have a cappuccino and listen to good music at Herland on Saturday, February 22. If you want to bring an instrument, feel free, as a portion of the evening will be open mic. Admission is free, and refreshments will be available for purchase. See you there.

TELL-IT: AFRICAN WOMEN WRITING

Call for submissions for TELL-IT: AFRICAN WOMEN WRITING, an annual which seeks to publish poetry, short stories and essays with an African outlook from women writers who reside in Africa or are studying abroad. *Deadline for Issue Number 1 is June 1, 1992.* While manuscripts will not be returned, the authors will be notified by mid-July as to whether their articles will be published. The authors whose articles are published will receive two free copies of the journal.

The majority of women who attended the All-African Student Conference at Oklahoma State University, May 31 - June 2, 1991, supported the birth of this journal.

Poems will be limited to a maximum of 5 - 10 poems per entry, and stories and essays will be limited to a maximum of 2000 words. Authors are encouraged to send only *unpublished* manuscripts in English.

Attention Artists: TELL-IT: AFRICAN WOMEN WRITING is also seeking original drawings.

Please include 3 or more sentences about yourself so that the information can be used for author notes.

Submissions should be sent to Wairimu Wanjohi, Editor, TELL-IT: AFRICAN WOMEN WRITING, P.O. Box 981, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74076, USA. ■

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

Plan now to attend the Herland Spring Retreat at Robbers Cave State Park, May 15, 16 and 17. Watch the *Voice* for more information.

NOW NEWS

The Cleveland County Chapter of NOW met on January 4th and elected its slate of officers. LoReacy Moses was elected president. Kristy Stewart was elected vice-president, and Robyn Drisko was elected secretary-treasurer. About 45 people attended the meeting.

As you may know, the Oklahoma City NOW chapter is no longer active. The Cleveland County chapter therefore encourages interested people throughout central Oklahoma to join our chapter. We are excited about the response we have already received in Cleveland County. In fact, we wish to thank the "Daily Oklahoman" and its recent anti-NOW editorials for helping get the word out! With Professor Anita Hill's ordeal just behind us, and with a Supreme Court reconsideration of *Roe v. Wade* looming on the horizon, we can't afford to wait.

Come join us! Call LoReacy Moses at 325-9259. ■

CLINIC ESCORTS NEEDED

Cleveland County NOW is organizing Clinic Defense Teams to escort women into area clinics. If you are interested, contact Sandy or Nancy at 794-6884. ■

HERLAND GARAGE SALE

Herland plans to be involved in the annual Non-Profit Garage Sale at the Fairgrounds, April 4, 1992. This is your opportunity to do your Spring Cleaning, get the stuff hauled out and make a much needed contribution to Herland. All you need to do is call, we will make arrangements to pick it up and if needed provide you with a receipt for estimated value.

Also, help will be needed picking up, moving in/out of the fairgrounds, pricing items the night before and selling the day of the sale. If you have a pickup and could be available for a couple of hours, please call and work out a time either right before the sale or prior to pick up items from people's homes. Please note all donations will be accepted, but remember we will be competing with some major non-profit organizations all over the city so dig deep into your nice items. Then come on down to the Made In Oklahoma building Saturday April 4 and shop your brains out, or just say hi.

Also, Wednesday and Thursday (April 1 and 2) from 6pm -9pm will be the pricing party. Come help price, eat refreshments and have fun. AND... people who help get first choice on buying items.

If you have any questions, leave a message for Laura at Herland, 521-9696. She'll get back to you ASAP. Thanks! ■

WOMEN'S RAPE MUSEUM

The January 1992 issue of *Off Our Backs* has a lengthy article on a proposal for a Women's Rape Museum; by Carolyn Gage. Her vision is "A public space where women who were survivors could come and grieve the collective pain of other women who were raped. I wanted a learning environment where women and children could see exhibits about the history of our oppression. I wanted a library and resource center for women working their way towards healing and empowerment. I wanted a public, visible monument that would say, 'This is a war, this is an epidemic, this is a conspiracy.'"

Gage envisions a multitude of displays and exhibits; films, photographs, art, a library, quiet spaces, counselors, and other traditional and non-traditional museum exhibits. To summarize the exhibits, there would be: The Myths about Rape, the first exhibit to greet the visitor to the museum; The History of Rape Laws in America; Historic Rape Resisters; If Someone You Know Has Been Raped, a list of "do's" and "don'ts" for friends and family of victims; Reporting Rape: The Legal Steps; Child Survivors Tell Their Stories, a film with no adult narrative, focusing on the survivor art of these children; Post-Rape Syndrome: Steps to Healing; Slavery and Rape; War and Rape; Incest: Covert and Overt; Famous Women Who Survived; Side Effects of Rape; Sexual Harassment: On The Job Rape; Cultural Control of Women, a display of articles used for the oppression of women, including traditional foot-bindings from China, the chador and the chastity belt, boned corsets, and high-heeled shoes; The Burning Time, the persecution and killing of women as witches; The Battering Cycle; Women and Weapons; Self-Defense Strategies; Rape in Institutions; Pornography: Teaching Rape; Compulsory Marriage: Legal Rape; Date Rape; Rape Survivors Library and Resource Center; Counseling Room; Testimony Book and Tapes: Women Only, so that women visiting the Museum may have the opportunity of writing or telling their story on tape in privacy and leaving it in the archives; The Rape Survivor's Memorial, a quiet garden area where survivors and their friends and family can come and pay tribute to the courage of the women and children who have been raped; this would be the place for leaving poems, flowers, photographs, and so on, as tributes. There would also be a place where articles associated with the rape could be burned, as part of a healing, empowering act for survivors.

Ms. Gage describes early attempts to build and create this vast project, and how and why those attempts failed. It is a wonderful vision, and surely it will become a reality in [most of our] lifetimes.

"Off Our Backs" is available for in-store reading at Herland. Come in if you can and read in greater detail about this bold and daring vision. ■

RU486 UPDATE

The French company that makes the abortion pill RU486 has announced that it will launch a major study of the pill's effectiveness in treating breast cancer in 1992 in Canada. Roussel-Uclaf chose Canada rather than the United States because the legal status of abortion in this country is so unclear and there is so much political conflict over the issue, they said. The study will treat 1,000 women who have breast cancer with RU486 (*info from Off Our Backs*).

In related news, the Food and Drug Administration has declined to issue an outright ban on breast implants, but has requested a temporary moratorium on them until the manufacturers can prove that they are safe. That sounds reasonable. ■

Chatterbox

LESBIAN ONLY THERAPY GROUP. Wednesday evenings. Call Jo Soske. M.Ed/MHR/CAC at 364-5708....

GOOD NEWS FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS. We have heard recently about the Boy Scouts hierarchy, which refused to allow Scouts who are either gay or Atheist. Better news comes from the Girl Scouts; Girl Scouts spokeswoman Barbara Smith, in commenting on a Girl Scouts statement endorsing personal privacy, said "We value and respect our volunteers and staff and we don't investigate into their personal matters. We don't have any policies that involve the individual's sexual preferences. We don't condone or permit sexual displays of any sort, either homosexual or heterosexual...."

THE 22ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND THE LAW will take place in Chicago, March 26 - 29, 1992. This national forum for the discussion of legal, social and political issues which affect women will have workshops, special events, caucuses, entertainment—the works. For info, contact Julie Justicz at 312/651-3100....

THE 7TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL, to be held March 27 - 30 in Austin, Texas, is soliciting entries less than one hour long. Deadline is February 10, which means that time will be really short by the time this newsletter reaches you, so you will need to call 512/474-4337 for guidelines for submissions....

February 28 is the deadline for the **SPINSTERS BOOK COMPANY ANNUAL LESBIAN FICTION CONTEST**. Entries must be 200 to 350 pages; write them for complete guidelines at P.O. Box 410687, San Francisco, CA 94141....

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: Two feminist self-defense instructors at the D.C. Rape Crisis Center are publishing a book on women who have successfully confronted sexual harassment. Write 1 - 5 English or Spanish pages, or call to give a phone interview, by March 1. Describe yourself briefly, say when and where the harassment happened, what the harasser said and did, what you said and did, how it turned out, and how you felt about it. P.O. Box 21005, Washington, DC 20009; 301/654-0176.

Organizers Plan for Democratic National Convention

Operation Rescue will be attempting to shut down all the clinics in New York during the Democratic National Convention, July 7 - 11, 1992. They will also be doing actions at the convention itself.

WHAM! (Women's Health Action and Mobilization) is coordinating escorting, clinic defense, and counter-protest and publicity. ACT UP/NY will also be a large part of the organizing and activism for Choice at the Convention.

WHAM! organizers say they will send a clear message to the nation that we will not stand by in silence while women's rights to control their bodies are trampled upon. "We will not let this be another Wichita!"

If you have experience in these areas, or are interested in learning, WHAM! asks that you contact them ASAP at: 212/713-5966 (leave a message c/o Misha) or write P.O. Box 733, N.Y., NY 10009.

Please pass the word on to other interested parties. If you have experience with ACT UP as well, please let WHAM! know that when you call. ■

**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.

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES MISSION STATEMENT

(WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE'RE ABOUT)

Herland Sister Resources envisions and strives toward a world in which all women live free from oppression.

Herland supports and includes all women who experience oppression. Lesbians as a group have a deep experience of the general oppressive climate of this world. Although Herland is not restricted to lesbians, we have a strong lesbian focus. We are a womanist organization, supporting women in their journey toward self-definition and self-determination, and recognizing that each woman has her own pace of growth and enlightenment.

Herland is a non-profit volunteer organization. We publish a newsletter, operate a bookstore and lending library, and provide musical and cultural events for education and entertainment. We offer a safe place for women to meet and exchange ideas, feelings, hopes and fears and to learn about themselves and each other.

The only requirement for involvement in Herland is a desire for women to be free of the restraints of oppression.

DO YOU ENJOY RECEIVING THE VOICE EVERY MONTH?

If the Voice is important to you, please use the form below and the enclosed envelope to send a contribution to support its publication and distribution.

The Voice is published entirely with volunteer labor, but we still must pay for printing and mailing. It costs Herland about 50 cents to get your copy to you each month.

Your contribution of at least \$6 will cover the costs of your subscription. Please consider including a little extra to help provide the Voice to others.

Thank you.

YES. I am sending a contribution to Herland to help keep our Voice in the mail.

\$6 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 \$15 Other _____

NAME _____

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February 1992



Frederick Douglass, February 12, 1817 - 1895 ; US escaped slave, abolitionist & orator. He established his own newspaper, "North Star", in Rochester, New York. He held various federal posts and was US minister to Haiti 1889 - 1891.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Elizabeth Blackwell, February 3, 1821 - 1910 ; First American woman doctor of medicine - i.e., first American woman to reclaim the right of healing. Rebuffed at first by the authorities and later ostracized by her fellow students, she went on to gain her degree, with the highest grades for her year, in 1849. After study in Europe, she returned to the US in 1857 and opened first a hospital run by women, and later a medical school for women, in New York City.

CoDA Meeting
every FRIDAY
at Herland,
at 7:00 p.m.

1 CONCERT
Gail Heil &
Bob Boyee
Hotel Bohemia
9:00 p.m.
\$5
**Call for
Reservations

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|----|---|--|
| 2 Groundhog Day | 3 Elizabeth Blackwell 1821 - 1910 * Gertrude Stein 1874 - 1946 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Miss Brown To You - House Party; Hotel Bohemia 9 pm \$3 **Call for Reservations | 8 Cleveland County NOW 2 PM, Norman Public Library, Lowry Room |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Frederick Douglass 1817 - 1895 Abraham Lincoln 1821 - 1920 | 13 | 14 VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT Mary Reynolds & Louise Dick Coyote Club 9pm - 1 am | 15 Janis Galloway at P.O.E.T.S in Norman 8 - 11 p.m. |
| 16  BOARD MEETING 4:30 | 17  PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY | 18 Herland Discussion Group 7 p.m. Tonight: Consciousness Raising - a Demonstration | 19 | 20 | 21 Tomorrow, Feb 22, Edna St. Vincent Millay's Birthday; 1892 - 1950 -----> | 22 OKLAHOMA NOW State Council Meeting 11:00 a.m. * Coffee House at Herland 7 pm |
| 23 W.E.B. DuBOIS 1868 - 1963 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Peggy Johnson & Mary Reynolds Together!!! at the Coyote Club 9 - 1 | 29 MARDI GRAS & Miss Brown To You Hotel Bohemia 9 p.m. \$3 **Call for Reservations |

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

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

Hours: Saturdays 10 - 6; Sundays 1 - 6.

**Call
528-0020
for Hotel
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