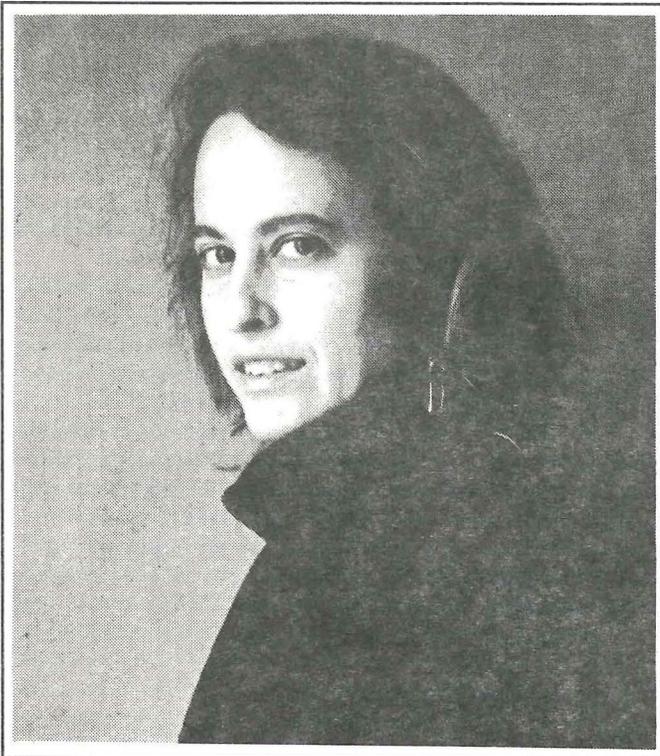


The HERLAND VOICE

June, 1992



MIMI BACZEWSKA IN CONCERT

Herland will present Mimi Baczewska in concert at the Hotel Bohemia at 8 P.M., Saturday, June 13. Admission will be \$5.00. Advance tickets are available at Herland. Call Herland for directions to the Hotel Bohemia.

Mimi's music speaks of love, of choice, of peace, growth, freedom, women compassion, earth and more. Her folk, jazz, blues, light-hearted, spirited style will fill you with hope and leave your heart singing.

Much of Mimi's music is inspired by twelve years of simple living on land in the Ozark Mountains. Her songs are enjoyed by a diverse group of people spanning all generations.

Mimi has been singing for over thirty years and writing songs for twenty. Her refreshing vocals are backed by piano and acoustic guitar.

Her latest recording *Turning Tide*, is a true reflection of her various styles and themes; an experience, a reminder, touching depths with a light beauty. She carries us on a magic journey with a strong message of peace for all living things. ♀

PRIDE = POWER

Oklahoma Pride Week activities will begin on June 21st with the Block Party in Oklahoma City and the Pride Picnic at Mohawk Park in Tulsa. The culmination of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week is the Pride Parade on June 28. The parade begins at Memorial Park (N.W. 36th and Classen) in Oklahoma City and terminates at the west side of the Habana Inn. Following the parade there will be a street fair on the west side of the Habana. The theme for this year's activities is "Pride Power".

Gay and Lesbian Pride Day began over 20 years ago in New York City when a group of gay men and lesbians protested a harassment raid by city police on a gay bar called the Stonewall. For decades the lesbian and gay business community had been victimized by frequent bar raids, shakedowns for protection money and often-times violent harassment by both corrupt police agents and organized crime members. Front page coverage of such raids, complete with photographs, names, addresses and occupations of the bar's clientele led to hundreds of lives destroyed and many lives lost to despair and suicide. Stonewall marks the turning point for gay and lesbian activists no longer satisfied to remain victims of persecution in a repressive and intolerant society.

Today Gay and Lesbian Pride Week has taken on a broader, multifaceted meaning for many in our community. It is an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions to society made daily by lesbians and gay men which are all too often overlooked or neglected. It is a time to memorialize those lost to violent hate crimes and AIDS and to demonstrate solidarity with all victims of racism, sexism, ageism and other oppression. For many, Lesbian and Gay Pride Week is a time of personal empowerment. It is an opportunity to publicly stand with peers, friends, loved ones, and supporters and to demonstrate the existence of the lesbian and gay community to the larger community.

The goal of Pride Network, Inc, the Oklahoma City sponsor of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, is to demonstrate through Pride activities that while the political, economic, and moral beliefs of the Lesbian/Gay community are as varied and diverse as any community's we can work together, march together and celebrate together with pride, joy, and dignity.

Herland will have a contingent marching in the Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. Come join us and experience the thrill of seeing what a wonderfully splendid and diverse community we are. ♀

NEWS FLASH

Oklahoma's Senator Boren and Representative McCurdy have joined Representative Synar as co-sponsors of the Freedom of Choice Act -- good news for pro-choice Oklahomans.

ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

So, why are people still talking about the ERA? Do we really need it? Didn't the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee women equal protection under the law? And haven't all kinds of federal and state laws been passed in recent years to help promote equality for us, such as the Equal Pay Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and Title IX of the Education Act?

Wearily,

Iwanna Wrest

Dear Iwanna,

Well, no and yes. No, the 14th Amendment didn't guarantee women their rightful place in the Constitution. If it did, we wouldn't have needed the 19th Amendment in 1920 to get us the right to vote.

And yes, states and the Federal government have passed some laws giving women more equality under the law. But what Congress gives it can surely take away, and the right to equality under the law is too important to be left to the whim of legislative bodies. Consider the weird, mediocre and borderline ignorami who all too frequently get themselves elected - think, for example, of Don Nickles, Bill Graves, and Dan Quayle - and quail at the thought!

Is the ERA needed? In the words of the National Woman's Party, "Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as part of the Constitution will make equality secure from political changes in Congress and state legislatures." In the words of my old friend Saint Abigail, Matron Saint of political spouses, "You're damn right it is. We needed it in 1776 and we need it in 1992. What's taking everybody so long to foment a good little rebellion around here anyway?!"

So pull up your socks, girl, and get back to work. Trust me, you'll have plenty of time to rest soon enough.

Love,

Sybil

♀

NEW MEXICO CUSTODY CASE

In a decision that looks other national court rulings in the eye and clearly moves away from their reliance on antiquated definitions for functional families, the New Mexico Court of Appeals ruled that a non-biological lesbian mother may be entitled to seek custody or visitation with the child she raised with her former partner of 14 years. It is the first appellate victory in the country recognizing a legal relationship between a non-biological lesbian parent and a child conceived through donor insemination. Furthermore, the New Mexico Court ruled that a parent "may enter into an agreement with another person concerning the custody of a child," including persons who are not biologically related to the child, and specifically held, in very strong language, that "**sexual orientation, standing alone, is not a permissible basis for the denial of shared custody or visitation.**" It is not yet known whether the case will be appealed further. ♀

SPRING RETREAT A GREAT SUCCESS

The rain was fun. There were many hours when it didn't rain at all, and even when it did it was mostly a nice gentle shower that was pleasant to be out in. There was one brief frogstrangler that almost got a dog or two as well, but mostly it was very pleasant. Speaking of dogs, this Retreat set the record for canine attendance; it seemed there was a dog tied to every tree. They were all very well behaved except for one, who shall be nameless, and has not been invited back, despite winning an award for Most Improved in Socialization. Sorry, JB.

The rain couldn't interfere with the great concert by Erica Wheeler, a warm, funny and talented singer. Following her performance we had a great time singing around the old campfire before a soft drizzle began again around about midnight.

Many many thanks to all those who worked so hard and did so much to make the weekend fun and enjoyable. For starters, thanks to Chris and Pam T., who fixed up hearty, succulent, delicious chili, both vegetarian and non, Friday night. And thanks to Pam Y. for buying and bringing and organizing all of our other foodstuff; and to Jingles for being Grand Doyen of the kitchen; a job she performed with panache and flair, despite being disconsolate that Mary wasn't there to harmonize with. Cindy did her usual great job as DJ; the workshops were great, and everyone pitched in to make light work of cleanup, etc. Thanks to everyone there for a making it a great weekend. Hope to see you all at Roman Nose October 16th! ♀

WOMEN IN SPACE

During the recent flight of the space shuttle Endeavor, Astronaut Kathryn Thorton became the second American woman and the third woman to walk in space. Thorton participated in a spacewalk designed to practice construction techniques needed for building space station Freedom.

Earlier in the flight, shuttle commander Daniel Brandenstein chose not to include Thorton in the unprecedented three person spacewalk to rescue a satellite. Brandenstein said "since we're going to be *manhandling* [emphasis added] the satellite we'll go with Tom, Rick and Pierre." NASA flight director, Al Pennington, defended the choice saying Ayers was the best choice "because of his height". Ayers is 6 feet tall and Thorton is 5-feet-4.

The first woman to walk in space was Russian cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya in 1984. American astronaut Kathryn Sullivan also walked in space in 1984. ♀

THE ASTON MASSAGE

SPECIALIZING IN SAFE TOUCH FOR INCEST SURVIVORS
NOW ALSO OFFERING MOVEMENT COACHING

RHONDA L. SMITH
Practitioner

(405) 942-4748
(405) 524-2958

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(Full Text)

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of Sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by proper legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

COUNTDOWN CAMPAIGN

Ten years ago, the Equal Rights Amendment lay on the threshold of ratification. The ERA, authored by Alice Paul in 1923 and introduced in every congressional session since, was finally passed by Congress in 1972 and sent it to the states with a deadline of ten years for ratification by two-thirds of the states. June 30, 1982 marked the end of that period.

By 1981, 35 of the necessary 38 states had ratified the Amendment and a major effort was launched to get three more states to ratify. Oklahoma was among the states targeted for the Countdown Campaign organized by N.O.W. Among those flocking to Oklahoma City was a grandmother from Washington State, a young woman from Tulsa who sold her house and brought herself and the proceeds to Oklahoma City for the duration, and scores of women and men, black and white, gay and straight from all over. Across Oklahoma in cities and small towns groups of women and men came together to work for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Unfortunately, anti-woman forces including Phyllis Schlafly and her minions, also poured money, time, and energy into lobbying against the ERA, and their view prevailed.

Eventhough, the battle for votes in the Oklahoma Senate was lost, the campaign for the ERA has had lasting significance. Pollsters observed that during the campaign, for the first time since women won the right to vote, a gender gap in voting patterns was apparent. Patrick Caddell, a Democratic pollster was quoted in the *Washington Post* (3/29/82) saying "...during the past 15 years, a significant gap has developed between the views of men and women. ...women don't tend to follow their husbands or men in general anymore. That's a revolution of enormous political consequences."

Today, the Equal Rights Amendment continues to be a political issue. It has been introduced in the current session of Congress as it has been in each Congress since 1923. Feminist leaders continue to call for its passage. At the April March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C., speaker after speaker pointed to the enactment of the Equal Rights Amendment as essential for the protection of women's rights in the United States. The implementation of the Equal Rights Amendment will not be the end of the problem of sexism in our society. It will, however, serve as a basis for change and alleviate the ambiguous standards set by the Supreme Court. Women will not quit working for its passage until the Equal Rights Amendment becomes the law of the land.

Readers interested in learning more about the ERA Countdown Campaign are encouraged to read Patriarchy is Malarkey, a collection of photos and observations by campaign workers, which is available in the Herland library. ♀

WORKING FOR THE ERA

by MOC

The smartest thing I ever did in all my life was to become active in the OK-ERA Countdown Campaign, even though I came in late, in December 1981. I joined for three reasons: to help get the ERA ratified in Oklahoma; to make good feminist friends who would validate my view of the world and give me assurance I was not crazy; and to give my then-13 year old daughter good role models. My personal agenda succeeded better than the political one; the ERA, of course, went down to defeat in Oklahoma, thanks to the intransigence of a few sexist-to-the-bone legislators. But good friends and role-models for my daughter I found by the score.

Of the things I remember most vividly about that time, dragging my daughter to rural Choctaw to knock on doors to solicit funds, signatures on petitions, and letters to legislators took the most courage (foolhardiness? but we were armed with righteousness!) and was the most instructive. We learned the sure way, through experience, that there is no way to tell from externals what a person's beliefs will be. For instance, the nice looking young couple who slammed the door in our face, reopening it only to hurl biblical invective at our retreating backs. And the old man who scared us half to death with his snaggle-tooth jack o'lantern mouth in an unshaven face: much against our better judgment we accepted his invitation to step inside, and there we had a very pleasant chat with his wife while he wrote us a nice big check and told us to keep up the good work.

And I remember the march at the state Capitol. My daughter and I were to be bus greeters, meeting the out-of-town buses at a pre-arranged spot near the Capitol, hopping on and guiding them to their parking spaces. This was my first involvement as a facilitator in something so big, and the night before I barely slept from the excitement. I blush to remember how proud and happy I was each time I leaped on a bus and guided it triumphantly to its space. The march itself was indescribably wonderful. The ERA was basically lost by then, but the rally left many, many of us, with the sure belief that this effort had been our Dunkirk; that this battle lost was a watershed that would one day win our victory. ♀



Office Hours By Appointment

Debra K. Browning, R.Ph., D.D.S.
Comprehensive Dental Care

5009 N. Pennsylvania,
Suite 103

(405) 843-3281
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

EXTREMES IN FEMINIST THEORY AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

by Deborah Fox

I remember back in my twenties, before I had awakened to my feminism, hearing about feminists fighting for the ratification of the ERA. I had been shocked to learn that women's rights were not protected by the Constitution. How archaic, I thought. Didn't we win equal rights years ago? I could not believe that our "civilized" world had not risen in intelligence enough to see the ridiculousness of withholding the rights of women. How Neanderthal! How utterly infantile! Today I know our pursuit of equal rights is as ancient as "civilized" Greece from which the supposedly great philosophies, sciences and sociologies of today's "modern" world spring. And I am continuously struck by the imbecility of sexism.

Equally disturbing is the fact that we seem to be on a merry-go-round in the fight for equal rights and in maintaining the victories feminism has won over the years (for example: legalized abortion, our personal right to choose). For the past 50 years (or more accurately the past 5000 years), we have been entangled with patriarchy in our fight against their oppression of us. It seems like a nightmarish dance in which we cannot free ourselves from an oppressive partner (like battered wives who are too broken to leave their abusive husbands), who spins us round and round till we are too dizzy to let go.

We have been fighting patriarchy within the patriarchal system. I have been wondering if this is futile. Alice Walker has said that: "You can't fight the Master in the Master's house." Mary Daly talks about false ideals "i.e., tokenism - which is commonly guised as Equal Rights, and which yields token victories - deflects and short-circuits gynergy, so that female power, galvanized under deceptive slogans of sisterhood, is swallowed by The Fraternity. This method of vampirizing the Female Self saps women by giving illusions of partial success while at the same time making Success appear to be a far-distant, extremely difficult to obtain 'elusive objective'. When the oppressed are worn out in the game of chasing the elusive shadow of Success, some "successes" are permitted to occur - "victories" which can easily be withdrawn when the victim's energies have been restored. Subsequently, women are lured into repeating efforts to regain the hard-won apparent gains".

And Riane Eisler has said that: "...to give these 'women's issues' top priority would mean the end of the present system. It would mean a transformation from a dominator to a partnership society. And to the androcratic mind - the mind of many of our world's present leaders - this is not a possibility".

Could it be that our hard-won victories (that we must continually fight to regain), and the victories we are still seeking within the patriarchal system, are a distraction from our greater liberation? Could our energies and resources be spent in a better pursuit, that would yield a greater, more permanent result? I know for myself that I do not wish to *wait* (haven't women spent too much time "waiting"), for "a better future" or *spend my life* for future generations (feminism has shown me the futility of martyrdom/woman's *Self-sacrifice* and woman's need for selfishness. My life is happening as I write. **NOW** is the only time we have. Our lives are every bit as valuable as those of a future generation.

Some feminists have asked, are Equal Rights **within** the patriarchal system even desirable? And once the women, after the oppressive, time-consuming arduous struggle, gain political positions within the men's political system, can they really free the lives of women? Can the patriarchal system really be transformed

from within it? Sonia Johnson believes that: "Voting for either men or women in this system is voting for the system, for patriarchy" and that "To the degree that this moment we feel independent of men and their system and do not participate in it, we live in a world where patriarchy cannot exist". Will gaining the ERA really give us the lives we want, the freedom that is our birthright?

Looking at the extremes, we have on the one hand women who advocate placing most of our energy in fighting patriarchy within the patriarchal system and on the other hand women who advocate dropping out altogether and placing all our energy in creating microcosms of the feminist macro-world we envision.

I opt for a middle road, dividing my energy and resources in half, affirming and supporting both courses of action, neglecting neither, hoping that no matter how much each side disagrees with the other, each will still remain loyal to the ultimate goal and support each other in spite of differences.

Starhawk says that "if we want to change consciousness in this nation, we first need to have a vision in our minds of what we want to change it into. We need to have an image, [our feminist vision of a better world], and we need to create that image and make it strong [by living it in our lives NOW, as best we can]. And we need to direct energy and, in some way, ground it in reality [political activism.] Brackets mine.

I feel that both extremes (and everything in the middle), are necessary for the end of patriarchy and the creation of a better world. I suspect that bowing out of either arena would be a victory of the Backlash against feminism. Our feminist fore Sisters who fought for women's right to vote, to abortion, to an education etc. raised the consciousness of humanity and woke women to our feminism in general. I think there is truth within both extremes of feminist philosophies, and I believe that is the reason feminism has been able to bring us to the powerful position women now occupy - we women need to recognize and act upon this obscured fact, as Eleanor Smeal, founder of the Fund for the Feminist Majority, says, "If women all got together on the same day, on the same hour, we would go over the top."

Rainbow Sisters, Amazons, Daughters, Mothers, Lovers, Crones, let's stick together. Let's not permit anything to divide us, nor allow anti-feminist propaganda to blind us to the powerful force we are. We are on the brink of a quantum leap! The Goddess is alive, magic is afoot! ♀

PUBLISHED BY: Herland Sister Resources, Inc., 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Margaret Cox, Deborah Fox, Pat Reaves

CIRCULATION: 950

ADVERTISING RATES:

Business card \$15.00; 1/4 page \$35.00;
1/2 page 60.00; full page \$100.00

The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Signed articles reflect the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym.

Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request.

The Voice is printed on recycled paper.

APPEAL FILED IN CUSTODY CASE

An appeal has been filed in the custody case in which Judge Powers of Cleveland County ruled a mother to be an unfit parent simply because of her lesbianism. At this time it is not known if the case will be heard first by an Appeals Court or will be heard by the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Herland is continuing to support the efforts of this family through our legal defense fund. To date, pledges and contributions total more than \$1500; however, additional funds will be needed for the lengthy and expensive appeal process. Plans are underway to put together a cookbook as a fundraiser for the defense fund. Volunteers are also needed to help plan a volleyball tournament which is tentatively scheduled for August 8 and 9. Please call Herland if you who would like to serve on either committee or contribute recipes for the cookbook.

NEW MUSICAL TO BENEFIT OKC AREA HIV/AIDS COALITION

Carpenter Square Theater will present a special benefit performance of it's current offering , the work-in-progress production of *CHANGIN' LANES*, on June 10.

Nationally known author, composer, and lyricist Mark Houston has chosen Oklahoma City and Carpenter Square as the site of the debut of his latest show before its Equity opening at Kansas City's Unicorn Theatre. Oklahoma City audiences will be the first in the country to see this latest Houston comedy.

CHANGIN' LANES chronicles the adventures of a family from the small, fictitious town of Heaven, Oklahoma who have the good fortune to inherit a bowling alley in a large northern city. The musical provides a comical look at the problems of transplantation and the inevitable shift in relationships that occur with such upheavals.

The production staff and cast of *CHANGIN' LANES* involves some of Oklahoma City's best talent, including award-winning costumer Charles England, internationally-known artist Nick Backes, and musicians Eylse Angelo and Mary Reynolds of "Miss Brown to You" and "Sisters of Swing", Steve Elkins and John Wilcox of the University of Central Oklahoma and Kenny Thompson of "The Jagged Edge" and the "Arbuckle Mountain Boys."

The cast of *CHANGIN' LANES* includes Randall Etherton, Mary Freed, Joanne Hill. Linda Parrish, Eddie Smart, Sheryl Waters and Ellen Webster.

Call 232-6500 for ticket information. ♀

The Women's Sports Foundation has set up a toll-free number, 1-800-227-3988 to answer questions about girls and sports including how to find a coach or qualify for an athletic scholarship.

In 1967, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, a 24-year-old graduate student, was monitoring a high-powered telescope when she noticed an unknown signal from outer space. Her observations later proved instrumental in the discovery of what we now know as pulsars, a milestone for which her immediate supervisor, Anthony Hewish, won the Nobel Prize. (From *THE BOOK OF WOMEN* by Lynne Griffin & Kelly McCann.) ♀

TARGETING THE SENATE, 1992

In the next few months The Voice will bring you profiles of feminist, pro-choice women running for the U.S. Senate. Last month we profiled Barbara Boxer of California and Carol Mosely Braun of Illinois. This month we will profile Dianne Feinstein and Elizabeth Holtzman. If you are moved to send financial support for any of these women, you might send a donation to the Women's Campaign Fund, 120 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; or the Emily List, 1112 16th Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20036. "Emily" is an acronym for "Early Money Is Like Yeast", referring to the almost magical effect of abundant money early in a campaign.

DIANNE FEINSTEIN - California; Former San Francisco mayor and last year's Democratic nominee for governor, Dianne Feinstein is vying for California's other U.S. Senate seat. Coming within a hair's breadth of winning California's governorship after a hard fought race, Feinstein begins this campaign with high name recognition and favorability rating across the state as well as a strong national fund-raising network.

During her ten-year tenure as San Francisco's first woman mayor, Feinstein appointed a record number of women to office, including the first woman City Attorney and City Treasurer. Other credits include creation of San Francisco's first Office of Child Care, an innovative toxic waste program, and a successful crime-protection program. She has also been an outspoken advocate of reproductive choice.

Feinstein is running for the seat currently held by John Seymour, who recently was appointed to the post by Governor Pete Wilson. Feinstein's ability to raise early money, rekindle her national network, and put together a full fledged fund-raising operation for what could be at least a \$10 million race will be key to her success.

ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN - New York: The youngest woman ever elected to Congress, Elizabeth Holtzman served eight years in the House of Representatives (1973-1981) as an effective leader for women's rights, co-founder of the Congresswomen's Caucus, and member of the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment hearings of Richard Nixon.

Elected District Attorney for Brooklyn in 1981, Holtzman spent the last decade successfully reforming New York State's rape laws, establishing tough new measures to fight drugs, and revolutionizing treatment of child abuse victims.

Currently serving as New York City's first woman comptroller, Holtzman's sound and innovative fiscal policies already have saved New York millions of dollars in interest on city bonds. She also has created unprecedented opportunities for women and minorities by appointments in her own agency as well as by encouraging the use of minority and women-owned financial institutions.

Few women - or men- in public life have the depth and breadth of experience of Elizabeth Holtzman - making her eminently qualified to serve in the U.S. Senate. ♀

A & C GARAGE

7 DAYS A WEEK
WORK GUARANTEED • FINANCING AVAILABLE
REFERENCES FURNISHED

ACE
Digital Paper
791-5188



CINDY
521-9407

A DIFFERENT VIEW

JR's report from "Over There" in Wales

By the time you read this I'll be back in Oklahoma, restored to health but probably feeling a bit naked without my wool under-shirt! I won't miss the cold or cricket--once described as "The game which the British invented in order to have some concept of eternity." I will miss the mountain outside my window, and the walks...but most of all I shall miss Mrs. Greenwood and Black Eye'd Suzie, knowing that we won't meet again in this life.

Over two years ago, I stopped outside the newspaper shop to talk to a beautiful Cavalier King Charles Spaniel--because I always stop to talk to Cavaliers if their owners let me. This owner, Mrs. Greenwood, introduced Suzie and then herself, as is appropriate in such encounters. We discovered that Suzie is the great-grandmother of the two puppies I bought in Wales and brought to Oklahoma.

On this trip I'd been back in Deganwy several weeks and hadn't seen Mrs. G and Suzie striding down the road to the shops, so one day I stopped by their home. Mrs. Greenwood greeted me with that same beautiful smile and her eyes were still incredibly blue, but they'd begun to cloud around the edges; and, as I followed her down the hall, I noticed her narrow shoulders were more stooped and she moved very slowly. "Suzie, we have a guest!" she called out as we went into the living room.

Black Eye'd Suzie lay in her bean bag bed by the side of Mrs. G's chair, sound asleep and looking every inch a show dog with her thick wavy coat gleaming and her long long ears draped gracefully on the pillow. "She's a little deaf now," Mrs. G whispered. "She's over 15, you know." She raised her voice and said, "Here's a nice lady come to see you, Suzie!"

Suzie opened her eyes, lifted her head and tasted the air. Her once brown eyes were nearly grey, but she peered in my direction and gave me a couple of tail-wags before dropping off to sleep again.

"I'm so glad you came," Mrs. G said, "because I'm not sure I'm doing the right thing for Suzie and I did so want to talk to someone about it."

Over tea in thin china cups ("These were my grandmother's, so they must be over two hundred years old.") Mrs. G told me that both Suzie's back legs are now paralyzed, and she knows that sometime soon she'll have to let Suzie go. "I couldn't bear for her to suffer," she said, "but I told the vet that when he comes to put Suzie to sleep, bring two needles so that I can go too."

She has stopped going out except as necessary for supplies, seeing few people other than the doctor, vet, and the butcher who cooks her a chicken or a roast twice a week and delivers it. She and Suzie, content in each other's company, go through their daily schedule of grooming, meals, medication and potty stops. Mrs. G takes care of herself because Suzie depends on her, but a few days before my visit she had been washing her feet in the bathroom sink when one foot slipped and she fell backwards, hitting the laundry hamper. She was obviously in great pain but up and dressed and taking care of her and Suzie's needs.

I chided her about leaning over to pick Suzie up, so she let me carry the little dog out to the grass for the 4:30 toilet trip (which follows Mrs. G's cup of tea and Suzie's saucer of milk and half a biscuit). Her forelegs seem quite strong, and she dragged herself around until she found just the right spot for an extremely healthy bowel movement. I offered to carry her back, but Mrs. G said that they needed their bit of exercise; so the old woman snapped the leash on the old dog and they went on their little "walk"--the 20 feet or so back to the door. Mrs. G supported herself with a cane on one side and helped Suzie get along by pulling on the leash. Every

yard or so they both stopped to rest. Suzie would sit and check out the scents wafting by, and Mrs. G would get herself repositioned on her cane for the next yard. I was almost in tears, but Suzie showed no sign of pain and Mrs. Greenwood seemed pleased with Suzie's efforts.

I feel so enriched by the time with Mrs. G. She has a wonderfully musical voice and such vivid memories. Born when her mother was 50, the youngest of eight children (one of whom died in infancy), she grew up in the Lake District, near Wordsworth country. She showed me a photograph from about 1910, a family portrait of her mustached handsome father and gorgeous mother with swept-back hair, surrounded by five beautiful girls with long blonde hair and ribbons and ruffles and two fine looking young men--replicas of their father except for the mustache. Mrs. Greenwood is the pretty child sitting at her mother's feet clutching a lop-eared plush rabbit. "His name was Peter, and I slept with him until he was threadbare and his stuffing came out."

The toy was named after the rabbit in Mrs. Greenwood's favorite book, written by their neighbor who delivered eggs to them every week. Her name was Beatrix Potter and, as the creator of Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail and Peter Rabbit, she remains almost a cult figure in much of the world. "She was my hero, even though she scared me at first. She seemed gruff and always wore an old felt man's hat, but when she started to talk...oh, everything she said sounded like an adventure!"

Mrs. Greenwood has no children: her marriage to a handsome young man quickly became a nightmare of physical brutality, and Mrs. G did something very unusual at that time--she left, walked out, taking only a small suitcase and leaving behind her large dowry and good name. Over the years, through hard work and inheritance, she was able to furnish her home with beautiful things. When I commented on what excellent taste she has, she chuckled and said, "Everything here is of good quality, but nearly worn out!" then patted herself on the chest.

The handsome father and two sons were killed in W.W. I; and of the five pretty girls, only two are left--Mrs. G and a sister of 92 years old who lives in a nursing home too far away to visit.

So, there's that dear old lady of 89 and her sweet old dog of over 100 human years, just living for each other. The vet has said that, as long as Suzie is eating well and not suffering, and as long as Mrs. G is willing to care for her, there's no need to consider the Long Sleep. It's never far from Mrs. Greenwood's mind, though; and, although she is always so bright and cheerful, sometimes as we're talking she glances down at Suzie and her eyes fill with tears. She reaches down and touches Suzie's silky head and goes right on with the conversation, with never a break in her smile or voice.

Suzie and Mrs. Greenwood gave me a different view of love and long-term relationships, one I feel privileged to have seen. ♀

The McMow Sisters



Mowing • Fertilizing • Trimming
• Light Hauling •

"We Are Insured"

Nancy
794-6884

CLINIC DEFENSE NEEDED

"The Lambs of Christ" is the horribly inappropriate name for a radical anti-choice group which works to destroy women's lives; they have been especially active in opposition to the work of Dr. Susan Wicklund, the courageous Minnesota doctor who flies into North Dakota to provide the only legal abortion service available in that state. The Lambs of Christ have put concrete blocks in Dr. Wicklund's driveway to prevent her from leaving her house; they follow her daughter to school and put up pictures of the daughter in the school with signs saying "My mother kills little babies".

This horrendous group is coming to Wichita on June 5. They will hold a rally on that date, and on Saturday, June 6, plan to close Wichita's three clinics.

Other people plan to keep the clinics open. If you receive this newsletter in time and are in driving distance of Wichita, you might want to call your local pro-choice or clinic defense group, to see about carpooling up Friday night or Saturday morning; in the Oklahoma City area you can call Herland at 521-9696; or just get in your car and go. The Wichita Pro-choice Action League is located at 528 S. Blakeley, just two doors from the Tiller Clinic, which is located at Kellogg and Blakeley. Their phone number is (316) 681-2121. ♀

RALLY FOR JUSTICE IN BARTLESVILLE

Ronny Wayne Lewis was charged with 1st degree rape in the brutal attack of Kathy Oliver on July 29, 1991. This charge was reduced to Sexual Battery by Washington County District Attorney Craig Corrigan, and Lewis received a 2 year suspended sentence with no time served. This was done without the knowledge or consent of Kathy Oliver. Ms. Oliver had asked the District Attorney to request in court that Lewis be liable for her medical costs; this was not done.

A rally has been planned for Wednesday, June 17 at 11:30 a.m., at the Court House in Bartlesville, 420 S. Johnstone. The rally is designed to show support for Ms. Oliver; to affirm the belief that the brutality of rape is a vicious and life-scarring crime; and to demand that Craig Corrigan resign or be terminated from the office of District Attorney. ♀

To A Clown

*You laugh,
Everyone loves you,
But you still seem blue,
You pretend,
A taste of wine,
And all is fine
You cry,
Only then you can be free,
When no one can see.
You die,
We'll lay you down
With the face of a clown.*

m.j. klukas

1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The second meeting of the National Steering Committee for the 1992 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation was held in Dallas, Texas on May 9 and 10. Because of the gender and racial requirements of the organization, the committee expanded the number of co-chairs from 3 to 4 seats prior to the election. The elected co-chairs of the 1993 march are: Scout of Chicago, IL; Nadine Smith of Tampa, FL; Derek Livingston of Providence, RI; and Billy Hileman of Pittsburgh, PA.

The items of the March platform were adopted. In general, the platform planks cover demands regarding; 1) equal civil rights based on sexual orientation, identification or gender; 2) anti-racism; 3) education and concerns of students; 4) universal health care; 5) reproductive freedom; 6) partnership and family; 7) general and specific calls for an end to discrimination.

Twenty-two working committees are now operational including the Differently-abled/Physically-challenged committee, which formed in Dallas. This committee will plan and evaluate access for the march and all auxiliary activities, with the goal of total involvement of the disabled constituency.

The newly elected co-chairs all expressed their enthusiasm for the March and the organizing process. According to Scout, "This meeting was a big success. We are putting the components together for a truly incredible event in Washington next year. The feeling of the members of the Steering Committee was excitement as they left Dallas. We will succeed in sending the message to the bashers and homophobes that we are stronger than ever." Co-chair Nadine Smith said, "Our platform is extensive because the attacks our community endures are extensive. It is the scope of our demands that have enabled our community to come together for the organizing of this march. The foundation of diversity in our national committee will make us stronger as organizers, and broaden the impact of the march." ♀

Oklahoma NOW

The Oklahoma Now State Council met Saturday, May 23, 1992, to elect officers and set goals for the coming year.

New officers elected were: Coordinator, LoReacy Moses; Vice Coordinator, Dana Tiger; Treasurer, Jill Holmes; Secretary, Linda Lyons; and Legislative Coordinator, Laura Rhodes. The Cleveland County NOW newsletter committee will be asked to expand The Vision to become the State newsletter.

Goals for the coming year include:

- working against and helping to defeat State Initiative 642, which would severely restrict abortion in Oklahoma;
- lobbying for the Freedom of Choice Act, which would codify at the Federal level a woman's right to choose abortion;
- targeting and working for women and pro-choice candidates at the state and federal levels; and
- chapter development, including the reactivation of the Metro OKC NOW and Tulsa chapters, and development of a chapter to serve Western Oklahoma.

The next meeting of the Oklahoma NOW State Council will be held Saturday, June 20, at 1:00 o'clock p.m. It will be held at the Belle Isle Library, 5501 N. Villa, (Villa and the Northwest Expressway) in Oklahoma City. All NOW members and all feminists interested in joining NOW are welcome to attend. ♀

Chatterbox

Spring Retreaters! Please check all the gear, baggage, supplies, etc you brought back from Robber's Cave and see if maybe you got Jingle's massage bag in with your things by mistake. If so, please call Herland at 521-9696 and leave a message; we will arrange to pick it up. Thanks.

You can help make a panel to be added to the AIDS Quilt when it is displayed in Oklahoma City. The Porthole will host sewing sessions and will be working on at least ten panels for the Quilt. Contact Shatzky at the Porthole for more information.

A National Directory of Women of Color Organizations and Projects has been published by the Women of Color Resource Center. The Directory includes the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and contact people in women-of-color organizations throughout the USA. It is indexed by issue and by race/ethnicity/nationality. Single copies are available for \$7.00 each + \$2.00 shipping and handling from the Women of Color Resource Center, 228 Fulton St. Suite 103, Berkeley, CA 94704.

World War II women's/lesbian's memorabilia is being collected for the Lesbian Herstory Archives. Among the items of interest are diaries, letters, magazines, photographs, uniforms, insignia, medals, ID cards, discharge papers, recruitment posters, propaganda items, training manuals, sweetheart pins -- anything about women's lives during the war. Call or write Marcyne 908-354-9052 or Marsha Labovitz, P.O. Box 127, Middleville, NJ 07855.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights is organizing town meetings for lesbian of color to speak out about the lives of lesbians of color, how they differ from and/or are similar to those of other lesbians and people of color. For information contact the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lesbians of Color Project, 1633 Mission Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Levi Strauss & Company, with 23,000 United States employees, has become the largest company in the nation to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of its unmarried employees - so remember, next time you slip into those comfy, durable, wonderful jeans, you're not just making a fashion statement, you're making a political statement. Talk about the personal being political...

For the phone number of local P-FLAG helplines in over 270 communities, call 1-800-4-FAMILY. The helpline messages are taped in both English and Spanish.

The 3rd annual statewide Oklahoma HIV/AIDS Coalition conference will be held June 11-12 at the University of Oklahoma. The theme of this year's conference is "Sharing the Challenge." It will focus on helping people, communities, businesses and government understand the challenges of living with the virus. A series of workshops will specifically address lesbian/gay issues. The conference will be held at OU's Center for Continuing Education, 1704 Asp, in Norman. Pre-registration fee is \$25. To register, or for further information, call Alan Nyitray, 405/271-4636.

If you are looking for a new car or truck, you might want to know that General Motors uses animals in its safety tests, abusing many thousands of pigs, dogs, rabbits, ferrets and mice. According to PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the world's other automakers maintain a **higher** safety record than GM, by using crash dummies and computer models rather than living sentient animals. If enough people tell GM that they won't buy another GM product until this testing stops, *the testing will stop*.

Don't forget -- Herland is open every Saturday from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and every Sunday from 1 P.M. - 6 P.M. Drop by to check out a library book, read the women's magazines and newsletters, buy new books or just to visit. See you at Herland!

The 13th annual conference of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) will be held in July 3-5 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme of the gathering is "Freedom, Friends, and Family! -- Celebration. For information contact Vickie Harris (317) 353-6636 or John Sheets (317) 253-2280 or write GLPCI, P.O. Box 50360, Washington, D.C. 20091.