

the HERLAND VOICE

September, 1992

HERLAND CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The tenth anniversary of the founding of Herland Bookstore was celebrated by over 75 women and men at a lawn party held at Herland on August 22. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Herland's first community service awards. Shatzy Watson of the Porthole was recognized as "Outstanding Businesswoman of 1992". A special award, "Honorary Lesbian", was presented to Stephen Hardway in appreciation of his work on behalf of women in Oklahoma City. "Brazen Hussy" awards were presented to the women who founded La Salle des Femmes, the forerunner of Herland. Recipients of the "Brazen Hussy" award included, Jana Birchum, Mary Branch, Cate Cannon, Pat Colognesi, Cathie Colvard, Joni Darnell, Christie Haas, Tonya Jones, Lisa Parker, Maggie Reidt, Jonna Rogers, Jo Soske, Susan Stunkard and Debra Thomas. Barbara Cleveland was given the "Daughter of Maaia" award for her leadership in the development of Herland. The "Daughter of Maaia" award is named for the founders of the women's utopia described in the novel *Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gillman. □

HANUKKAH AND CHRISTMAS FOR HERLAND - \$200 FROM 100 PEOPLE

Jo L. Soske

It is no secret that living in Oklahoma we face a great deal of sexism, misogyny, and homophobia. Unfortunately, it sometimes feels that these things are almost rooted in our beautiful state. For ten years, Herland Sister Resources has existed as a safe place, a fortress against these destructive powers. She has given us wommin centered books, wommin centered retreats, concerts, a political meeting place, office space for affordable wommins counseling, a space for recovery meetings, a place to meet and socialize, and much much more. I believe that now, more than ever, it is time for us to give back to her.

As most of you know, we have an outstanding note in the amount of \$20,000 on the Herland building. This note is due in January. I believe that we can make fund-raising history. If 100 people will commit to raise \$200 for Herland by Christmas, we will be able to give Herland the best Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas gift ever. We will own the building. Please join us in this effort to insure a place for wommin in Oklahoma for all times. Together, we have done remarkable things. Together, we can do this. I realize very well that it is no easy task to come up with \$200 at this time of year. Therefore, I am offering some suggestions for raising \$200. We have a mailing list of over 900. If a little more than one-tenth of the people on the mailing list commit to \$200 we will succeed. There will be a permanent plaque placed in Herland with the names of all individuals or couples who raise \$200 as part of this fund raiser to pay off our debt. All donated monies will go 100% for that purpose. The list of names to go on that plaque has already begun - please join us.

(Continued on page 2)

SITUATION WANTED: FEMINIST SEEKS EMPLOYMENT IN ACADEMIC HERLAND

Vivien Ng

Last spring, I attended a "Women in Higher Education" conference in eastern Oklahoma. It was not my kind of meeting--I normally would not want to be stranded within handshaking distance of administrators--but I had allowed myself to be persuaded to go anyway, under the mistaken notion that "my presence would make a difference." I should have stayed home.

Close your eyes and imagine a room full of women "dressed for success." Tailored suits, silk blouses, floppy silk ties galore. I think I had on my regulation blue jeans (but no, I didn't wear my flannel shirt!). That was the most "difference" I was able to make that day. It's cool, I reminded myself. To each her own. If they won't stare at me, I won't either. In other words, I was in a relatively calm state of mind until the high point of the conference: a panel presentation by three "successful" women in higher education, one of whom was a vice president at a small state college in Oklahoma.

The guru speaketh: Ladies, let me share with you the secret to my success. First, you must dress well. Why, even when I shop at the discount store on Saturday, I dress like a vice president. Ladies, be nice to yourself, hire a maid to do the housework for you, because you can't do that and have a career as well. Be sure you have a sense of humor. Why, when the men crack jokes about women at the morning meetings, I just grin and bear it. Don't talk back, because it will only antagonize the men! If you will just follow these basic rules, why, you'll make vice president in no time at all.

Whatever illusions I had about how far women have come in the Oklahoma higher education scene were shattered in that instance. Have they learned nothing from Anita Hill's testimony on Capitol Hill? In some respects, women have made significant progress in higher education. In many campuses across the country, women students outnumber men. In medical schools, women have gained parity with men, and many elite law schools enroll as many women as men. And yet, in spite of these gains, the climate in academe remains chilly for women.

When women who have "made" it--e.g., the vice president I mentioned--would not take advantage of their situation and status to stamp out the epidemic of sexual harassment, who would? At OU, students often take the lead. The rallies in support of Anita Hill, and the forum on sexual harassment were organized by feminist student leaders. Where were the professors (myself included)? Where were the administrators? We were too busy pontificating in the security (and privacy) of our offices to one another.

Gertrude Stein once wrote that "there is no 'there' there." Perhaps. But wouldn't it be nice to be able to say otherwise, that "there is 'there' there"? The "there" I refer to is a sort of academic Herland, the woman-centered university that Adrienne Rich wrote about in 1973. We can still get there, but we need healthy and thriving Women's Studies programs to get us there. The "cultural war" that Patrick Buchanan and Dan Quayle promised to wage against us must not be allowed to succeed. Otherwise, not only will "there" not be there, but I won't want to be there. □



Herland's Fall Retreat

October 16 - 18

Roman Nose State Park
(About 1 hour west of OKC)

Camp Fire • Workshops
Great Food • Great Hiking
Peace/Quiet • Fun/Games

Featured Entertainer
Judy Fjell

HERLAND FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 16 - 18, 1992 — ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK, WATONGA, OK

Single Persons's Annual Income

under \$6,500
\$ 6,500 - 13,250
\$13,250 - 19,500
over \$19,500

Pre-registration Fee (per person)

\$15
\$25
\$35
\$40

Household Annual Income (2 or more persons)

under \$13,300
\$13,300 - 18,000
\$18,000 - 26,000
over \$26,000

Please choose the registration fee most appropriate for you based on these suggested guidelines.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

\$ _____ Registration Fee Enclosed ☐ I need a scholarship. The most I can afford to pay is _____

\$ _____ Here is \$\$\$ extra to help pay for a scholarship for others.

I will be bringing _____ well-behaved, leashed pets.

Registration includes cabin space, Friday night supper, brunch on Saturday and Sunday. Don't forget to bring something for Pot Luck Saturday night. Please return by October 4, 1992, to Herland Sister Resources, 2312 NW 39th Street, Oklahoma City. Call 405-521-9696 with any questions or to pre-register by telephone. On site registration will be an additional \$10.00.

ST. SYBIL

Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Overlooked Woman, is an occasional contributor to the Voice.

Dear St. Sybil,

Bill & Al are ok, and Hillary's neat; but Tipper? Give me a break. I'm not about to vote for anyone who's connected to anyone who's married to anyone who stands for censorship. Who does she think she is, banning rock music for their lyrics? What about the first amendment? What about my rights?

**In alarm and outrage,
Doris**

Dear Doris,

Poor old Tipper. She used to play drums in a rock band, you know, and has admitted to smoking grass and actually inhaling it. She is cute and giddy and full of fun, and never tried to ban any lyrics or in any other way infringe on anyone's first amendment rights.

What she tried to do, successfully, was to have advisory labels put on record albums containing lewd, violent lyrics. That's all. Sure, kids get hold of it anyway. Some, as Calvin of Calvin & Hobbes did, think they've gotten their money's worth if they throw away the record and keep the cover lying around to horrify their parents. But at least, in Tipper's reasoning, those kids know that there are a great many people who don't condone the misogynistic violence against women that is the essence of so much of the advisory-labeled music. I don't condone it, you don't condone it, and don't we owe it to our kids in their formative years to let them know we don't?

Anyway, thanks for writing,
Sybil

"Dear" St. Sybil,

Now I know all about you, I know you're one of those radical feminist commie type of Saints, but still, I'm sure you'll agree with me that Hillary Clinton is in league with the devil and totally out of bounds when she advocates this ludicrous concept called Children's Rights. I always knew back when the Coloreds got so uppity that it would spread and spread and there'd be no stopping it and pretty soon we'd be waiting on our children and consulting their opinion and telling them Please and Thank You and afraid to offer them the back of our hand; and sure enough, look; they've outlawed paddling in our schools for the next two years. It's the work of the devil, you know it is. No paddling and no prayers, how are we going to keep the horned one at bay, I'd like to know. And this harridan Hillary is all for it! What is the world coming to, I ask you? I'll tell you what, it's coming to an end, that's what; and when the Rapture comes I'll ascend to heaven while you....you....

Hey. Where exactly are you, anyway? A pinko fembot like you can't be in Heaven, could I be talking to someone in Hell? Oh Lord, now I am really concerned... Where are you, and what about Hillary?

**Worriedly,
Edie Merry lady**

Dear Edie,

I'm surprised you didn't know. The Rapture has already occurred, and you didn't make the cut. While I loll around my other-worldly hot tub with angels to fan me and cherubs tickling my toes and seraphim plying me with chocolates and strawberries, you will exist forever in your dark little imaginings while all around you brats and coloreds and women libbers and queers (how come you didn't mention them?) sun themselves in peace, harmony and respect.

Better luck next time,
Sybil

\$200 FROM 100 PEOPLE (continued from pg. 1)

Suggestions for Raising \$200

1. Ask one hundred friends for \$2.00
2. Have a garage sale.
3. Have a pot-luck, invite 40 friends, ask for a \$5.00 donation.
4. Buy candy whole-sale and sell it at work for \$1.00 a bar.
5. Invite 20 friends over for a video and pop-corn and ask for a \$10.00 donation.
6. Ask 100 people for their aluminum cans.
7. Sell your crafts and donate the funds.
8. Ask family members and friends who give you holiday gifts to make a donation to Herland in your name instead.
9. Quit smoking and donate 3 month's cigarette money.
10. Make a \$200 tax-deductible donation on your own.
11. Combine any or all of these suggestions.

In addition to committing to raise \$200.00, you can help by encouraging others to do the same. I spoke to my sister in California, she committed to donate \$200 in memory of a dear family member who died in January. She is a full-time, un-employed, law-school student. People want to help. My fifteen year-old son came to me an hour ago and said, "Mom, I want to raise \$200 for Herland." I strongly discouraged it because he does not have a job; he is enrolled in difficult, time consuming high school courses; and he gets a small allowance. He insisted, however, saying that he can find 20 friends who are willing to donate \$10. I know he'll try, and I won't be surprised if he succeeds. He takes commitments very seriously. Ask your friends, they may welcome the opportunity to help - especially if they understand the importance of Herland.

The following people have already committed to raise \$200 in donations for Herland by December 26, 1992:

Jo L. Soske
Barbara Hillyer
Cathy Colvard
Beverly Gardner
Margaret Cox
Jessica Soske in memory of David Chrispell
Billie and Susan
Dr. Joan Webb and Susan Blake
Jon Soske
Sarah L. Oakes
Pat Reaves
Barbara Neas and David Miller
Jean Kelsey
Barbara Cleveland
Terry Cocon
Kathy Conroy
Karen Lewis
Ginger McGovern
Sally Nostrant
Rhonda Smith
Pat Colognesi and Beverly McGugin

Please allow us to add your name to the list as well as to the soon-to-be-raised plaque. ☐

Detach and Return to Herland, 2312 NW 39th, OKC, OK 73112:
Yes! I/We will raise \$200 for Herland by December 26, 1992. You can count on me/us. The name/s on the plaque should read as follows

Address: _____

LOCAL CUSTODY BATTLE UPDATE

The Lamda Defense Fund has recently agreed to join in the efforts an important custody battle is in progress here in Oklahoma by writing a "friend of the court" brief. This case involves the issue of a lesbian mother who recently lost custody of her two small children because of the "immoral" relationship she had with her live-in partner. Even though the evidence showed that the children were happy, well cared-for, and well-adjusted, the court ruled that the mother was "unfit" and removed them from their home as soon as the trial was over.

Several important points of law are at issue in this case, and the mother is appealing to the Oklahoma Supreme Court for a reversal of the decision. If heard at the Supreme Court level, this decision will affect not only Oklahoma law, but also laws in other states as well.

As many of you know from reading your past newsletters, this case is expected to cost an estimated \$20,000. Because of the precedent-setting nature of this case, Herland Sister Resources has been working together to gather the necessary monies for the legal defense. Towards this end, the Herland Sister Resources Legal Defense Fund was created in April of this year.

So far, through a combination of hard work, planning, and phone-calling, Herland has raised over \$4,000 for the mother and her partner and the children. If you think you can donate to the fund, please send a check today to Herland. Every little bit counts! And it matters so much to so many of us.

Some of the fund-raising activities so far have included a garage sale, an open mic at the Porthole Club, a S.P.O.R.T. - sponsored Christmas in July, a water-balloon sale at the Pride Parade, local and national flier distribution, a national mailing, a dance in Colorado, and two phone-banking sessions. Other upcoming activities will be a menu-tasting party at the Porthole Club, the sale of brand-new cookbooks (hopefully in time for Christmas shopping), a charity ball in the fall, a celebrity auction, and a volleyball tournament. Please feel free to get involved in the planning of any of these upcoming activities; or perhaps propose a new idea for fund-raising (you can call in ideas any time to Herland. We appreciate any and all help, and the legal defense meetings are open to all who want to attend. These are posted in the calendars monthly.

The mother and her partner wish to thank the terrific women of Herland - and that means you if you are reading this newsletter - for all that has been done so far. Losing the children under these circumstances was hard enough, but without support from our community, it would have been unbearable. THANKS for your continued efforts! We know this is an important case, and we hope to set a precedent for gay and lesbian rights through a successful battle at the Supreme Court level.

If you can send the flier to friends in other states, please do - your efforts to spread the word may help this couple get the financial help they need to fight this decision. □

Pet & Re.Pet, an Unsolicited Testimonial

If having a great Vet is high on your list of priorities, call 737-0496 and give **Dr. Joy Huska** a try. "Joy" is the word, and she's got the love and learning to go with it.

My beloved little problem-dog and I have seen vets from Wales to Warr Acres, and this one is a breath of fresh air - fresh out of training and up on the latest medicines and methods. Freshly set up in her 2109 S. Air Depot clinic, she has a refreshing approach which includes holistic as well as traditional techniques.

"FIVE STARS & A DOG BISCUIT FROM TOSCA & JR".

paid advertisement

FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF DES- EXPOSED WOMEN

Several million American women have taken diethylstilbestrol (DES), a synthetic estrogen, during their pregnancies. From the 1940's until 1971, the drug was given to prevent miscarriage, despite a lack of evidence to support such an effect. In 1971, Boston doctors discovered that several adolescent daughters of women who took DES during their pregnancies had developed a very rare form of invasive vaginal cancer. Since then over 600 new cases of vaginal cancer in young women have been documented. Reproductive tract abnormalities have also been associated with in-utero DES exposure.

Although many DES daughters enjoy good health and have not experienced any health problems, DES health activists have urged that more research be done on the possible long-term health effects of DES. One question to be addressed is whether DES exposure will influence risk of breast cancer. Medical researchers at the Boston University School of Public Health are planning a large study to answer that and other questions. Thousands of women whose mothers took DES while pregnant with them will be sent a short questionnaire on their health history and current health status, and will be contacted every year for five years to find out about any change in health status; a comparison group of thousands of unexposed women will also be contacted. To determine whether such a study is feasible, they are asking that women who have been exposed to DES fill out the form below and send it to the address on the form.

For more information about DES, contact: DES Action USA, 1615 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 465-4011.

Reprinted with permission from the National Women's Health Network News, "the only national public-interest organization dedicated solely to women and health.." □

If your mother took DES while pregnant with you, or if you took DES yourself during a pregnancy, please fill out this form. If you know of others who were exposed, please make copies of this for them.

What is your age? _____ years

How were you exposed to DES?

___ Mother took DES while pregnant with me

___ Took DES myself during a pregnancy

How certain are you that you were exposed?

___ Know for sure ___ Think I was

Have you ever obtained medical records that verified exposure?

___ Yes ___ No

Would you be willing to be contacted for a questionnaire study?

___ Yes ___ No

Name _____

Address _____

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. YOUR NAME WILL NEVER BE USED IN ANY REPORT FROM THIS STUDY. Please send to: **Dr. Julie R. Palmer, Boston University School of Public Health, 1371 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02146; TEL (617) 734-6006.**

GET OUT OF MY WAY, BITCH

by Jo L. Soske

Many of the attitudes which girls must face in today's public schools are very similar to the attitudes which prevailed when I was in common school. I am frequently disappointed by how little things have changed. During this past semester, I observed an intramural game which was witness to this fact.

The students were playing co-ed intramural basketball. However, there was only one girl on the court. This was not due to lack of interest on the part of girl students but rather to lack of willingness on the part of teachers. One teacher openly stated, "I want my homeroom to win, and girls are sorry basketball players."

I watched the sole girl intently. None of the other players would pass her the ball or acknowledge her presence. In spite of this, she was able to obtain the ball on several occasions. During one of her possessions, a boy on the opposing team was able to fairly dribble it away from her. When this happened, a male teacher stood up and yelled, "Hey! You can't do that. She's a girl." Then he, and all of the male players, had a good laugh at her expense.

These attitudes are, of course, carried over into the classroom. There is never any mention of Women's History month. When I developed an interdisciplinary women's studies unit for March, there was no time. When I mentioned celebration of Susan B. Anthony's birthday, a male colleague laughed at me and asked if she was C. R. Anthony's wife.

In some ways, however, schools have changed very much. Perhaps no place is backlash as evident as it is in the halls of a middle school. Every pretense of the never real "Leave It To Beaver" days are gone. Boys do not open doors for girls and then politely ignore everything they say asserting, "She's just a girl, what does she know." Quite the contrary, boys openly express violence against girls. I see it daily. It is not at all uncommon for a boy to shove a girl into a wall, blurring, "Get out of my way bitch." I have seen middle-school boys grab girls around the neck and drag them in their direction. When I intercede, which I always do, I am greeted with hostility and contempt. The attitude is one of entitlement. Year after year, I see the violent behavior against girls becoming worse. It is too frequently accompanied by sexual harassment or even sexual violence. It is not at all uncommon for a boy to say to a girl, "Let me know when you get ready to do it, because I want to be one of the first ones to break you in."

Last year, there were at least three episodes of sexual intercourse between students taking place in the building in which I teach. An administrator said to me, "Every time these kids get caught having sex at school, the girl wants to cry rape." She had absolutely no understanding of the concept of acquaintance rape. Other middle schools and high schools have also reported incidences of forced sodomy and rape in the school setting during the past five years.

As a feminist teacher, I frequently feel that I am watching girls drown in a sea of injustice and violence. I am often told, however, that the sea is invisible - that other teachers and administrators do not see it. I do not believe it is invisible. I believe that we will see and feel the effects for a long time to come. □



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

DISCIPLINE IN OKLAHOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Recently, Sandy Garrett, State Superintendent of Oklahoma Schools, announced that there would be a ban on the use of corporal punishment in the state public schools. Many educators have fought long and hard for this enlightened change, knowing through experience that treating a child with dignity and respect, instead of fear, will produce the desired behavior.

Other educators have been reluctant to give up corporal punishment, upholding the old beliefs that sparing the rod spoils the child. With this practice, Oklahoma ranks ninth in the nation in the use of corporal punishment. Is it really their belief in corporal punishment or a lack of knowledge of alternate discipline programs?

Oklahoma City Public Schools banned corporal punishment several years ago, and in its place trained teachers and administrators in the use of Assertive Discipline. Assertive Discipline is a sequential program that sets out well-defined expectations of rules to be maintained in the classroom and the school. The student is aware of a consequence or reward that is associated with a particular behavior. It is extremely important that rewards as well as consequences are integrated into this program.

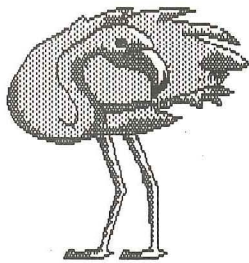
In our society there is a natural distrust of new programs and it is imperative that teachers be involved in the implementation of this program. Assertive Discipline is an effective plan when teachers are trained properly and then allowed to develop a program to meet their own classroom expectations. □

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT EDUCATION IS HYPOCRISY

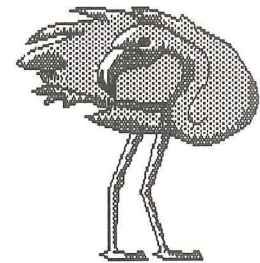
Renea L. Butler-King

Huh! What made me sit down and attempt an article? It is my quest to understand the adversities and differences between black and white women. What I wanted to do was cover an issue that touches my heart and soul. I wanted to try and mend a bridge between the two worlds. I wanted badly for something profound to come so that I might present a process to work through the afflictions. I am a womanist/activist, who wishes to serve women. The strife I encounter because I am black is unreal and produces so much woe. (Woe, experienced by black and white women, will have to be covered in another article due to the absence of profoundness and my inability to present a process.) A statement made by Professor Yusuf Mansur quoting Jawaharlal Nehru, "democracy without education is hypocrisy", stunned me. "Democracy without education is hypocrisy" started to play over and over in my head. My spirit was at attention, and I decided the very best thing I can do to help bridge any gap between anybody is to address the importance of education.

The statement "democracy without education is hypocrisy" is profound -- you know...far-reaching, stopping, making you soul search. Because of my desire to serve women, and progress in the field of social work, I returned to school in the summer of 1990 to work toward completing a degree. Even though I've worked paraprofessionally in this field for 12 years, my lack of formal education has presented roadblocks. I began to evaluate my situation and decided I was going back to college. If I am to continue work in this field and be successful, it's going to be necessary for me to obtain a degree. As soon as I decided to return to college, I also began to think, "This is going to be a chore" and to question if I could handle it. (continued next page)



September 1992



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

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

On September 2, 1869, Esther Morris, the first U.S. female Justice of the Peace, held a teaparty in Wyoming to ask citizens to please work for women's suffrage.

1 METRO
OKC NOW
6 pm
Belle Isle
Library,
Villa and
Northwest
Expressway

2

3

4

CoDA Meeting
7 pm

5



PEACE HOUSE
Open House
10-5, at 2912
N. Robinson

6 JANE ADDAMS
1860 - 1935
Pacifist,
Feminist,
Nobel Peace
Prize winner;
Founder of
WILPH

7



LABOR DAY
**
1st Meeting
of Daughters
of Bilitis,
in 1958

8

9

10

ATALLAH
SHABAZZ
at OSU,
in the
Seretean
Concert Hall,
7 pm

11

CoDA Meeting,
7 pm

12

*C.C. NOW
2pm, Norman
Public Library
**MARY
REYNOLDS
9pm, Porthole
Benefit for
Paula Rae

13

14

MARGARET
SANGER
1883 - 1966
Birth Control
Pioneer,
frequently
imprisoned
for her work.

15

Oklahoma
Primary
Run-off
Elections
Today

16

17

18

CoDA Meeting,
7 pm

19

20



Board
Meeting
4:30 pm

21

22

23



Take a
Flamingo
(or other
colorful bird)
to Lunch Day

24

25

CoDA Meeting,
7 pm

26

OK NOW
12:30 pm,
OSU St. Union
*
COFFEEHOUSE
& Poetry
Reading, 8pm
at Herland

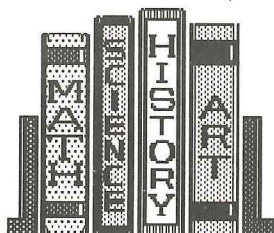
27

28

29

30

Saturday 9/26 continued: In addition to the NOW meeting in Stillwater and the poetry reading at Herland with Judith Rycroft, there will be an Animal Awareness Festival from 10 to 5 at the Mayfair Center, 3200 NW 48th, OKC. Highlights include animal-oriented and cruelty-free arts and crafts, demos by Therapy Dogs & Dog Ears, & pet adoptions by Second Chance of Norman.



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

Hours: Saturday 10 - 6; Sunday 1 - 6

HERLAND GIFT SHOP
The Place to Shop
for Jewelry, Pottery, T-shirts,
Stationery, Bird Houses & Feeders,
Buttons, Postcards, Toys and More!
And of course, as always, we're
the place for great books and music.



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Oklahoma City, Okla.
Permit No. 861

The enlightenment and information, I've received since I returned to school helps me understand the statement "democracy without education is hypocrisy." Without my higher education in science, English, English composition, literature and history, I would not have the ability to express or write this article with confidence. Without my higher education in economics, I could not look at the news or read the newspaper with an understanding of what goes into play when the media is providing economic information. Without my higher education in humanities, I would not know the first person on record in drama was Thespis (a black man) yet Euripides, Sophocles, and Aeschylus are said to be the first.

Professor Clay Randolph says, "college is the best place to express your opinion. The more you learn, the more room there is for this opinion to grow and/or change, and college is the place for this." Barbara Jordan says, "Racism, white or black, must not be. Separatism is not the American way." A democratic system is a government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. In obtaining a higher education, I'm better able to exercise my right to vote for representatives who will try to ensure a way of life that includes a sound economic state, a free religious state and a conjoint America. I say to all my brothers and sisters who march, rally and take up the cause in our democratic system . . . arm yourself with a higher education and exercise your right to vote. Believe me when I say, I've become a more rounded human being by returning to college. My horizon is **bright**. □

COYOTE FUNDRAISER A HOWLING SUCCESS

Nearly a dozen local performers showcased their talent at the August Open Mic Herland Benefit at The Coyote Club. The evening was a rousing success musically and financially, with well over \$300 being raised. Many thanks to Kelley, Liz and Cindy, and of course all the performers and all the generous souls who contributed, for a fine evening's entertainment.

2934 N.W. 23rd
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

405/942-1872

Carol's
Beauty Salon

CAROL CHOATE - Owner/Cosmetologist

Dip-A-D-Dog Grooming

The Gentle Touch For Your Best Friend

By Banika

521-1003 • 943-3525

2215 Cashion Place N.W.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73112



LETTER FROM OUR RADICAL, RURAL SISTER

Dear Sisters,

My son started school today - yippee! Nine hours of my own time Monday-Friday from now on! All the mothers I know are **READY** for school to start! Ahh...time for ourselves! Marvelous! (A part of me is also worrying about Jeremy having to be gone from home & close-knit family for nine hours at a time for the first time in his young life! He's now a first grader. (The system gets us, you know? In our patriarchal social predicament we become willing to give over our children for several hours a day - because it relieves our time, for our selves.) Ideally, communities would raise the children creating time & space for mothers to work, create, rest, dream, think, etc.

Do you remember how I used to consider "getting out of Oklahoma" for more open-minded, less Bible-belted bound, progressive geographies? [Editor's note: Didn't we all?] Well, that's over. I believe those "roots" I was telling you I sprouted, have grown into Oklahoma soil! I was resistant to embrace Oklahoma as "home" in part because of its backwardness and because it was my husband who was drawn here, not me. New Mexico was where I was drawn to but we left because of a financial crisis when Jed got out of the Air Force. Being, in my life, at a point in my feminist process where I felt thrown into an ocean with barely a life jacket, you can imagine how those two aforementioned situations were affecting me. Being isolated out in rural Oklahoma didn't help, as I'm sure you can imagine. (Though I must say that living "out" like that was a dream I had for years and, in spite of inner turmoil, benefitted greatly from that remote, wilderness, living experience.)

Moving closer to Lawton has greatly reduced my isolation, and I am **happily** still rural. I have women friends I see regularly (Thank you Goddess!!!) (Women friends are the best life-saving jacket, as I know you know.)

I'm happy to hear you are feeling optimistic - I know how easy it is to get depressed at how far we women, our country, the world, has yet to go. But I am optimistic these days too, and now that I am feeling at home in Oklahoma I am fired up to get some things going to make Oklahoma more to my liking, to join more committedly in shaping Oklahoma as a force/power in the transformation of the world. I do not deny the obstacles, I am just not feeling the need to focus my energies upon them. I know they are there and what they are, I need to focus my energies on the positive - the potentials - and in creating a microcosm of the macro-feminist vision of the world - a pocket of paradise in which to enjoy my life.

I believe I will be able now to form a woman's support and learning/consciousness raising group in this Lawton area. Seeds are planted and I am in a better position in which to nurture them, and be nurtured by them. I am toying with the idea of opening a woman's bookstore in Lawton, too. "WOMAN'S WORDS BOOKSTORE". Keep me and this in mind on your full moon prayers.

For my feminist education I am currently studying: *Beyond Power - Women, Men and Morals*, by Marilyn French; *Women Together*, *Women Alone*, by Anita Shreve, and for my feminist spirituality I am reading: *Revolution From Within*, by Gloria Steinam, and *Shakkai - Woman of the Sacred Garden*, by Lynn V. Andrews. For Women's history I also read: *Cowgirls - Women of the American West*, by Teresa Jordan - excellent, really a great book. Deals with feminism too and why many ranchwomen were/are reluctant to embrace the (women's) Movement.

Anyway, thanks for being there. Herland is a beacon of hope and support, more perhaps than you all realize, for all the many ships at sea.

With love, in sisterhood,

Deborah

□

MALCOLM X'S DAUGHTER IN OKLAHOMA

Attallah Shabazz, the eldest daughter of Malcolm X, is a theater producer, writer and lecturer. Together with Yolanda King, eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ms. Shabazz founded "Nucleus", a company of performing artists dedicated to encouraging positive growth within humanity.

The Oklahoma State University Programming Committee for Multicultural Awareness Program is sponsoring a lecture by Ms. Shabazz on Thursday, September 10, 1992. It will be held at 7 o'clock p.m. in the Seretean Concert Hall. Ms. Shabazz' lecture will be titled "Positively You." Admission to the lecture is free. □

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NGLTF CONFERENCE

Scholarship assistance is available for people of color, activists with disabilities and activists with limited incomes who would like to attend the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute Creating Change Conference. The conference, to be held in Los Angeles, California this November 13-16, is a skills-building gathering for gay and lesbian activists.

This year's Creating Change Conference will feature more than 90 workshops plus provocative plenary speakers, networking sessions, an "agit-prop" swap shop, and social events. Pre-conference institutes include a Campus Organizing Institute on Wednesday, November 11, and the People of Color and Diversity Training Institutes on Thursday November 12. Scholarships may be used to attend the institutes.

The Diversity Training Institute will help activists prepare for more effective multi-cultural coalition work in their organizations, on the job and in society. Racism, sexism, anti-Semitism, class, age, and ability bias will be examined. The Institute offers an opportunity to develop new alliances and practical coalition strategies for individuals and organization.

The People of Color Organizing Institute will feature a day of discussions and workshops on the critical issues affecting activists of color in the lesbian and gay movement. Topics such as racism in our movement, building and strengthening people of color organizations, broadening the agendas of our organizations and the lesbian and gay movement, and diversity issues will be discussed.

Workshops at the conference include "Reports from the Field: The Impact of Election '92," "The War on Gay/Lesbian Art"; "Grief, Anger and the Politics of AIDS"; "Fascism in America?"; "Lesbian Visibility in the Media"; "Aging and the Movement" and many other organizing and skills building topics.

To apply for a scholarship, obtain a Scholarship Application Form from the NGLTF Policy Institute. Applications must be completed and returned by Monday, September 7, 1992. Applications received after deadline will be considered depending on availability of scholarship funds.

To get an application form or to submit a completed application, write Creating Change 1992/Scholarships, NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 14th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. Call Catherine Carter at NGLTF Policy Institute, 202/332-6483, TTY 202/332-6219, for more information. □

MATERNITY LEAVE -- Not!

A compromise Family Leave Act, guaranteeing leave without pay to family members in the event of family illness, death, or a new family member, whether by birth or adoption, was passed by both Houses of Congress and sent to President George Bush, who promptly vetoed it; it would, he said, create an undue hardship on small businesses.

Meanwhile, business does not seem to be suffering too much in the European Community, and our European sisters appear to be doing quite a bit better than we are. Below is a list of European Community countries, and their current Maternity Leave provisions.

| COUNTRY | LEAVE | PAY |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Belgium | 14 weeks (6 before birth) | 100% for 1-4 weeks, thereafter 80% |
| Denmark | 28 weeks (4 before birth) | 90% of salary |
| FRG (Germany) | 14 weeks (6 before birth) | 100% of salary or fixed sum |
| Greece | 15 weeks (6 before birth) | 100% of salary |
| Spain | 16 weeks | 75% of salary |
| France | 16 weeks (6 before birth) | 84% of salary |
| Ireland | 14 weeks (6 before birth) | 70% of salary |
| Italy | 20 weeks (8 before birth) | 80% of salary |
| Luxembourg | 16 weeks (16 before birth) | 100% of salary |
| Netherlands | 12 weeks (6 before birth) | 100% of salary |
| Portugal | 90 days (6 wks. before birth) | 100% of salary |
| UK | 40 weeks | 6 wks at 90% of salary and 12 weeks at a fixed reduced sum. |

Source: *The National Women's Health Network News* □

Published by: Herland Sister Resources, Inc., 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 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 opinions 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.

TARGETING THE SENATE, 1992

In recent months The Voice has been bringing you profiles of feminist, pro-choice women running for the U.S. Senate. Thus far we have profiled Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein of California, dynamic newcomers Carol Mosely Braun of Illinois and Lynn Yeakel of Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth Holtzman and Geraldine Ferraro of New York (both running for the same seat, unfortunately); Gloria O'Dell of Kansas and Jean Floyd Jones of Iowa.

This issue we are spotlighting a woman candidate for the House of Representatives from Oklahoma (Unfortunately, we have no women running for the Senate from Oklahoma this year). Laurie Williams is running for the House in the Fifth District. The Voice will have gone to press before the August 25 primary; however she is expected to win that vote, and in November she will face either Mickey Edwards or one of his primary challengers.

Laurie has a Bachelor's Degree, Cum Laude, from Duke University, and a Law Degree from OU. She has served as an Administrative Law Judge and attorney at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, and now is in private practice specializing in oil and gas, public utilities, legislation and administrative and corporate law. She states that she is unequivocally pro-choice. □

INSURANCE COMPANY REBUKED

Issuing a stern rebuke and warning, a New York state judge has dismissed an attempt by a life insurance company to rescind the \$50,000 policy of a man who died of AIDS. The judge also forced the company to pay \$127,000 in attorneys' fees to the policy holder's estate.

The judge, Ira Gammernan of the state Supreme Court in New York County, said that New England Mutual Life Insurance company engaged in improper and discriminatory conduct when it searched its files to invent a reason to rescind the policy after the policy holder, Jeffrey Duke, began making AIDS-related claims under a separate disability insurance policy.

"The awarding of attorneys' fees," Judge Gammernan wrote in his decision, "will, in my view, be sufficient to deter plaintiff and other insurance carriers from engaging in similar discriminatory conduct."

In asking the court to rescind the policy, New England Life argued that Duke had misrepresented himself in applying for the policy by describing his lover and business advisor as his "business partner." In finding that Duke did nothing wrong, Judge Gammernan rebuked New England Life for starting an investigation to find any "bogus basis" for revoking the policy and for treating Duke unfairly because of his disability, his sexual orientation and his marital status.

Judge Gammernan repeatedly emphasized that discrimination has played a role in New England Life's actions. If Duke and his partner, William Rummelink, were "married or Duke's illness was one not associated with homosexuality no attempt to rescind the policy would have been made," the Judge wrote.

"This ruling is an important vindication of the equal rights of gay men and people with AIDS," said Duke's attorney William Hibsher. "Judge Gammernan has taught New England Mutual that trying to bank on homophobia and bigotry does not pay - the letter of the law, whether in the insurance context or otherwise, protects gay men and those infected with HIV just as it protects other citizens." □

Free to good home -- 8 week old yellow tabby male kitten. Sweet and friendly companion already. All shots, wormed. Call 557-1949.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Only 50% of U.S. cities and counties have crisis hotlines and shelters for battered women. An estimated 250,000 women and children are turned away every year because of a lack of funding. Since 1980, the number of rapes has risen four times as fast as the total crime rate.

The Violence Against Women Act will:

- Fund more shelters and services for battered women.
- Require better enforcement of victim protection orders, even if interstate.
- Fund training for police units and prosecutors on domestic violence and rape.
- Provide funding for rape crisis centers and counseling.
- Promote rape prevention and education programs at colleges and high schools.
- Increase penalties for sex crimes and mandate victim restitution.
- Provide remedies for hate crimes based on gender.

The Violence Against Women Act is Senate Bill 15 and is currently on the Senate calendar awaiting consideration by the full Senate. □

ROCKEFELLER FELLOWSHIPS ANNOUNCED

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) of The City University of New York (CUNY) is offering a minimum of two Rockefeller Residency Fellowships in each of the 1993-94, 1994-95, and 1995-96 academic years. Each year preference will be given to projects focused on a particular theme. The theme for the first year of the program, 1993-94, will be Race and Class in Gay/Lesbian Communities. Like the larger society surrounding it, the gay world is marked by racial and class divisions, and proposals that address the substance and possible solutions for those divisions would be appropriate to this theme. All applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a jury of scholars and specialists in diverse areas of gay/lesbian studies who are not affiliated with CLAGS. Fellows will receive \$35,000, plus a \$2,000 travel/relocation stipend, for residency from September 1 to June 1. Applications for shorter-term residencies can be considered, provided the proposed project is suited to the abbreviated time period and the Fellow has sustained interaction with CLAGS. For participation as a Residency Fellow for 1993-94, applications must be completed and returned by February 15, 1993. The full application includes a cover page; a 10-page narrative detailing the proposed project; a complete curriculum vitae/resume; samples of the applicant's publications or other relevant work; and three letters of reference from persons familiar with the applicant's work. Application forms are available from: Martin Duberman, Director, CLAGS, CUNY Graduate School, 33 West 42 St., NY, NY 10035-8099. (212) 642-2924. □

THE THANKS BE TO GRANDMOTHER WINIFRED



Rachel Winifred Upjohn Light
(1880-1929)

FOUNDATION funds women over 54 to enable them to create, and manifest into reality, ideas and concepts that will improve the lives of women in one or more aspects. The purpose of limiting the beneficiaries to individuals over 54 is to encourage a segment of the population (older women)—generally ignored, forgotten, and considered invisible—to have courage and confidence in their ability to gift the common weal with their knowledge and wisdom.

For information write P.O. Box 1449, Wainscott, New York 11975

Chatterbox

Retreat Workshops -- We are currently planning workshops for the Fall Retreat at Roman Nose, October 16 - 18. If you would like to present, participate in, or merely attend a particular type of workshop, please write or call us and let us know what you want.

• • • • •

Garage Sale -- Herland's next garage sale will be held at the store on Halloween day, Saturday, October 31. We have a good start on saleable items, but always need more. Please keep us in mind and bring us your surplus stuff. If you need someone to pickup items, please call Herland at 521-9696. These are great balmy days to clean out the house and garage.

• • • • •

Herland's New Ramp -- We have taken our first step toward making the building handicapped-accessible, with the addition of a handsome new wooden ramp from the driveway to the bookstore. Bountiful thanks to all the women who worked hard on one of our hottest days thus far this summer, including Ginger, Pat, Michelle, Laura, Tommy, Diana, Joni, Kevan and Renee. (Margaret brought ice cream).

NOTES FROM GLAAD, THE GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION

• Levi Strauss and Company has a strong anti-discrimination provision, offers same-sex domestic partnership benefits, advertises in gay/lesbian publications, and just ended its financial support of the Boy Scouts of America for refusing to admit gay Scoutmasters and Scouts. Following the Boy Scout announcement, the fundamentalist American Family Association launched a Levi's boycott, deluging the company with mail and phone calls saying its "pro-sodomy" decision showed it no longer wants the business of a majority of Americans. To counter this hate, we can beat the bigots at their own game by calling Levi's free consumer response number at 1-800-872-5384 and thank them for not supporting bigotry.

• Roseanne Arnold told QW magazine that her TV sister Jackie (played by Laurie Metcalf) may have lesbian relationships in coming seasons. You can tell Roseanne that having Jackie come out is a wonderful idea by writing Roseanne Arnold, Co-Executive Producer, Roseanne, Carsey-Werner Co., 4024 Radford Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604.

• The season finale of Northern Exposure was a flashback about Roslyn and Cicely, the turn-of-the-century lesbian lovers who founded the town as a colony of free thinkers. Declared Cicely, "My heart belongs to Roslyn and it always will. Our souls are one and I can't imagine life apart from her." Tragically, Cicely dies at the end of the episode (and the town is given her name.) But since the show's present day regulars played assorted roles in the flashback, why couldn't Jo Anderson and Yvonne Suhor, who played Cicely and Roslyn, be brought back as present-day lovers? You can ask for a modern reincarnation of Roslyn and Cicely by writing Joshua Brand and John Falsey, Executive Producers, Northern Exposure, Finnegan-Pinchuk Productions, 4225 Coldwater Canyon, Studio City, CA 91604.

• The pilot for "In The Life", an hour-long variety program focusing on the lesbian and gay community, and hosted by lesbian comedian Kate Clinton, was offered to PBS affiliates during June and July. Produced at WNYC in New York by gay film maker John Scagliotti, the series is primarily funded not by corporations, who won't touch it, but by individuals who contribute directly to the show as In The Life members. Tell your PBS affiliate to add "In The Life" to their fall schedules. If they aired the pilot, say how much you enjoyed it. In Oklahoma City write or call Bob Allen, Executive Director, OETA, 7403 N. Kelley, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; 405/848-8501. □

HANDYWOMAN DIRECTORY

Are you a carpenter, an electrician, a plumber, an auto mechanic? Do you do yard work, auto body work, body body work, landscaping? Do you have a truck and haul trash? Do you type theses and resumes, or do great desktop publishing? Do you have a printing press? Do you alter clothes, or upholster furniture? Do you pour concrete, prune trees or repair vcr's?

Do you get the picture? ...Herland would like to maintain a listing of skilled and handy women, to make it easier for the community to practice affirmative action and support them. Send us your business card if you have one, or just jot us a line with your name and phone number, and skill or service offered. We'll put you on the list and the list on the bulletin board.. If you would be interested in participating in a barter system let us know. If there is enough interest we'll explore the possibilities of setting up such a system. Thanks. □

THE
Coyote
CLUB

WEDNESDAY COOKOUT

You Bring the Meat, We'll Do the Rest!

SATURDAYS

Free Volleyball Lessons 1-3pm
Open Court 4-10pm
CLUB OPENS AT NOON

SUNDAYS

Volleyball Tournament & Cookout 2-8pm
CLUB OPENS AT NOON

WE WILL BE OPEN LABOR DAY

11am-2am

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

Leather & Lace Party!

2120 N.W. 39th • OKC • 521-9533