

To the HERLAND VOICE

January, 1993

MORTGAGE PAYOFF SCHEDULED

Representatives of the Herland Board of Directors will meet with our mortgage holder on January 5 to make the final balloon payment on the Herland mortgage. Over \$20,000 has been donated to the building fund and a member of our community has offered to loan Herland the balance needed for the \$31,000 payoff. The response to the final Holiday Gift campaign has been nothing short of sensational. In August, 1992, the building fund had just over \$7,000. In the past four months \$13,000 has been donated -- mostly in \$200 pledges.

When the Herland Board decided five years ago that it was time Herland had a place of our own where no landlord could say what we could or couldn't do, it was a difficult and somewhat intimidating decision. When the only financing available had a large final balloon payment, we had doubts about our ability to meet that payment. However, with faith in our community's support for Herland, the building was purchased.

Today, it is apparent that faith was justified. The many women of Herland and our male friends have rallied to the challenge. The contributions, large and small, have come from all over Oklahoma and around the United States making it clear that Herland is important to many people. The balloon payment which once seemed impossible will be paid. □



CHRYSTOS IS COMING!

by Judith Rycroft

Chrystos, the Native American poet, artist, and activist, is coming to read to us at Herland on Friday, January 22 at 8:00 P.M. and at the Porthole January 24, starting at 6:30 P.M. Peggy Johnson will punctuate the Porthole poetry with her own Music-to-Grow-By.

In between those two events for the Herland Legal Defense Fund, Chrystos will do a workshop on Saturday, January 23, 1-5 pm in Rm. 319 Gittinger Hall. (Gittinger is on the OU campus, 760 Asp Avenue, next to the University Book Store.) This will be a writing/speaking workshop during which participants will talk about their own writing and the kind of writing they like to do and work on an actual project. This workshop is sure to be a sell-out, so register through Herland (521-9696) as soon as possible. The fee is \$30.00.

If you are not acquainted with Chrystos' work, pull out last month's *HERLAND VOICE* and read two of her poems. That will make you want to hear/read more. Her most recent book is *Dream On* (Press Gang Publishers, Vancouver, 1991), which will be available in Herland library as soon as I can let it go!

Dream On is a "hot number." In it, Chrystos' works dance, burn, leap, warm, illuminate, and consume--each poem is a flame, feeding on her soul fuel.

The more I read, the more I "saw" *Dream On* as a unicorn, one of almost-fantastic beauty flying on featherwings with moon dust in its mane--

This Horse has paisley swirls of breath
crystal in the fog
This is a black wet silk rainy night horse
This is a dawn satin pony
whose rump is dappled with stars
(from "EARS TO THE HEART OF THE WIND")

(continued on page 7)

Lets Celebrate!

**NOTE BURNING PARTY
SATURDAY**

JANUARY 16, 1993

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES

2312 N.W. 39

*Great Food, Great Folks, Live Music
Much Fun and Frivolity*

BRING A FRIEND AND JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION.

ST. SYBIL

(Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, is an occasional contributor to this space.)

Dear St. Sybil,

What's all this uproar over guys in the military? We've always had guys in the military, and I don't think it would be fair to keep them out - it would hurt their chances for a good education, medical care, low mortgages, better jobs, training, a good future -all of that stuff; and besides, it wouldn't be fair for only gals to have to serve their country in Somalia or Panama or wherever -for Pete's sake, I'm not even sure the Saudis and Kuwaitis would accept an all-gal force to do their fighting for them. These people against guys in the service had better get real, don't you think?

Yours in outrage and disgust,

Rose

Dear Rose,

That's "gays".

Fondly,

Sybil

Dear Sybil,

Whatever.

Luv ya,

Rose

Dear St. Sybil,

Seriously now, what do you think President Clinton should do about Gays in the military? I want desperately for him to lift the ban, but from everything I read in the local newspaper it will be dangerous for him to do so - it might imperil all of his programs, and I don't want to be selfish.

Worriedly,

Al Truistic

Dear Al,

First of all, remember that the local newspaper you read is the OCBL - the Oklahoma City Birdcage Liner; not everybody in the country is as upset at the prospect of gays in the military as is that pathetic little man with the ironic name - Eddie Gaylord, mercy me.

Secondly, remember: when one person is oppressed, no one is free. Your own freedom is as important as anyone else's!

Thirdly, let's look at Mr. Clinton's options.

(1) He could bow to pressure from bigots and homophobes and do nothing. Now, he's a politician, but he's not a snake, and he won't do that. Such a course of inaction would leave a majority of his supporters disappointed and furious; and, besides, from all appearances he really is firmly, personally, committed to lifting the ban one way or another.

(2) He could sign an executive order at any time overturning the ban; and that would be it. If he did, it would lead to an outcry of the same sort (and from the same sort, of course) as arose when Truman racially integrated the services. Now, it would most likely die out just as quickly, and in a number of years people would be shaking their heads at the very thought that allowing gays in the military was ever controversial. But it would be nasty while it lasted, and while he's not a snake, he is a politician, and he probably won't do it that way either.

(3) Look for him to do something broadly cooperative and conciliatory, that will address and be ameliorative toward many groups and problems. He has indicated that he is looking at a plan to ban wrongful behavior, not attitude or preference. By focusing on public as opposed

to private behavior, he can try to address the problems of service-related sexual harassment, as in the Tailhook scandal, the ban on gays, "date"rape, and gender discrimination, in a bill only a fool (Hi, Eddie) would be willing to openly criticize.

A bill of this sort won't be written overnight; and you are quite right and nice and reasonable not to hector him into immediate action; he has a lot on his plate. But remember, Al, this was a promise of his, a promise that helped win him a lot of hard working volunteers, money and energy, so go ahead, be a little "selfish", and don't let up on him altogether. Don't let him think for a minute that life will be easier if he lets this one slip. He's a good guy, as politicians go, but as politicians go.....you know.

Fondly,

Sybil

Dear St. Sybil,

My New Year's Resolutions are to give up smoking, give up drinking, lose twenty pounds, and quit running around. Do you think I can do it?

Signed,

Anxious

Dear Anxious,

Of course you can do it. We all do it. Are you sure you want to do it? It's called dying. See you soon,

Love,

Sybil

Sybil sends her best wishes to *Herland Voice* Readers for a wonderful new year, full of challenges and achievements, joy and growth. May you be as gentle to and demanding of yourself as you are with others, no more, no less; may your righteousness be tempered with tolerance, your dedication and sobriety balanced with levity, and your courage never fail you. Blessings and good fortune be yours. Love. □

MARTIN LUTHER KING CELEBRATION

Supporters of racial harmony and justice will march on Monday, January 20, 1993, in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. The march will kick off at 9:00 a.m. with a rally at the Ralph Ellison Library at 23rd and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Following a short ceremony at the library, where the Troupe Youth Choir will lead the assembly in "Lift Every Voice", participants will march to the Oklahoma Historical Building, where Governor Walters will ring the Freedom Bell at 11:00 a.m. This bell ringing will coincide with a cacophony of bells across the nation and the world, in a worldwide salute to Dr. King.

The marchers will then cross the street to the South Steps of the Capitol (inside if the weather is inclement) for the main program, which will include poetry and drumming by Jahruha and Company, and a series of short addresses by a rainbow representation of the local Human Justice movement. These speakers will be the Rev. Lynn Mims, Richard Whitman of the Alliance of Indigenous People; Vinh Tranh, Wilfredo Santos-Rivera, and the Rev. Donna Compton.

Herland is proud to be one of the sponsors of this parade, and a contingent from Herland will march behind the Herland banner. All friends of Herland are invited to come march with us, and be a visible, vocal witness for freedom, equality and justice. □

SOUTHWEST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City is proud to be hosting the annual Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference January 29 through 31, 1993. The powerful women's gathering will be held at the Lincoln Plaza Hotel, 4545 North Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The theme of this year's conference is "The Rhythms of Life: Heroines' Journeys: Each Day A Coming of Age."

Twenty-five local and regional presenters will offer 28 workshops designed to nurture the spiritual and creative empowerment of women. Some of the workshops cover such areas as reclaiming images and stories of the Divine Female, the mythology of pre-patriarchal times, creating our own rituals, the ancient art of belly dancing, honoring the cycles of our lives, becoming a social activist, and jam sessions for musicians and would-be musicians. Miss Brown to You will provide entertainment Saturday night.

As in past conferences, there will be an in-gathering on Friday evening guaranteed to raise your energy level with drumming, chanting and dancing. Bring a seed or seeds to offer in this ritual created to affirm woman-defined spirituality.

The registration fee, after December 29th, is \$65.00. It includes two continental breakfasts and one buffet dinner. Lunch Saturday is on your own.

A bazaar of arts, crafts, books and jewelry will be offered on Saturday. If you would like to display your unique wares, contact Karen Haney Beard at 1208 N.W. 34th Street, Oklahoma City, 73118.

For more information on how to register and what workshops are available, contact Anne Murray at 478-1176. Home hospitality is available on request. Child care and activities are being planned. Please let us know if you will be needing this free service.

This conference promises to be one of the most powerful gatherings in Oklahoma. It will be a great opportunity for sharing women's community. □

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM NORTH OF THE BORDER

The Ontario government will not appeal September's landmark provincial Human Rights Commission ruling that the term "conjugal relationship" in the Human Rights Code applies to gay couples.

The ruling came in a lawsuit over survivor benefits for lovers of provincial gay employees, but it extends to all government entities and private businesses, mandating they offer benefits to gay employees' partners. The government will also have to rewrite discriminatory laws on wills, estates, child custody, adoption and many other matters.

"Ontario is about to recognize the homosexual union, and families led by homosexuals, as one normal social relationship among many in a complex society," summed up The Toronto Star.

One quick response to the ruling came at the Toronto YMCA, which extended its family discount to gay couples and their children, after seven years of refusing to do so. □

LEAF IT TO US!

631-3575

Plant Sales and Maintenance

Silk and Floral Designs

Remember Valentine's Day, February 14th!

IN MEMORIAM: AUDRE LORDE

By Vivien Ng

It was about three months ago one Sunday morning, when I was sipping a cup of tea in my friend's kitchen in New York City, that I knew that Audre Lorde was near the end of her long struggle with cancer. My friend awoke that morning with a strange premonition, and acted on it by placing a long distance call to Germany, where Audre was undergoing alternative treatment for cancer, just to make sure that her dear friend was well. It was then that I learned that Audre was coming home to die, I could see it on my friend's face.

Audre Lorde died on November 17, 1992 at her home on St. Croix. She was 58 years old. I have lost a teacher and role model.

For a number of years now, Audre Lorde's *Sister Outsider* has been my constant companion. It can often be seen on my night table or in bed with me, because I have found it very restorative to read an essay or two from the collection before I sleep. A friend once half-jokingly suggested that I owe my political insight and activism to Audre Lorde through the process of osmosis, through cradling her book all night.

I spent my sabbatical year 1990-91 at Hunter College where Audre Lorde had taught for a number of years. It was obvious that even in retirement, Audre maintained a powerful presence at Hunter, through fond memories of her years of inspired service, through the words and deeds of her former students, the conscience of the college. In 1991, Hunter College conferred on her an honorary doctorate degree, citing her work as mentor, activist, writer, outspoken lesbian. Audre flew in from St. Croix for the ceremony but was hospitalized at the last minute and was therefore unable to attend in person; her daughter came in her stead. When word got out that Audre was in need of blood, scores of Hunter students signed up to donate blood in her name, so that there would not be any fear of shortage in her blood supply. She was truly beloved.

I was in New York a couple of days after her death and was therefore able to participate in several events that honored her life and work. I went to New York as a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, City University of New York, to help plan a lesbian writers conference for next February (an event co-sponsored by PEN America). Although the conference had been in the works for some time, we quickly moved to restructure it as a memorial to Audre. Friday night, November 20, was the occasion of the first Kessler Lecture at CLAGS and Joan Nestle (co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives) was our first Kessler Lecturer. We had earlier voted to award the lectureship to Audre Lorde but she was too ill to accept and the honor thus went to Joan Nestle. Nestle was not put off by the knowledge that she was our second choice but dedicated her lecture--a celebration of the life of Mabel Hampton--to Audre instead. There was not a dry eye in the packed auditorium that night.

So long, dear sister outsider. I will honor you by living the life of an activist, mentor, outspoken lesbian. I hope I will not disgrace your memory. □

WAYS TO REMEMBER AUDRE LORDE:

Audre Lorde Memorial Fund: A memorial fund is being established in Audre Lorde's name for two purposes: (1) to commission a sculpture of a bust of Audre Lorde, and (2) to establish a scholarship fund for black women writers in the name of Audre Lorde.

The Astrea Foundation will accept donations on behalf of the Fund. Please make checks payable to: The Astrea Foundation/Audre Lorde Memorial Fund. Mail donations to: Astrea Foundation, 666 Broadway, Suite 520, New York, New York 10012.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to SISA (Sisterhood in Support of Sisters in South Africa). Address: P.O. Box 24966, GBS, St. Croix, USVI 00824-0966. □

THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM MUST CHANGE

By Deborah Fox

What is the difference in value between a monetary donation and a donation of time and labor? Or the difference in value between a uranium mine and a pristine mountain forrest with pure spring water? Or the difference in value between the war industry and child-rearing?

The differences reflect what is perceived and valued in our economic system, and what is not valued in the economic system and by our government. A monetary donation is a tax write-off whereas the time and labor of charity work is not. A uranium mine is of value (regardless that it pollutes the earth and destroys life in a multitude of ways clear around the planet) because it generates capital whereas an unadulterated landscape, clean air to breathe and pure water to drink (unless bottled and marketed) does not generate capital and therefore is not calculated to be of value.

The war industry is of value because it is accepted as "protection" but mostly because the multi-billion dollar weapons industry depends upon wars -- yes, wars are encouraged, even planned for business, **especially the export business.**

Child-rearing on the other hand is not perceived as of value because it does not generate capital and therefore will not be awarded benefits by government policies. Housework is not calculated as of value; subsistence agriculture is not calculated as of value; environmental protection is not calculated as of value (pollution clean-up has become big business however, but don't be fooled; it is not meant to really clean up - that would be bad for business, clean-up industries merely maintain "**acceptable levels of pollution**") Sickness is calculated as of value because it generates capital - the booming medical industries!. Giving life is not calculated as of value; peace is not calculated as of value. Anything that does not have a cash generating capacity is not considered of value and therefore is not calculated in the Gross National Product (GNP), the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), or the United Nations System of National Accounts (UNSNA).

Anything that is not calculated in the GNP, the GDP and the UNSNA is invisible and therefore not rewarded in the distribution of benefits that flow from production or in government policy. Consequently, the ecosystem and women and children (women and children being the vast majority of the poorest of poor world-wide) are continuously undermined and unacknowledged. Overwhelmingly, those experiences that are economically visible can be summarized as **what men do**. What's more, the economic system is a closed system that **maintains these injustices** in a vicious circle.

No matter who we put into the presidential office, we cannot affect major change because as long as our economic system wears blinders, it cannot see the whole picture and will continue to service only a few (the ultra rich men who run the government!) instead of the well-being of society, nature, wildlife and the planet as a whole. Bush speaks solemnly about God and doing "God's" work yet the reality is that his and the rest of the elite boys' god, is **money!** Talk about using God's name in vain! And I don't see Bush using **his** money to help the starving, no, he's using our tax dollars! Our sons and daughters! Oh isn't he the humanitarian!!!

I think we need a "Wage Ceiling"; everyone's wages over \$100,000.00 annually (how much does **one** need to live in felicity?) should be refunneled into raising minimum wage to \$10.00 or so per hour, job training programs for the **poor** (who are predominantly female) and those displaced by military **cuts**, housing and inner-city reconstruction, education (*so everyone can go to Harvard!) mass transit, environmental protection and **real** clean-up, alternative energy development and mass health care. (Mel Gibson, the actor, earned 32

million dollars in two years, **what** does he need that much for?!). Of course, that would mean our president would have to take a \$100,000.00 annual cut. Bill, are you really committed to change? Then put your money where your mouth is!

Marilyn Warring, author of *If Women Counted: A new Feminist Economics* proposed we adopt Hilka Pietilä's (a Finnish feminist) alternative economic system. Pietilä's visual conception of the national economy begins like this: the largest part of the economy is what she terms "The Free Economy". It is the nonmonetary part of the economy which "consists of the work and production that people do voluntarily for the well-being of their families and for pleasure without requesting or receiving pay". Then a smaller portion of the economy is what she terms "The Protected Sector", which "consists of production and work for the home market as well as public services (such as food production, construction of houses and infrastructure, administration, schools, health, transport, and communication). This sector is, in most countries, protected and guided by legislation and official means, and thus the prices and other terms can be determined independently without too much pressure from the world economy." And lastly, the smallest portion of the economy, "The Fettered Economy", which is large-scale production for export usually called the open economy but which Pietilä calls the fettered economy "since this is fettered to the world market." The terms of this sector, the prices, competitiveness, demand, and so on are determined by the international market. Pietilä writes that, "in terms of the UNSNA, the whole life of society is geared to support this sector, while it accounts for a quite modest proportion of the total production in any one nation and in the world". Pietilä also recognizes that money payment is not the sole criterion for the assessment of work and production.

Economic statisticians argue that women's unpaid labor cannot be measured because of conceptual measurement difficulties, yet they have devised several methods for measuring the illegal hidden economy, such as drug traffic and sexual slavery and use these measurements to record rosy pictures of "economic growth" in countries where most of the inhabitants live in devastating poverty! (So these poor people will not be visible for beneficial policies because the drug and prostitution cartels are a boon to the economy!)

"Early national income accounts evolved in order to justify paying for wars. Since the institutionalization of national income accounting by the United Nations, however, the motive has expanded. A major reason that only cash-generating activities are taken into account is to ensure that countries can determine balance of payments and loan requirements - not as a comparative exercise, but as a controlling exercise. Those to whom money is owed (First World governments, multinational banks, and multilateral agencies) now impose this system on those who owe them money. They are interested only in seeing the cash generating capacity of the debtor countries, not their productive capacity. But whatever the change of motive, two things are constant. Those who are making the decisions are men, and those values which are excluded from this determination are those of our environment, and of women and children"

*"The current state of the world is the result of a system that attributes little of no 'value' to peace. It pays no heed to the preservation of natural resources or to the labor of the majority of its inhabitants or to the unpaid work of the reproduction of human life itself - not to mention its maintenance and care. **The system cannot respond to values it refuses to recognize.**" (Marilyn Warring).*

What can we do about this? We must educate ourselves and each other of the workings of the system, write our demands to our President and Congress, and when the next census comes around, all women should claim unpaid worker as their designation. Refuse to split GDP contribution by gender. Read Marilyn Warring's book, *If Women Counted*, and demystify economic jargon used to keep us out! □



January 1993



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday


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

Doc Herland sends congratulations to the OKC Health Department & AIDS Workers. Happy holidays and a very happy new year!

1  HAPPY NEW YEAR!
*
CoDA, 7 pm

2 Herland's New Year's Concert
8 pm
Civic Center Little Theater
RJ, MBTY & DD

3


4  HERLAND PAYS OFF ITS "IMPOSSIBLE" MORTGAGE

5


6 Cleveland County NOW 7 pm Norman Public Library

7

8 CoDA, 7 pm

9  Joan Baez born 1941

10

11  Alice Paul 1885 - 1977

12

13


14

15 Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968
*
CoDA, 7 pm

16

17 Board Meeting 4:30
*
Temple B'nai Israel, 7pm, ML King workshops

18 M.L. King Parade, 9am (and rally at the Capitol at 11:45 am)
*
Legal Defense Fund, 6:30 pm

19  Janis Joplin 1943 - 1970

20 Inauguration Day

21

22 Chrystos Poetry Reading & Book Signing, 8pm Herland
*
CoDA, 7 pm

23 CHRYSTOS Poetry Workshop 1 pm Room 319 Gittinger Hall 760 Asp Ave. Norman

24 Chrystos & Peggy Johnson at the Porthole 6:30 p.m.

25 CHRYSTOS and Peggy Johnson at the Porthole 6:30 pm


26 Chrystos at OSU Angie Debo Speaker

27

28

29 Women's Conference, Lincoln Plaza OKC All Weekend->
*
CoDA, 7 pm

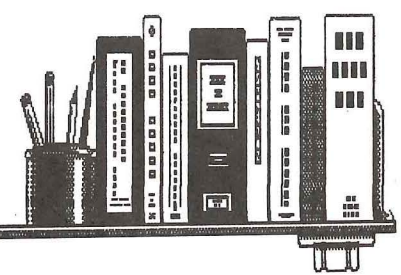
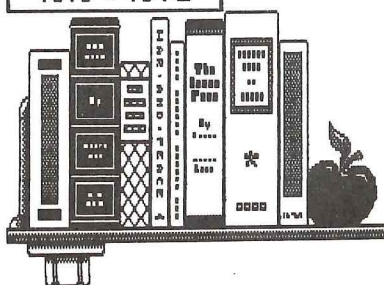
30 OK NOW, 11 a.m. call 3216676 for location
*
MISS BROWN TO YOU at the Lincoln Plaza

31  Jackie Robinson 1919 - 1972

On January 12, 1928, the police seized 800 copies of The Well of Loneliness. We have a long long way to go, but it's good to look back now and then and realize that we have come a far piece too. The Well of Loneliness is now on sale & in the library at Herland.

January 22,, 1993, is the twentieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade; are you glad we no longer have a president who thinks that those are two ways to cross the Potomac???

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
2312 N.W. 39th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112
405/ 521-9696
Hours: Saturdays 10 - 6; Sundays 1 - 6



SPECIAL THANKS

The mortgage payoff is being made possible by the generous contributions from our community. All those listed below have contributed/pledged \$200 or more or made substantial labor contributions to the renovation and maintenance of the building and grounds. (A star indicates a pledge which has been paid.)

If you have not yet contributed, there is still time to make your contribution and be listed on the plaque. Any building fund contribution of \$200 or more received by January 10 will be included on the plaque.

- Alice & Charlotte ☆
- Abigail Keegan ☆
- Anonymous ☆
- Barbara Cleveland ☆
- Barbara Hillyer ☆
- Barbara Neas/David Miller ☆
- Billie Hensley ☆
- Buster the Retreat Dog ☆
- Carol Schnepfer ☆
- Carolyn Cox & E. Dianna Escoto
- Cathy Colvard & Beverly Gardner
- Cecily Welter-Mullen ☆
- Dorothy Alexander
- Dorothy Painter ☆
- Diana Faulkner ☆
- Edwina Johnson ☆
- Friends Of The Porthole ☆
- Gail Garloch & Edie Schneeberger ☆
- Ginger McGovern ☆
- In Honor of Mary Reynolds and Peggy Johnson ☆
- Jean Kelsey ☆
- Jill Burroughs & Peggy Johnson ☆
- Jessica Soske In Memory of David Chrispell ☆
- Jo Soske ☆
- Dr. Joan Webb & Susan Blake ☆
- Jon Soske ☆
- Joni Darnell ☆
- Karen Lewis
- Kathy Conroy ☆
- Kelly Morgan & Julie Carr
- Kevan Kiser ☆
- Kris Lund ☆
- Kris Marek ☆
- Laura Choate ☆
- Margaret Cox ☆
- Marge Delaney in Memory of Chris Delaney ☆
- Margy Dillon ☆
- Marquetta Morris ☆
- The McMow Sisters ☆
- In Memory of Katherine Moore ☆
- In Honor of SunShine Schillings ☆
- In Honor of Stephen Hardway ☆
- Marilyn Sebek ☆
- Marian Hulsey ☆
- Nancy Walker
- P.K. Floyd
- Pat Colognesi & Beverly McGugin ☆
- Pat Reaves ☆
- Porthole Checks and Denims ☆
- Raphella Sohler ☆
- Rhonda Smith
- Sally Nostrant ☆
- Sarah Oakes ☆

- Shatzy Watson ☆
- Sherry Boggs ☆
- Susan Bumgarner ☆
- Terry Cocon
- In Memory of Grandma Scharlach ☆
- Tommy Thomas ☆
- Wanda Chapman ☆

HEALTH CARE-AVAN TO LITTLE ROCK

Health care activists from around the country converged on Little Rock, Arkansas on Saturday, December 12 to urge President-elect Clinton to support creation of a universal, single-payer, comprehensive health care system for the United States. When President-elect Clinton declined to attend the town meeting, participants turned it into a march and rally at the Arkansas State Capitol. At the end of the day, Clinton greeted the crowd, shaking hands and talking with individual participants.

Organizers reported that 27 states were represented by the 1,000 participants. The message they all brought for President-elect Clinton was "single-payer health care now!". The participants were "ordinary people doing extra-ordinary work", according to one speaker. The single-payer plan advocated by town meeting participants is most often compared to the Canadian health care system-- a government administered plan which guarantees choice of health care provider, controls health care provider fees and is financed through taxes.

The Florida delegation, who made a 20 hour bus trip to attend, wore hats with stickers saying, "It'll be hat's off to you for real health care reform." Convention center walls were festooned with signs brought from the various states. -- "Pennsylvania Nurses for Universal Health Care, "Missouri: Show me single-payer", "Lifetime Quality Care For Everyone". Clinton/Gore campaign buttons, signs, and t-shirts were also common sights in the crowd.

After a welcome by Dee Bennett, an Arkansas State Representative-elect, David Wilhelm of the Clinton Transition team was introduced to bring greetings from President-elect Clinton. When he announced that Clinton would not be in attendance due to other commitments, the crowd began to chant "We want Bill, We want Bill". After several minutes of chanting, Wilhelm finished his remarks. Bruce Reed, a member of Clinton's Health Policy Team, was met with the same chant when he was introduced. Ron Brown, Chairperson of the Democratic Party in town for the announcement of his nomination as Secretary of Commerce, made a surprise appearance and addressed the crowd.

After about an hour of presentations by individuals talking about the health and financial problems they face with the current health care system, organizers and the crowd decided to take the town meeting to President-elect Clinton at the Arkansas State Capitol. An impromptu march of about a mile and a half from the Convention Center to the State Capitol followed. Marching through downtown Little Rock streets without a permit, Little Rock police came to control traffic and escort the march.

Arriving at the Capitol, the marchers chanted "We Want Bill, We Want Bill" and "What do you want? Single-Payer! When Do You Want It? Now!" While organizers negotiated with the Clinton transition team for an appearance by Clinton, other organizers attempted to continue the program of scheduled speakers from the states represented. After marchers waited somewhat impatiently for about two hours in the brisk Arkansas afternoon, President-elect Clinton shook hands and spoke with marchers as he left the Capitol. □

THE ADVENTURES OF "DORIS" AND "MARY"

by "Doris" and "Mary"

Did you ever wonder what goes on at a Pro-Life meeting? The inquiring minds of Doris and Mary wanted to know so we attended their monthly meeting at a Baptist church in Oklahoma City. Since we are Pro-Choice womyn, we hoped to find out their plans and tactics for future "rescues" at clinics in our area. We believe strongly that the clinics should be open and the patients must have safe access to and from the clinics.

Driving to the church, we felt nervous and silly. Fear of the unknown was having an effect on our otherwise mature behavior. We dressed in our finest church attire with matching pocketbooks. Doris brought a small tape recorder nestled in her cleavage so we could share the information gained at the meeting with anyone who would be interested. However, since it would have been inappropriate to ask people to speak to her chest, the only thing recorded was her heartbeat.

As we entered the sanctuary, one man asked another, "Does anybody know those two women?" We smiled as we surveyed the crowd and sat in a pew to the left. Susan was sitting in the pew directly in front of us and inquired "Who are you?" and "Who told you about the meeting?" Mary advised Susan that a dear friend from Yukon had enlightened her of the "good works" of the group. Doris politely told Susan that she was Mary's sister and was also delighted about their "good works". We tried to make small talk and fit in as we accepted their literature and signed the sign-in sheet. As we scanned the publications, we felt repulsed by their contents.

Brother Larry opened the meeting with several announcements then told of the "rescue" at the Burns Clinic. He was so proud of his actions and was elated with the response of the audience. The struggle within ourselves to listen to the testimonials instead of jumping us and saying "but you are breaking the law and causing women great pain" was intense.

The man who called himself Father Anthony led the remainder of the meeting. He condemned homosexuals and baby killers. He advised the group that they had rented an office in the same complex as Dr. Patel's clinic so they could legally be on the property and "counsel" patients. This man is full of himself and this is perpetuated by the group (mostly men) who adore him. High praise and applause was expressed when the members were informed there were two Lambs of Christ active in the "rescue" at Norman.

Susan read copies of letters she encouraged her grade school students to write to the owner of a clinic. They asked "why do you kill babies" and "are your children afraid you will kill them." Father Anthony praised the letters and was thankful for the future Pro-Life activists. The last matter of concern of the meeting was the news that one of their regular members who participates in "rescues" recently had an abortion. The shock was too much for some of the people. There were loud gasps and looks of confusion.

The meeting made us both uncomfortable. "Doris" found the women in the group were allowed to speak but not to overshadow Anthony. He was the man. Even when Susan spoke about her school class writing hate letters, she seemed to look to Anthony for approval and praise. The whole group seem to be pathetic people who are mindless with only the ability to follow. "Mary" had never been in a crowd so vastly different in social, political, and spiritual values. The struggle to keep from jumping up to call them on their mean-spirited attitudes was difficult to control at times.

There were no feelings of love or kindness at this church -- only hate and bitterness. □

Women + Rage = Power

Role Models of Women in Science

"Women in Science," a tabloid designed to promote gender equity in the classroom and workplace, is now available from the National Women's History Project. Packed with information on historic and contemporary women in science, the tabloid is sure to capture the attention of secondary students and adults alike.

It includes biographical sketches of Nobel Prize winners, innovative inventors and scientific discoverers, and contemporary women involved in science-based careers. Also included are dozens of photographs of women scientists, plus classroom activities, games, puzzles, and a resource bibliography.

Multicultural in content, the tabloid makes clear the diversity of careers available in science. With a wide variety of women and sample careers included, the tabloid can be used effectively in junior high and high school classrooms, and career awareness programs, and at the secondary and college levels. In addition, high-technology companies and hospitals can use the tabloid to encourage women in science-based career advancements.

"Women in Science" is available for \$2.50 plus \$1 shipping/handling each or \$50 plus \$6 s/h for 25 copies. Orders can be sent to: National Women's History Project, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492, or call (707)838-6000. □

Letters to Herland . . .

To Herland Sister Resources,

With this letter is enclosed a money order for \$4,000 for Herland's Building Fund. (For real!) This money is an inheritance from one of my relatives in Oklahoma who passed away. Since I didn't earn the money in the first place I decided it would be appropriate to use it other than for myself.

I wanted to give this money to some organization where it could flourish and bring services for women/lesbians and working class/lesbians. From what I've read it seems Herland serves these purposes. Since my relative came from a somewhat privileged background, I deducted that some of this money was earned from the unpaid labor of others and I hope that this will redistribute back some of what was unfairly taken. Also since the money was earned in Oklahoma, I thought it a good idea to return it to this community.

I wish you all luck in your endeavor to buy a permanent center. This is a small gesture towards redistributing the huge amount of wealth in this world but I hope it makes a difference.

Sincerely,
(name withheld by request)

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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.

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CHRYSTOS *(continued from page 1)*

The *Dream On* unicorn, with all its beauty, has flashing slashing hooves and a horn that can pierce so, so deeply--

Whatever it is that women who weren't abused give
I don't have it
I was torched out long ago I respond as a knee jerks
to rubber hammer blows I even enjoy myself
but it doesn't mean I'm giving you me
(from "DON'T TRY")

Ah, Chrystos, what a poet! That woman can speak her anger: my mind still carries the hoofprints days after reading. The oppression of people of color, lesbians, women, the making of war, the pains and past humiliations in relationships...all come in reach of the flailing feet. Listen--


DOWN
into the dark bloody grave of war
we're dragged by men we've never met or touched...
How many are dying
from the taxes I've paid
with my tired hands?
(from "Down")

...I try to remember that we've never
surrendered
We've only said so
to survive
(from "MORNING SONG")

You don't have to be beaten to be loved the therapist said
I held the cool shock of those words
against the purple bruise of still wanting you
You've hit me with that irresistible
deadly weapon
hatred dressed in the shoes & socks of the words
I love you
(from "What Did She Hit You With?")

In counterpoint to the anger, Chrystos' love poetry is saved from being pornographic only by her sheer artistry with words (and it's still definitely PG 13!); then, when she holds you suspended between vicarious anger and lust, you feel again the brush of sweet air from the unicorn wings...

I wish I could give you the moment when
Eagle came back into view trailing Crows with the sun
dancing
on the water near the very still meadow then you'd know
even one more building anywhere in america or the world
is too many
(from "IMPACT") □



Cyndy
736-6382

tarot classes
meditation classes
psychic counseling

COLORADO ANTI-GAY AMENDMENT CHALLENGED

Advocates for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals filed a lawsuit on November 12 in state court in Denver challenging Colorado's recently passed anti-gay Amendment Two. The Amendment overturns gay rights laws in Denver, Boulder, and Aspen, and prohibits civil rights protections based on sexual orientation statewide.

Approved by Colorado voters on election day, Amendment Two would amend the Colorado State Constitution to repeal all laws in Colorado that protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Amendment would also prohibit any entity from ever enacting such a policy or law in the future or recognizing lesbians and gay men as a minority group.

The case was filed on behalf of several lesbians and gay men, a heterosexual man with AIDS and the City and County of Denver, the City of Boulder and The City of Aspen. The plaintiffs include tennis star Martina Navratilova, who lives near Aspen, and an ordained minister who has never before publicly acknowledged being a lesbian.

The plaintiffs are represented jointly by the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The complaint alleges that Amendment Two violates several provisions of the United States Constitution, primarily the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The complaint says that the proposed amendment would authorize and encourage public and private discrimination on the basis of perceived sexual orientation and establishes a right to discriminate against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals as one of the basic policies of the State of Colorado.

"Amendment Two is blatantly unconstitutional and is precisely what the Equal Protection Clause prohibits," said Ruth E. Harlow, staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "The Amendment was intended to and would encourage differential and discriminatory treatment against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals."

The lawyers said that they are basing their case, in part, on a decision by a California appellate court last year. In that ruling, the California court declared unconstitutional a ballot initiative in Riverside, California, that was similar to Colorado's Amendment Two. Because it violated the constitutional rights of lesbians and gay men, the California court refused to allow the amendment to appear on the ballot.

Currently, seven states and more than 100 municipalities have laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Efforts to repeal such laws failed in November's election in Oregon and in Portland, Maine. Voters in Tampa, Florida, however, repealed a recently enacted local gay rights law.

A number of groups have called for a boycott of the state of Colorado unless Amendment Two is overturned. Organizations who have canceled meetings scheduled for Colorado include The American Association of Physicians for Human Rights and The Congress of Mayors. Atlanta and San Francisco are among the cities which have announced they will observe the boycott.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has identified Far Right "Colorado-style" initiative organizing in Washington, Maine, Missouri, Idaho, and Ohio. The Traditional Values Coalition (TVC), led by Lou Sheldon, announced in December the opening of an organizing office in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. In California, the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has reported on efforts by the TVC to introduce a "stealth" anti-gay initiative in that state. □

Bulletin Board . . .

Donna Bechtel will be speaking at an event sponsored by the OKC YWCA on January 21, 1993. Ms. Bechtel and other formerly battered women will speak about their experience. Everyone is invited to attend. The event will be held January 21 at 7:00 P.M. at the Oklahoma City YWCA.

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The Lavender LEAF (Lesbian Emergency Action Fund) was started by lesbians to give financial aid to lesbians with emergency survival needs. Aid is available anonymously to any lesbian of poverty or working class background. Lesbians of middle and upper class backgrounds are encouraged to contribute to the LEAF fund. The long-term goal is to diminish the economic disparities among lesbians. For more info write P. O. Box 20921, Oakland, CA 94620; or call 510-869-2531.

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Research help requested: I am preparing a senior thesis about Lesbians and Families and would like to send questionnaires or interview women with children and women who are with or have been in relationships with women and their children. If interested, send a note to Nancy in care of Herland. Thank you.

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Participants Needed: Independent researcher looking for gay women to participate in a project which will include an anthology to be written about gay women. Personal narratives are sought. Particularly interested in women who have known most of their lives (whether having dated men at one time, or not), that they were gay. Also very interested in women who are not "out" and are "passing". Not looking for bi-sexual women. If interested in participating, please send a SASE for more information to: WGT Publications, P. O. Box 8262, Northfield, IL 60093.

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Women's stories about the day of their first menstruation are sought for book on same, by Jan Williamson and Gina Halsey. For info on writing your story or on being interviewed for your story, write First Moon, P. O. Box 48072, Los Angeles, CA 90048.

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An anthology on Women and Racism seeks personal essays on women's experiences with racism, for example how you dealt with racism directed against you (whatever race you are), how you dealt with your own racism against a certain racial or ethnic group, how you dealt with racism directed against others, etc. Non-fiction essays of 10-12 pages preferred; other genres may be considered. Deadline, April 1993. Send to Lin Collette, 78 Gooding Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

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The Oklahoma City Chapter of the National Organization for Women has reorganized and is meeting at the Village Library, 10307 N. Pennsylvania on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Robin Reed at 405/686-0722.

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Lesbian Celebration will be having a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 13, 1993; from 7 - midnight, at the Century II Expo Hall at Douglas & Waco in Wichita, Kansas. The dance will feature the famous band from Oklahoma City, Miss Brown To You. There will be a cash bar and free Hors D'oeuvres. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door; and you can write for tickets to: TLC, P.O. Box 3313, Wichita, Kansas 67201; or call 316-264-7034.

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Mark your calendars now for the Herland Spring Retreat, May 21-23 at Roman Nose State Park. More information about activities will be in future issues of *The Voice*. Let us know if you are interested in leading a workshop or serving on the Retreat Planning Committee.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR -- MAY YOU BE SAFE, STRONG, AND FREE IN 1993!