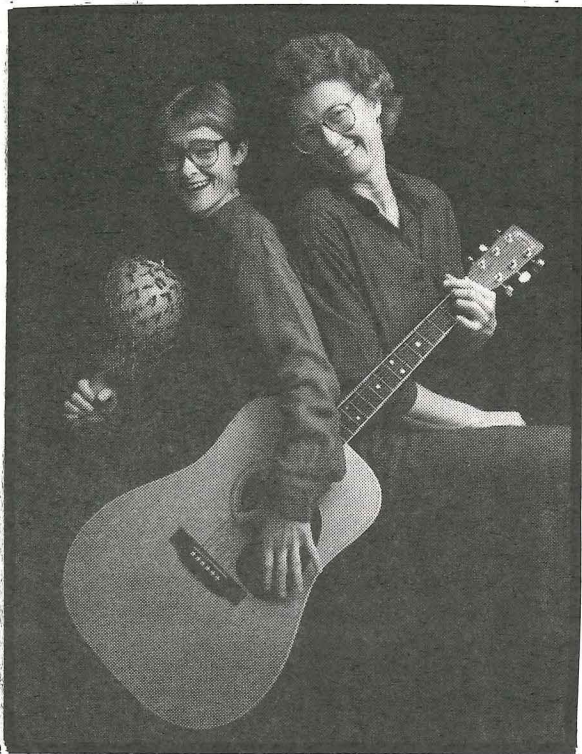


The HERLAND VOICE

May, 1993



The Neon Girls

SPRING RETREAT

Herland Sister Resources presents its 1993 Spring Retreat for women at Roman Nose State Park (near Watonga, OK), May 21-23, 1993. Registration begins at 4 PM on Friday, May 21, with the formal opening ceremony at 9 PM. Activities will wind up Sunday morning with check-out time at noon.

The featured entertainers are the Neon Girls (aka Christy and Joan). They have been performing together since 1985, have opened shows for Diedre McCalla, Ferron, Alix Dobkin and Judy Small, and delivered a powerful closing set at the 3rd Annual Gulf Coast Women's Festival.

Don't forget to bring your musical instrument and songs, your poetry or other entertainment so you can be a part of the open mike on Saturday afternoon. There will also be campfire sings on Friday night and Saturday evening after the concert.

The registration fee for the retreat is on a sliding scale from \$15-\$60; on-site registration is \$60. Limited scholarships are available and must be requested in advance. Registration includes lodging in group camp, Friday evening meal, Saturday and Sunday brunch, concert and workshops. Bring your favorite covered dish for the Saturday night potluck. If you bring pets, they must be on a leash. Camping is available in the group camp.

For more information, leave a message for Laura at Herland (405) 521-9696. For retreat flyers, contact Renee (405) 366-1138. □

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

A million or so people marched in Washington D.C. on April 25, in the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Liberation --the largest Civil Rights demonstration ever.

Barney Frank, Massachusetts Congressman, speaking at the March rally said, "This march will have a significant impact in getting people to organize themselves, to be activated to act politically. A lot of members of Congress are going to hear from them instead of being guided by abstract opinion polls." President Clinton, who declined an invitation to address the marchers, sent a letter to the gathering: "I stand with you in the struggle for equality for all Americans, including gay men and lesbians. In this great country, founded on the principle that all people are created equal, we must learn to put aside what divides us and focus on what we share."

A massively political event, there were dozens of workshops, town meetings, and networking/planning meetings throughout the week, where serious work was done by dedicated activists; Herland's and Simply Equal's Pat Reaves participated in a panel at the NGLTF's Town Meeting on Saturday, discussing Simply Equal's activity in Oklahoma in response to the religious/radical right. The March nonetheless felt like one large week-long party to most of the participants.

The Dyke March on Saturday evening was a lusty rowdy celebration of women. Twenty thousand women marched from DuPont Circle to the White House, filling the streets with drumming, cheering, and passionate sisterhood for forty blocks.

A feeling of camaraderie prevailed throughout the Capitol, with gays and lesbians on every corner. The Metro, D.C.'s subway, was a "family" party.

Also on Saturday, in a demonstration organized by ACT-UP, demonstrators holding a red ribbon linked arms and encircled the Capitol to demand a more committed fight against AIDS by our lawmakers. To show their displeasure with Congress, demonstrators stood with their back to the Capitol.

In another March-related demonstration, about 1500 people participated in a marriage/commitment ceremony, which was addressed by Karen Thompson as Sharon Kowalski sat beside her.

At the celebration at the end of the march, a gigantic rainbow flag was passed from one end of the gathered crowd to the other, and back again; a beautiful and defining moment for many. There was a candlelight vigil at the Holocaust Museum; a special showing of The Quilt; a reception for opponents of the ban on gays and lesbians in the military, at which a young highly decorated soldier came out in full dress uniform. There were dances and concerts and comedians everywhere.

It was a sorrowful, joyful, political, celebratory experience of incredible intensity, and it will change millions of lives and the world. As Torie Osborn, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force said, "We are the new American refugees, coming home from exile." □

ST. SYBIL

Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, answers the occasional odd question in this space.

Dear St. Sybil,

I've been hearing rumors flying around about one of the lesbian couples Herland has been raising money for; like, they lost their kids because they were manhating feminists, not because they were lesbians. What do you know about this?

Signed,
Concerned

Dear Concerned,

That's really interesting. Do you think a manhating feminist straight woman would lose her kids? Not on your life, honey, not for that reason; she wouldn't even be in court.

Well then, do you think if those lesbian women really loved men, only just not sexually, - that if they thought men were the greatest thing since electric lights, they would still have their kids? Honey, honey, get a life, get a grip; the trial was about lesbian mothers, - the word "lesbian" was used over 500 times in the course of the proceedings; and it was the basis of the judge's decision.

Maybe it's time you learned the ten top reasons why a dad doesn't get custody of his kids if their mother's a lesbian:

10. He's gay too.
9. He's deceased.
8. He's a convicted felon serving time
7. He's serving time for child abuse
6. Doesn't want them
5. Doesn't want them
4. Doesn't want them
3. Doesn't want them
2. Doesn't want them
1. Smart unmarried mother didn't put his name on birth certificate.

This situation can change, but not if you keep your head buried in the sand or in other dark places. There will be an appellate ruling one day that homosexuality is not grounds for removal of one's children, and gay parents will be freer and breathe more easily; but it will not come without work and sacrifice. And I have a feeling you knew this without me saying it. Oh well.

Take care,
Sybil

□

IN MEMORY:

CESAR CHAVEZ, 1927 - 1993.

Chavez organized the farm workers of California. Through his vision, his union, strikes, periodic fasts to dramatize "the pain and suffering of the farm workers," and a grape boycott, he secured a contract with the vinyards in 1970.

Among the major achievements of the United Farm Workers was the replacement of back-breaking short hoes with long ones.

A "secular saint in the tradition of Gandhi," Chavez was a model and an inspiration to all who wish to leave the world better than they found it.

Please remember, his boycott of California grapes continues today.

□

TALKING ABOUT A REVOLUTION

by Pat Reaves

April, 1993 will be remembered as a momentous time in the struggle for protection of the civil rights of lesbians, gays and bisexuals. The March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation drew over a million people to Washington, D.C. to join in the demand for civil and human rights. Smaller scale but equally significant events occurred in Oklahoma. On April 25, in an unprecedented event, over three hundred Oklahomans -- gay, lesbian and friends -- rallied on the steps of the State Capitol in support of the March on Washington and called for recognition of the human rights of all people. In Norman, earlier in April, lesbians, gays and their friends demonstrated against a local bar owner's posting of a sign, "No Dykes."

I had the opportunity to participate in two of these events, the March on Washington and the Norman demonstrations. Although the March on Washington will be recorded in history as a watershed event for gay/lesbian/bi civil rights, for me, the demonstrations in Norman were equally significant and empowering.

We went to the Lower Deck in Norman because we could no longer be silent in the face of homophobic hate. We went to become visible -- to make sure the owner would have to confront real, live lesbians. We went to make sure that others -- the bar patrons and the people of Norman and Oklahoma -- would know that lesbians and gays are routinely subjected to discrimination and denial of their human and civil rights. We went to say we will not take this denial of our rights silently.

We went at great risk. Initially, we were anxious about arrest. We knew we were confronting people who feared and hated us. We feared the violence threatened against us by the bar owner and encouraged by a disc jockey for an OKC radio station. Some of us feared the consequences of becoming publicly identified as lesbian or gay.

We went to Washington for visibility on a grand scale. For one brief weekend lesbians, gays, and bisexuals were the norm. We were everywhere: on the streets, in the subway, in restaurants and hotels. We demanded a federal civil rights bill protecting our rights as equal persons under the law. We celebrated our community in all its diversity without fear.

Becoming visible is an act of revolution from which there is no turning back. In April, 1993 we have said loudly and plainly that gays and lesbians are here and we demand our full human rights. The homophobic backlash and the counterdemonstrators with their shouts of hatred and threats will not stop us.

A banner reading "A Simple Matter of Justice" hung from the March on the Washington stage. In Washington and in Norman we announced we will settle for nothing less.

Acting on the belief that we have the right to be has changed us -- as individuals, communities, and society. With courage, we have claimed our power.

□

2109 S. Air Depot
Midwest City, OK 73110

(405)737-0496

Air Depot Animal Hospital

Call for Appointment

JOY HUSKA, D.V.M

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LESBIANS BY THE LOWER DECK

by Helen Miller

Editors Note: The Lower Deck, a bar near the OU campus in Norman, was the site of demonstrations prompted by the owner's posting of a "No Dykes" sign and refusal to serve women she believed to be lesbians. The account below by one of the women involved in the original incident chronicles the events and the resulting demonstrations.

April 1, 1993

A group of seven women went to the Lower Deck to socialize and play pool. After purchasing beer, we noticed a prominently displayed sign behind the bar listing the week's specials. The Thursday listing said, "Thursday: Ladies' night free longnecks 10- 5 No Dykes." Upon seeing the sign, two separate women asked that it be removed because we found it offensive. Both the bartender and the owner, Nicole "Cola" Rankin refused to remove the sign.

April 6, 1993

Kerman Raines, co-chair of Simply Equal of Norman went to visit with Rankin to resolve the issue. Cola Rankin did apologize for the sign; however she stated her intent was still clear. She still did not want lesbians in her establishment. She cited as reasons (a) ladies' night is designed to draw men who will buy drinks and men won't want to drink with lesbians present because "we won't get no sap out of them trees; (b) lesbians aren't well groomed and don't dress well and would bring down the quality of the atmosphere of her bar.

When approached about her use of the term "dyke" (the word she uses for lesbians), Ms. Rankin stated, "If they are going to live that lifestyle, they have to be ready to be called such names."

April 8, 1993

A group of twenty-eight people (predominately women) went to the Lower Deck to drink beer for ladies night. The sign behind the bar had been changed to read "Thursday: manger's [sic] choice." When asked, the bartender informed us that there was no drink special that night and that we would have to purchase drinks to stay. After purchasing our drinks, several women two-stepped and another woman proposed a toast to the passage of the Spousal Rape Bill.

At this point Rankin turned up the lights, unplugged the juke box, and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, the bar is now closed. You must leave." We asked why no one else was being asked to leave, but she only responded by repeating that the bar was closed.

Next, Rankin herded the other customers into a small gameroom in the bar and left to call the police. On her way back inside, she said, "If I had a rope behind the bar, I'd hang 'em all high." The bartender was also heard saying that if he had a shotgun, he'd shoot one of the gays, and if it were double-barreled, he could shoot two.

After consulting with the police officers, Rankin returned and announced that this was now a private party and the group (which by now included all who spoke to us) must leave immediately. The officer in charge, Sgt. McKenzie, informed the group that the owner or manager of an establishment has the right to refuse service to anyone. Then, the seven police officers escorted the group out, where we went to the public sidewalk and chanted in protest before dispersing peacefully.

April 14, 1993.

Simply Equal of Norman sponsored a rally near the Lower Deck on April 14, 1993, to protest these discriminatory actions. More than forty people showed up to picket the business. Six women, some of whom had never been to the business, attempted to enter the bar, but were refused admittance.

This time Rankin stated she was exercising the right to refuse service to anyone. When asked why we were being refused, she responded that we had disrupted her business the previous week and accused us of misconduct, saying we were "groping and fondling" one another. We pointed out that there had been absolutely no groping or fondling by any of us and that two of us had never been there before. Rankin said she would still refuse service to all of us and insisted that we leave. We left and joined the legal picket outside.

April 15, 1993

Simply Equal of Norman again sponsored a legal picket outside the Lower Deck to bring these discriminatory actions to the attention of the citizens of Norman. Approximately forty people took part in this demonstration.

Rankin had been quoted in local media threatening violence against any picketers and an OKC disc jockey had encouraged violence against demonstrators on his radio show. Norman police were present in force to protect the demonstrators from violence by counterdemonstrators who heckled the protestors from passing cars and the parking lot of the bar.

We are filing complaints with the Norman Human Rights Commission. We are hopeful that a liberal reading of Norman's Civil Rights Ordinance will address this discrimination. □

DYKE-IN AT THE LOWER DECK

WHEREAS: "Ladies Night," with its offer of free beer and no cover charge for unescorted females is not an altruistic gesture to the underpaid working woman, but a cynical device designed to draw in and inebriate young, heterosexual females and use them to lure (higher paid) males to spend their money; and large contingents of elderly women, homeless mothers or nuns accepting the invitation of No Cover and Free Beer would be as unwelcome to the bar management as are lesbians;

AND: "Ladies" is a euphemism for "Women," a word too earthy and powerful for many people to accept comfortably; "Women" signifies all adult females; "Dykes," as used by homophobic people, is a derogatory term for "Lesbians," a word too earthy and powerful for many people to accept comfortably; "Lesbians" are intrinsically, invariably women;

AND: A notice indicating that "ladies" but not "dykes" will receive certain benefits is purposely rude, insulting, exclusionary, discriminatory and provocative;

THEREFORE: We invite all people of good will, of whatever sex or sexuality, to join with us in protesting this human rights affront to the dignity of women who are your mothers, daughters, sisters, wives. We urge all women to join us in our "Dyke In," and all men to deny the bar their patronage and their coin, until the management's policy is reversed and an apology to all women is rendered. We also urge the City of Norman to pass a Public Accommodation Act and a Human Rights Act to outlaw discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or handicap.

This action is co-sponsored by KBS, an association of liberation activists based in Oklahoma; KBS is named for Underground Railroad heroine Kathryn Bradley Sparrow, who risked her hard-won freedom from servitude to help her sisters and brothers in the struggle.

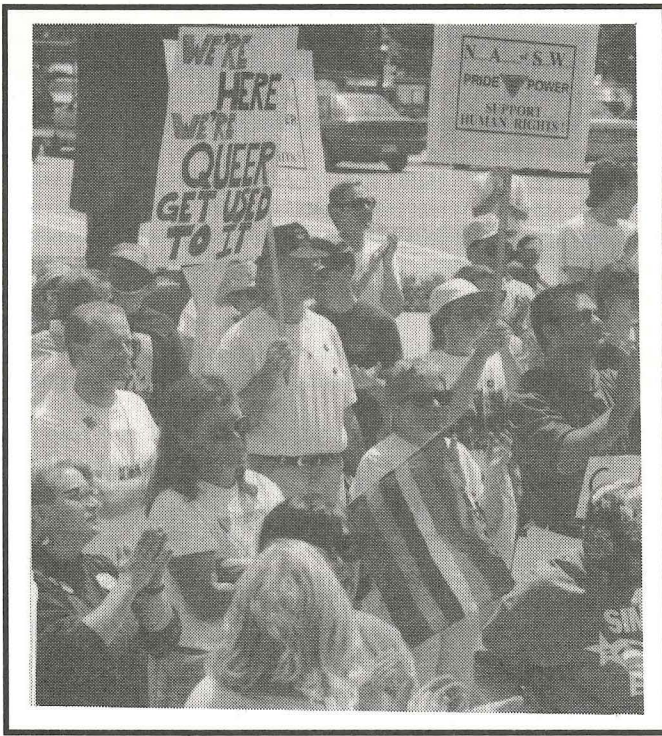


Photo by Pat Colognesi

RALLY OKLAHOMA

"I don't believe it takes 'courage' for a politician to be here this afternoon. I think it is the right thing to do. What we are about today is human dignity. We have to stand together and ensure human rights."

The speaker was State Representative Angela Monson, one of several politicians who, despite her disclaimer, did show unusual courage in appearing and speaking in support of Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights at Rally Oklahoma, a companion demonstration to the million strong March in Washington, held at the Oklahoma State Capitol on April 25.

"The NAACP understands and appreciates the struggle that you're in...It's simple. All people must be free," said Roosevelt Milton, head of the local chapter of the NAACP. "You keep fighting and we will find liberation and justice for gay people in America."

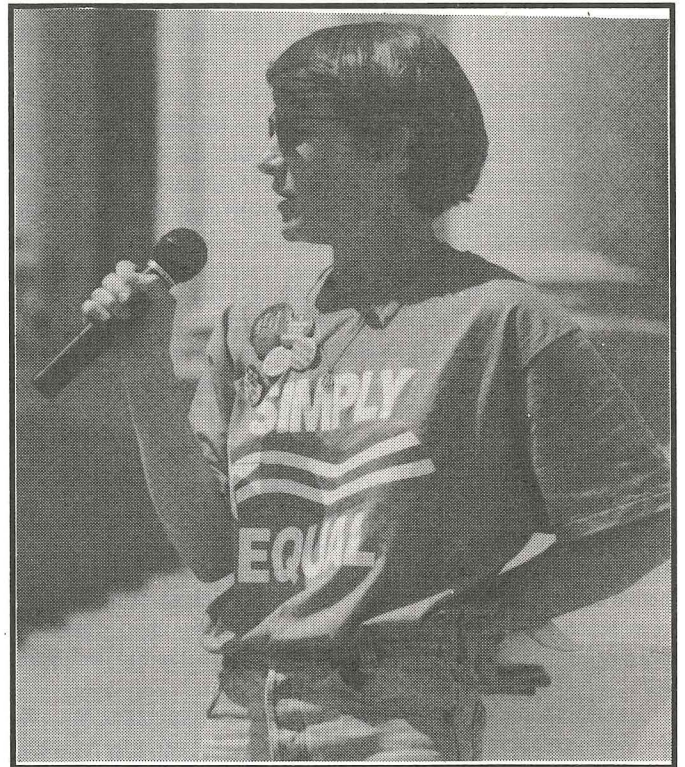
Messages of support from Rabbi David Packman of Temple B'Nai Israel, from Frosty Troy, Editor of the Oklahoma Observer, Secretary of State John Kennedy and Mike Turpen, Chair of the Oklahoma State Democratic Party, were read by participants Steve Lazarus of OUGLBA, Jack Wozniak of the Gayly, the Reverend Donna Compton of Unity Coalition, and Nathaniel Batchelder of the Peace House. In addition to Rep. Monson and Mr. Milton, speakers included State Senator Bernest Cain, who said "We need to change all forms of discrimination in Oklahoma, and I will continue to work with you."

Other speakers included Representative Laura Boyd, Rev. Robin Myers of Mayflower Congregationalist Church, Herland Board member Peggy Johnson, and Susan Dunlop of Jobs with Justice. Also speaking were Karen Ray of NOW, Rex Friend of the National Lawyers Guild, Pat Snead of P-FLAG, Rev. Carol Fincher

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stillwater, Paul Thompson of OGLPC, Laura Rhodes of the National Association of Social Workers, and Rev. John Nichols of the Lighthouse Metropolitan Community Church.

Rev. Nichols said, "Our rights are not something pulled out of thin air...Our rights are written into codes that existed long before the U.S. Constitution. What we seek is nothing less than what we deserve as humans. Our rights are ours because we live, because we are human beings."

The afternoon was enlivened and inspired with music by Deb Roberts, Mary Reynolds and Peggy Johnson. At the end of the afternoon, the group joined hands, encircled the South Steps Plaza, and sang together Holly Near's "We Are Gentle Angry People" - a song which became the unofficial anthem of the March in Washington. At the identical moment in time that it was being sung in Oklahoma City, it was being sung by myriad groups across the country, in Washington D.C. and at similar companion events in other states. **We are gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives. Gay and straight, women and men, all colors, all ages, singing, singing for our lives.**



Peggy Johnson

Photo by Pat Colognesi

The rally, held in Oklahoma City on the South Steps of the Capitol, was sponsored in part by the OGLPC, Simply Equal, Herland Sister Resources, the Oklahoma Women's Network, P-FLAG, OU Young Democrats, the NAACP, the ACLU, the Peace House, and the Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church. Other co-sponsors were Jobs with Justice, Gayly Oklahoman, STAT/Act Up, Oklahoma Toxics Campaign, the National Organization for Women, the Gay Christian Ecumenical Council, Christ the King Metro Community Church, Other Options, NASW, the Coalition of Latin American Human & Civil Rights Advocates, and The Parachute. □

MEMORIES OF THE MARCH

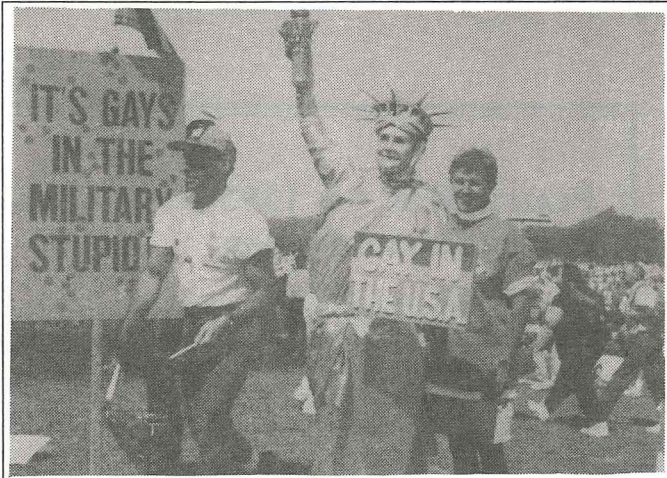
The caravan to and from Washington was 50+ hours of fun and physical torment. We had two vans, which were connected by CB radios. We sang, told riddles and jokes, swapped Deep Thoughts and Deep Queries, and had a great time not only on the vans but between them.

After we were serenaded with "Oklahoma" by the San Francisco men's chorus, we sang it ourselves, at the top of our lungs, thirty or forty times during the march. Sometimes the initial "OOOOOOOOOO" would last nearly half a block before we fell off into "...klahoma, where the wind comes sweeping down the plains" - spirits were very high.

We also had a great chant that delighted the crowd; ask any of us what it was, we'd be glad to share it with you; but we're not putting it in print...

On the way back to Oklahoma we passed a Cracker Barrel Restaurant - the restaurant chain which has a policy of refusing to hire gays and lesbians. We decided that a peaceful protest would be a pleasant activity, and held a Pee-in - we all used the rest rooms, but no one spent a penny for gas, food or souvenirs. The front porch of the restaurant was lined with rocking chairs for sale, so after the Pee-in we also held a Rock-in, (see photo), rocking happily while we greeted a tour bus...We were actually so nice and peaceful that they never knew they had been the target of a demonstration; but still we enjoyed ourselves.

SNAPSHOT MEMORIES FROM THE OK CONTINGENT:



Dale: The sense of community, "family" if you will, permeated the city and each of our hearts. Unity, with no divisions between women and men, or any other groups, was our overriding theme. Standing there at the march in this huge group of family and experiencing these emotions moved me deeply and convinced me that we will prevail. We are all changed in immeasurable ways and in our hearts, we were all there!

Michelle: Of the tens of thousands of women, cheers in the subway and variety of things to do in Washington, viewing the AIDS quilt will remain in my mind as the most incredible and touching moment of my trip. It was awesome to see the time, love, and patience poured into remembering our beloved brothers and sisters.

Terry: We were on the Metro, about 90% of us gay and lesbian, and we spontaneously began to sing "We Are Gentle Angry People"; the subway car was filled with it. A small boy near me looked up and

asked his mother, "Why are they singing?" This woman, who appeared to be straight, smiled at her son and answered, "They're singing for their freedom."

Helen: My most memorable moments include seeing the hundreds of thousands of Gay - Lesbian - Bi people assembling in the Mall, seeing Phil Donahue and Marlo Thomas walking through the Mall to the rally stage (I took Tina's picture between them), hearing the San Francisco men sing "Oklahoma" to the Oklahoma contingent, and seeing the numerous gay families with children everywhere. I can hardly wait to tell my own children and grandchildren all about it.

Laura: Two memories: 1) In the subway a cheer began and the whole station was packed with people who were gay, cheering, echoing, - we owned the subway. 2) As the rainbow flag was sent back with everyone touching and passing, a lone man in a wheelchair rolled himself in its path, crying; he struggled and lifted his frail body up just enough to reach up and let it brush his finger tips, then dropped back in the chair looking totally content.

Kevan: The 26-hour ride there; talking back and forth between vans on the CB; DuPont Circle, the stores, the sights, the thousands of queers; the leather people all decked out standing on the steps of the Mellon Auditorium; the Dyke March; getting my t-shirt signed by women from everywhere; the wild time at The Phase Saturday night; the March - like a Gay Woodstock - turning the corner at the end and seeing a sea of people with the Capitol in the background; the endless ride back, and most of all the eleven other Okie (& Texas) dykes who went. I missed them the day after we got back.

Margaret: It was a wonderful five-day long weekend, filled with fun, hilarity and joy; with old friends, new friends, and family. I could pick almost any moment of the entire weekend and laugh out loud with pleasure. One moment that stirred my soul as much as any I can ever remember, was standing arm and arm with Dale as he and I and Holly Near and a million or so other folks sang "We Are Gentle, Angry People".

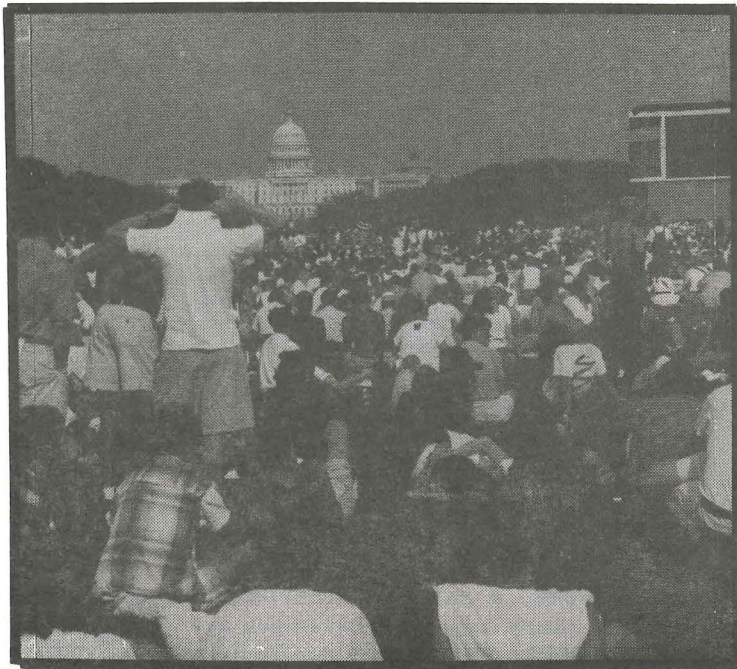
Marquetta: "Oh when the Dykes go marching in, I want to be in that number" - Hooray! I was in that number of powerful wimmin. The last count I heard was 20,000 in the Dyke March. We had fun as we walked from DuPont Circle to the Capitol. It feels empowering to be a part of female energy.

Tina: I was part of the largest civil rights march in the history of the U.S. This incredible experience renewed my hope that within my lifetime, we may actually win the rights and opportunities we deserve (at least legally, if not socially). One of the more memorable parts of this grand experience was our taking over of the city, particularly the Metro (subway system). For once, we were blatantly visible, we were the majority, we were even the norm. Several times on the Metro, we occupied entire trains, except for a few wide-eyed straight people who clung to one another in awe. How empowering and unifying it all was!

Cindy: My favorite chants were: the S-M Leather Fetish contingent, "Where's Bill? He's all tied up!" and at the end of the San Francisco contingent the men were chanting, "We're tired, we're bitchy. We want our rights now!" Then of course there's Melissa [Etheridge] with her hands on my body signing my back. She looks even better in the daylight than she looks in the dark.

Pat: After the wonderful - like nothing ever before - dyke march, we were taking the Metro back to the hotel. When we changed trains, the Metro Center was crowded with lesbians and gays. Walking down the side of the track, I waved my cap (lavender of course) over my head and yelled. In an instant the whole metro was filled with cheers from the crowd cheering ourselves. □

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN,



The Mall was filled with Marchers and the crowd spilled over into surrounding streets.



The Oklahoma contingent



The Dyke March from Dupont Circle to the Mall included 20,000 marchers and many thousand more supporters.

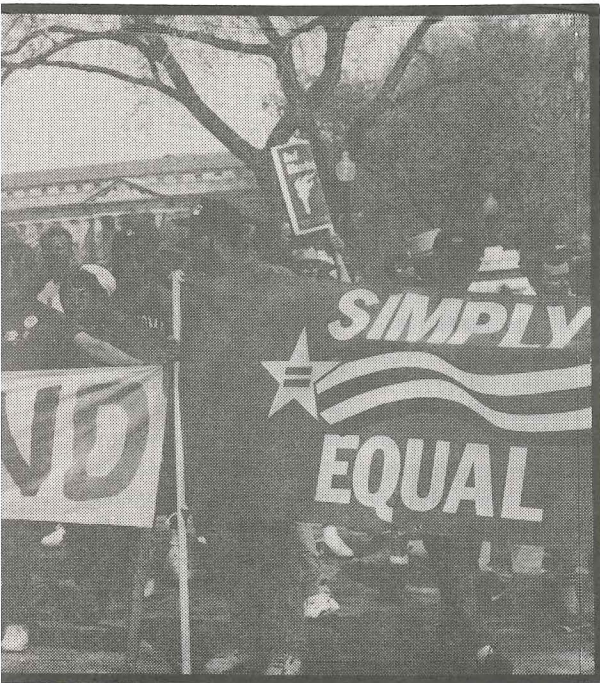
PLATFORM OF THE 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER RIGHTS AND LIBERATION

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender movement recognizes the struggles against racism and sexism, class bias, economic injustice, and we all are oppressed. The diversity of our movement requires and commits us to the quality of life for all people. We will be vigilant in our determination to end discrimination and exploitation, so that all of us can develop to our full human potential in our identity, gender and gender expression, ability, age or class.

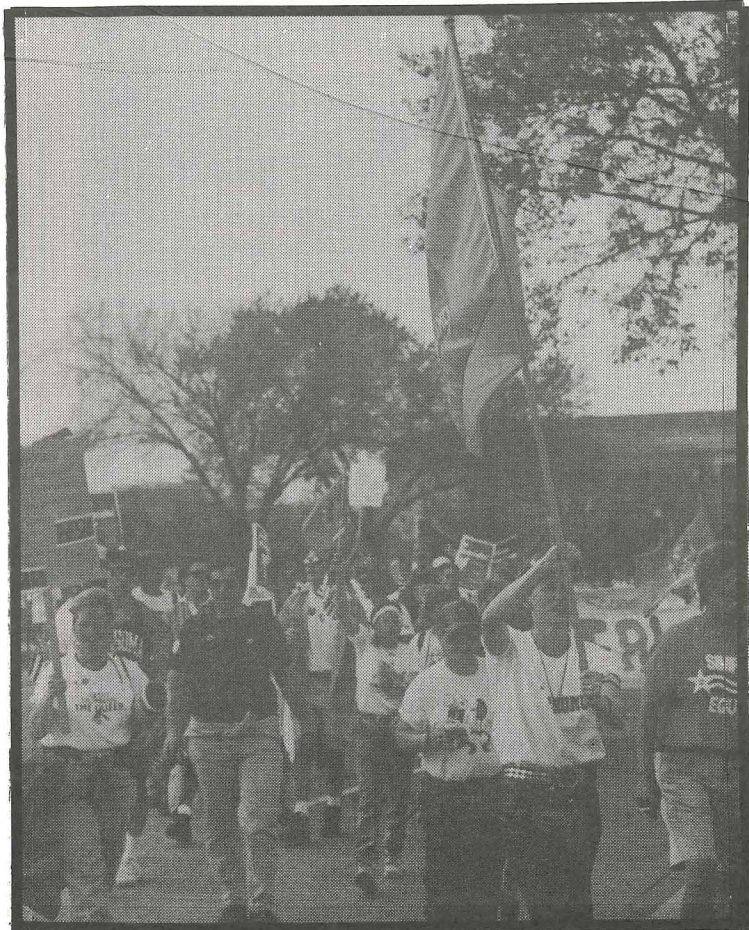
THE MARCH DEMANDS

1. We demand passage of a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Equality Act by all governments including the military; repeal of all sodomy laws and consenting adults.
2. We demand massive increase in funding for AIDS education, alternative therapies; and an end to sexism in medical research and
3. We demand legislation to prevent discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender family diversity, custody, adoption and foster care and that the definition of family include all forms of family diversity.
4. We demand full and equal inclusion of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders in all areas of society.
5. We demand the right to reproductive freedom and choice, to control our own bodies.
6. We demand an end to racial and ethnic discrimination in all areas of society.
7. We demand an end to discrimination and violent oppression based on religion, identity, sex and gender expression, disability, age, class,

GAY AND BI EQUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERATION



...ants to step off in the March.



Cindy Bookout carrying the Oklahoma flag led the Oklahoma marchers on to the Mall.

STON FOR LESBIAN, GAY, AND BI EQUAL

...es that our quest for social justice fundamentally links us to the
 ...d religious intolerance. We must realize if one of us is oppressed
 ...s us to stand in opposition to all forms of oppression that diminish
 ...n to rid our movement and our society of all forms of oppression
 ...without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation, identification,

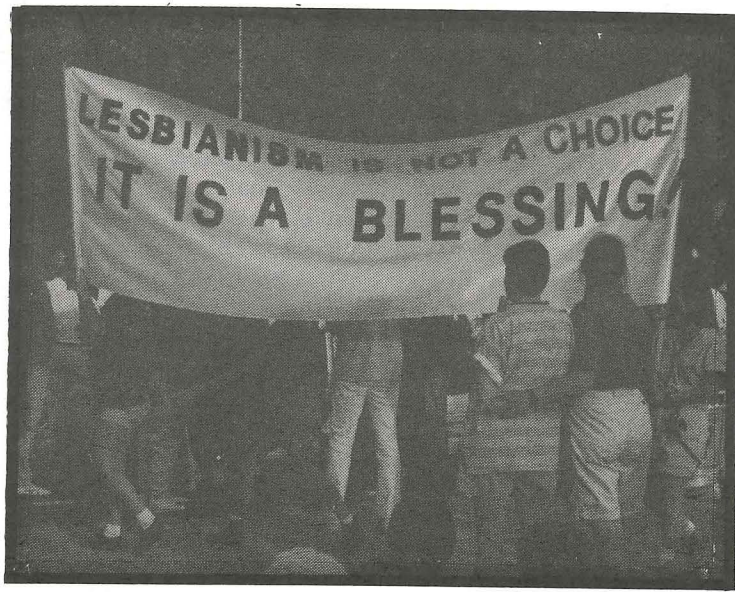
...er civil rights bill and an end to discrimination by state and federal
 ...other laws that criminalize private sexual expression between

...search, and patient care; universal access to health care including
 ...alth care.

...ans, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered people in the areas of
 ...ion of family includes the full diversity of all family structures.
 ...uals and Transgendered people in the educational system, and
 ...cultural curricula.

...ontrol our own bodies, and an end to sexist discrimination.

...rms.
 ...ed on actual or perceived sexual orientation, identification, race,
 ...DS/HIV infection.





A popular banner.

M A Y 1993

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

As Suzanne Pharr says, "The religious right is unified by its racism, sexism, and homophobia, and we on the left are divided by ours." Doc Herland thinks that Simply Equal is an organization that might be able to turn this around and unify the progressive movement in Oklahoma. Go to meetings, check it out, do your part...

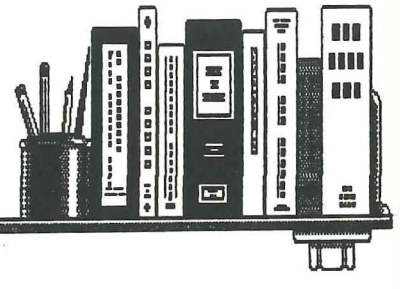
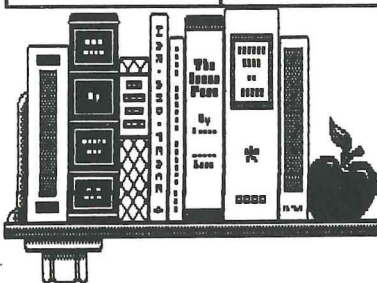
1
GAY MAY DAY
and
the Gala
May Day Ball

2 MISS BROWN TO YOU ALBUM PARTY at Flips, 2 - 6 p.m.	3	4 SIMPLY EQUAL OKC Chapter Meeting 7 pm at Testing The Limits, Goals & Elections	5	6	7 ELYSE ANGELO Percussion Recital & Farewell Party for Mary Hotel Bohemia # CoDA 7 pm	8 PEGGY JOHNSON at La Baguette in Norman 8:30 - 11:30
9	10 Legal Defense Fund, 6:30 pm New Members Welcome!!! # MISS BROWN TO YOU at VZDs, 8:45	11 Simply Equal of OKC 7 pm at Herland Everyone is Welcome	12	13	14 Mary Reynolds at La Baguette in Norman, 9 pm # CoDA, 7 pm	15
16 Herland Board Meeting 3:30 p.m.	17	18 Simply Equal of OKC 7 pm at Herland - Everyone is Welcome	19	20	21 HERLAND RETREAT at Roman Nose	22 RETREAT at ROMAN NOSE Tonight in Concert at the Retreat: THE NEON GIRLS
23 Herland Retreat # Jam Session at St. Pauls Hosted by MBTY	24	25 Simply Equal of OKC 7 pm at Herland Everyone is Welcome	26  Sally Ride Astronaut Born 1951	27  Isadora Duncan 1878 - 1927 Pioneer of Modern Dance	28 CoDA, 7 pm	29

30
31

Other Birthdays in May:
John Brown, Abolitionist, Martyr, May 9, 1800 - 1859
Margaret Fuller, Feminist, Philosopher, May 23, 1810 - 1950
Mary Harris (Mother) Jones, May 1, 1830 - 1930
Harvey Milk, May 21, 1930 - 1978
Malcolm X, May 19, 1925 - 1965

HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES INC.
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MOW NOTEBOOK

by Vivien Ng

Day One, 4/23/93

I am sitting at Gate 10, Delta Terminal, DFW Airport. I look around me and find a sea of fellow marchers. Mostly Texans. One doesn't have to be Pam Nilsen (my favorite lesbian P.I.) to figure that out--the oversized button with a map of Texas on it is a sure giveaway.

I look again. More men than women. Where are the lesbians? Are they still at work? Does this confirm yet another statistic, that gay men earn more money than lesbians? Look, many of the men are carrying suitbags with them, while I am taking only a tiny backpack, the one that you carry books to school with. Guess who is not going to any of the \$500 per plate dinners. Most of the men sport the close-cropped, cleaner-than-clean look. I'm not close enough to sniff their after shave, but I bet they use Old Spice! Ah ha! Finally, two women are approaching the gate area. Are they or aren't they? What a wonderful way to kill time!

I am now enroute to DC. Have just had a nice chat with the gay activist sitting next to me. Yes, I have broken my never-talk-to-strangers-on-the-airplane rule. In fact, we got along so well that he gave me his business card, just in case I made it to Dallas in the future. Don't worry, I only accept cards from gay men (and lesbians, of course).

3 P.M. I am now walking toward Lambda Rising Bookstore. My goodness, the line forming outside the store is almost a block long! And the sidewalks are jammed with people. A mountain of Washington Blade awaits the eager reader. I pick up a copy and find to my delight that this issue runs more than 200 pages.

5 P.M. I am heading to my friend's house in Silver Spring. Back in '87, another friend and I reserved a room in a downtown hotel only to find upon arrival that the hotel had overbooked and could not give us a room. Luckily, the front desk clerk remembered me from our conservation in July and offered to find a room for us in another hotel. After two hours of anxious nailbiting, we finally found ourselves in a luxurious suite at the Omni Georgetown Hotel. Although our experience had a happy ending, I am not in the mood this time to risk being homeless. Thus, I am staying with a local friend. She promises me dinner at an Indian restaurant. Yum, yum.

Day Two, 4/24/93.

10 A.M. I am munching a bagel at the Friends Meeting House on Florida Avenue. I am here to meet other Asian lesbians. The first time we ever got together as a group was in 1987. There were only 20 of us then, I wonder how many will show up today?

10:30 A.M.. We are operating on lesbian time--late!

11:00 A.M. There are over 60 of us in this room! I glance across at Kitty Tsui, bodybuilder and poet. I catch her looking at me, or am I just imagining it?

1:30 P.M. After what seems like an eternity of consensus decision-making, we are close to agreeing on a date for our second retreat. Our original plan was to have it in 1994, in New York, but we soon realized that what with Stonewall 25 and Gay Games '94, we simply could not handle another event. Labor Day weekend, 1995? Somewhere on the east coast?

2:30 P.M. I am standing right outside the entrance to the Dupont Circle metro stop, watching scores of lesbians and gay men riding up the escalator to the street. Every now and then I hear laughter and cheers ripple up from deep underground. Everybody looks so happy! I look at my friend, whom I have not seen for three years, and we smile at each other. Happy Days.

4:00 P.M. Look who's there! Pat Reaves & Co. They have just been to the Mall to look at the AIDS quilt.

6:00 P.M. I am now heading back "home" to Silver Spring, being too tired to stay for the Dyke March. (Turned out to be a major mistake on my part, because everybody said it was a great experience.) Quiet dinner at home awaits me.

Day Three, 4/25/93:

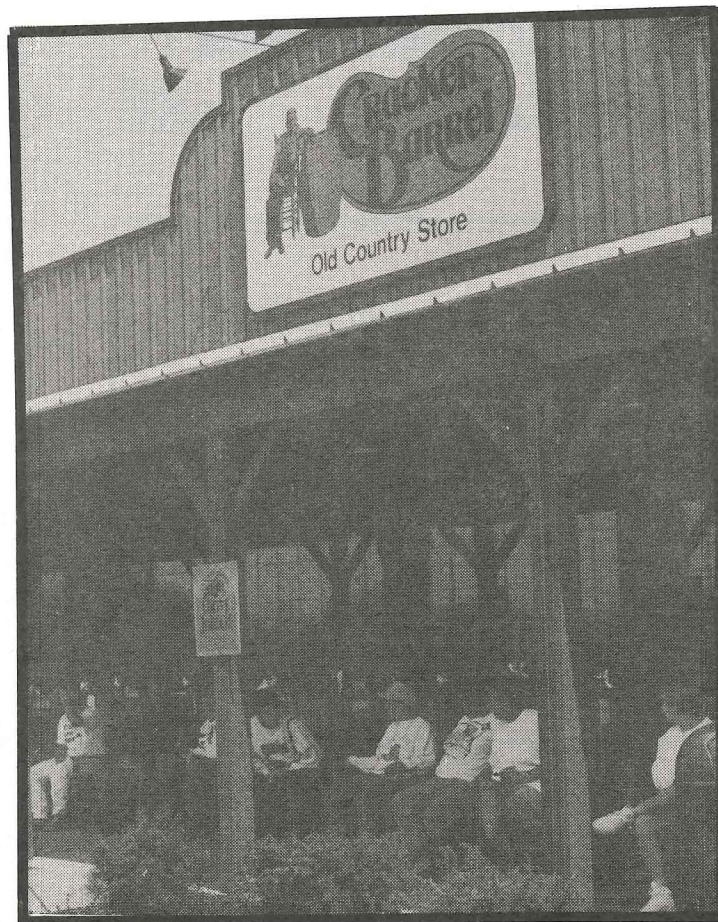
10:30 A.M. I am walking down 14th St. toward Constitution. My goodness, the base of Washington Monument is already packed with people! How am I going to find anybody?

I almost run into Jewelle Gomez. "Where are you heading, honey?" she asks. "I am looking for Oklahoma, #31 I believe." She points me to the right direction, but not before exchanging bear hugs.

I bump into Sherri and Carole, two friends from Nashville. All we are able to do is grin at each other.

11:00 A.M. I am with the Oklahoma contingent. Herland folks are here, so too Simply Equal, OU's GLBA, and OSU's. I know I am home. I am glad I decided to join my fellow Oklahomans and not the massive New York contingent or the Asian lesbians.

8 P.M. I am heading home, to Norman. The day has been a blur for me. One thing I know for sure: The 1993 March On Washington is a massive festival, not a protest. In fact, we were so busy laughing and smiling that we forgot to shout the obligatory chants. My favorite: "10% is not enough! Recruit, recruit, recruit!" □



Returning Marchers stop for a brief Rock-In action at a Cracker Barrel Restaurant somewhere in Indiana.

THE 1993 GAY, LESBIAN, AND BI CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

The 1993 Gay, Lesbian, Bi Civil Rights Bill, HR 431 introduced by Henry Waxman, Don Edwards, Pat Schroeder, Gerry Studds, Barney Frank and Jerold Nadler now has 51 current co-sponsors. No Oklahoma congressman has signed on as a co-sponsor.

A BILL

To Prohibit discrimination on account of sexual orientation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1 SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "Civil Rights Act of 1993."

SECTION 2, PROHIBITION

It shall be unlawful to discriminate against any person--

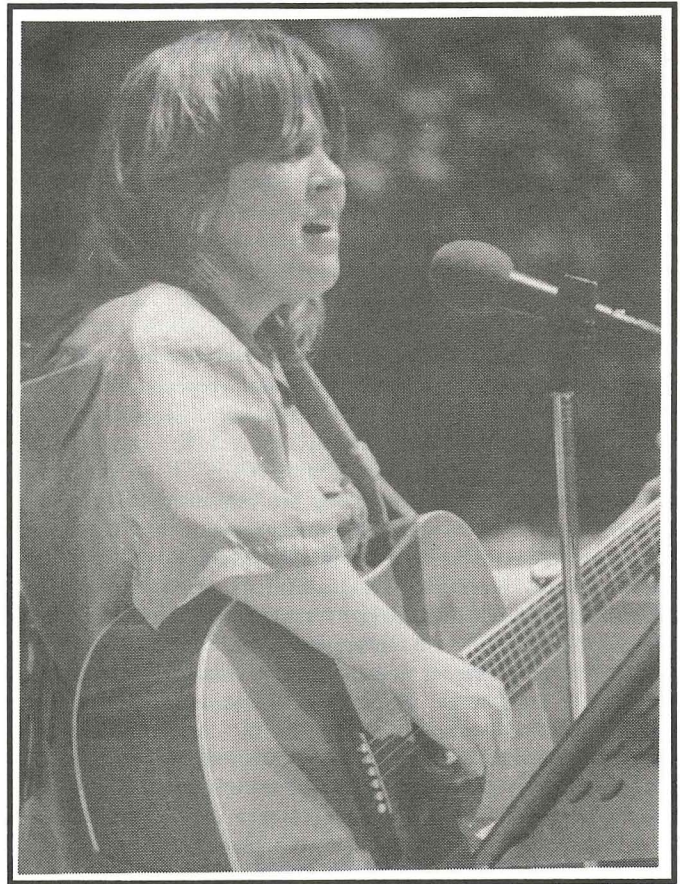
- (1) in employment, education, credit, or housing;
- (2) in the sale or use of goods or services;
- (3) with respect to any public facility; or
- (4) in any federally assisted program or activity; on account of that person's sexual orientation, actual or perceived.

GLAAD NOTES:

For the fashion trendy, *Mademoiselle* magazine has peeked into the closet ... looking not for tired old clothes but for young women who are leaving it!

"Women in Love," an article in the March issue, is all about "baby dykes," "Lesbian Yuppies," "Womyn, Womon & Wimmin!" A five page feature takes the reader into the world of young lesbians coming out -- some joining the world of politics, some sitting home in front of the tube, and others doing the women's club scene. This story successfully challenges many of the myths that both gay and straight people have about lesbianism.

MADemoISELLE is an important source of information for young people, so let's give three cheers to: Julie Lewit-Nirenberg, Publisher, *Mademoiselle*, 350 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017.



Mary Reynolds at Rally Oklahoma

Mary Reynolds, one of Oklahoma's finest musicians and certainly one of our favorites, is moving to Austin, Texas to further her education and musical career. She'll be greatly missed but we send her off with all our love and best thoughts. We know Mary is never far from home in her heart and we expect to see her often in OKC.

MARY, WE'LL REMEMBER --

--your talent, your music, those moments when the song, the singer, and our souls touched and ignited.

We'll remember your smile, hugs, encouragement, your willingness to help and to share yourself.

We'll remember blueberry pancakes at Retreats, and campfires that were warmer and brighter for your presence. We'll remember your Herland Board work, the programs you planned and those you continued at Hotel Bohemia.

We'll remember that you were a bridge we crossed into a greater community, a broader contact with women's music, and a deeper feeling for other beats, other rhythms, other eras of song.

We'll remember, because the pleasures, the hours, the pride you gave us have formed bonds of friendship too strong to be severed by the rough edges of parting.

We owe you, Mary; but we know that some debts can never be paid. We know, too, that you were not lending but giving.

Take with you, then, our gratitude for your gifts, our love for you, and our best wishes for your future.

You, dear Mary, were Herland's first song:

"...the melody lingers on."

--JR

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The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. 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 or anonymously.

Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request.

The Voice is printed on recycled paper.

HONORING MOTHERS

May, the month when we traditionally observe Mother's Day to honor our mothers seems a particularly appropriate time to reflect on the situation facing lesbian mothers. Without adequate legal protection for the custody rights of lesbian and gay, they face the constant threat of losing their children to an ex-spouse or even in some cases to the state.

Approximately one year ago, papers were filed with the District Court of Cleveland County in Oklahoma seeking the removal of two young children from the custody of their mother. The Motion to Modify the original divorce decree was motivated by the fact that the mother was a lesbian, and shared her home with her lesbian lover. However, the father was aware of the mother's sexual orientation long before his request to modify custody and the mother had full custody of her children since the 1988 divorce.

On April 22-23, 1992, a hearing was held in the District Court of Cleveland County to determine the placement of the children. Despite evidence showing that the children were well cared for, happy and provided with a loving home, custody was immediately taken from the mother and placed with the father. In his ruling, the Judge determined that the mother was unfit because of her sexual orientation and the immoral environment created for her children by living with her partner. No evidence of harm or neglect of the children was shown. Instead the father's case focused on the mother's lesbian sexual orientation, the possibility of future harm to the children because of her sexual orientation, and the father's religious fervor.

This ruling was appealed to the State Supreme Court of Oklahoma and the Supreme Court Justices passed it down to the lower appellate court without comment. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is providing assistance with this case.

On March 11, 1993, in Oklahoma County, custody of two teenage children was removed from their mother because she is a lesbian. Using the mother's lesbianism as justification, the father sought to gain full custody rather than the joint custody which had been followed since the mother and father divorced in 1988. In spite of the children's desire to continue living with their mother, the judge in the case agreed with the father that the mother's "homosexual relationship" is immoral and harmful to the children and placed sole custody with their father. An appeal is pending.

Unfortunately, neither of these situations is unique. Lesbians and gay men in Oklahoma face constant fear that they will lose their children in similar custody battles. Each of these cases offers an opportunity to change this situation. A positive decision by the appellate court in either of these cases could set an important precedent in the State of Oklahoma for future child custody cases involving lesbians and gay men. The Herland Legal Defense Fund was established in 1992 to help provide the financial support necessary to win justice for our families. The expense of appealing one case to the State Supreme Court is estimated at \$20,000. Through the generous contributions of friends all across the country, over \$7,000 has been raised. More is needed to continue fighting for justice.

Please consider making a special Mother's Day contribution to the Herland Legal Defense Fund to honor these and the many other lesbian mothers and help us continue to fight for legal protection for these families. Please make your check payable to the Herland Sister Resources Legal Defense Fund and mail to: **Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.** Herland is a 501(c)3 organization and your contributions are tax deductible. For more information about the Herland Legal Defense Fund please write or call (405)521-9696. □

KNOWLEDGE IN RETREAT

Spring Retreat '93, will, as usual, be a time for learning as well as relaxing. However, we're trying something new this time: an "Open Workshop" arrangement that has been successful other places. Here's how it works.

If you have knowledge--a special interest or technique--that you are willing to share or a subject you'd like to be discussed, come to the Retreat prepared to lead a workshop. At the registration desk we'll have a big Workshop Board where you'll list workshop subject/title, your name, and length of time needed (please try to make it an hour or less).

During Friday evening, retreaters will check the Board and write their names by workshops they'd like to attend. (If you don't sign up you can still attend workshops; but the numbers signed up will help us set up the time and place schedule Friday night.)

How's that for simple rules?! Now for the exceptions...We've scheduled two workshops that required advance arrangements.

Giovanna Capone, who lives in San Francisco, most recently appeared in print in the anthology, *The Voices We Carry*, which contains a portion of her completed novel. She is coming to Roman Nose to discuss and introduce ways of incorporating ethnic identity and culture into our writing. Her workshop at the Retreat is not only for writers: the material will include discussion on reclaiming traditions from a lesbian point of view. "How you identify your culture is essential to how you preserve it," Capone says.

Leslie Buck repairs books for a living and is constantly devising cheap/easy/attractive ways to make books. Her workshop on Journal-making and Bookbinding will produce 8" X 5" books of 40-80 pages and include instruction sheets for making books and note-pads at home.

This is a great start to Retreat workshops. Be thinking about what you want to teach or attend.

CREATING CHANGE '93 HEADS SOUTH

The Creating Change Conference, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), will be held November 10-14, 1993 in Durham, N.C.

The 1993 Conference will include more than 40 skills-building workshops, held November 12-14. In addition to the individual workshops, there will be day-long concentrations in Fight the Right, Civil Rights/Privacy, Anti-Violence, Health, Age and Aging, Work and Family, International/Stonewall 25, and Sex and Sexuality.

Creating Change '93 will also feature a two-day Movement Building Institute. On November 10, activists may attend either the People of Color Organizing Institute or the Diversity Training Institute. On November 11, participants will attend the Race, Class, and Gender Institute.

Partial scholarships are available for limited income activists with disabilities and activists of color. To request a scholarship application, write Ivy Young at NGLTF, 1734 14th. St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009. □

Honor a woman you love with a gift to support lesbian mothers' rights. We'll send a Mothers' Day appreciation card to the woman of your choice. Gift subscriptions to *Mom's Apple Pie* newsletter for lesbian families: \$10/year.



LESBIAN MOTHERS' NATIONAL DEFENSE FUND
P.O. Box 21567, Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 325-2643 V/TTY

ONCE BURNED...A RAPE STORY

by JR

I remember...a time in my life when I finally "got it all together." I remember...a feeling of floating in ecstasy, of waking up excited, of going to sleep still bubbling. It was wonderful, and kind of frightening.

Over a five-year period my four male role-models--my great-grandfather, grandfather, father, and husband--had all died. I went into [hopefully, my worst] nosedive but, with my doctor's help, not only pulled out but began to soar. It was as if I no longer concentrated my energies on "measuring up" but began to be Me. Without all those person-patterns I'd been trying to fill, I started finding out who I was: I discovered that I was a pretty nice individual.

That's the history. The scene was Oklahoma City. I'd flown home from overseas to visit my mother and to meet her new husband.

I wasn't pleased with what I'd found. After a lifetime of seeing my mother as the chief authority figure (since Daddy was a sweet dreamer and absent-minded-professor), I felt uncomfortable with her new *persona*. My new step-father was pathologically jealous, insensitive, verbally abusive, etc., and my mother took it. She assured me that things would be better after they'd been married a little longer and Bob felt more secure.

On my last night, Mother and Bob took me out for a farewell dinner. They invited Bob's new boss, a mover-groover-bright-boy destined for Yuppiehood. "His wife and little girl are away visiting her folks, and I know Jay must be lonely," Mother said.

No problem. He was too cocky for me to enjoy his company, but he served his purpose--keeping Bob busy talking shop so Mother and I could visit. Bob had too much to drink, though, and Jay had to drive us home. On the way Bob started in on Mother about something and he was still raving after Jay helped him into the house. Mother was fussing over him and looked distressed when I started to defend her; so when Jay suggested we "drive around" until Mother got Bob to bed, I agreed.

After about five minutes' drive and small talk about how the City had changed, Jay parked at an apartment complex and came around to open my door. "Where are we?" I asked.

"This is where I live. I thought we could just have a cup of coffee and I'll telephone your mother to see if Bob's asleep and she's all right." I said I'd rather go back because I had to pack, but he was politely firm and seemed to be motivated by concern for my mother...so we went up to his apartment.

I didn't get the coffee; he didn't make the 'phone call. Instead, he grabbed me. I pushed him away. I felt no danger, only anger and impatience. I started for the door and he grabbed me again. In my whole post-puberty experience with men, I had never been in a situation I couldn't control; but panic set in when he ripped my blouse off as I ran for the door.

The feeling I remember strongest is one of powerlessness. I had never seriously fought before, and to use all my strength and all my lung power and find both totally useless was terrifying. He dragged me toward the bedroom; I struggled; he picked me up and I grabbed the door jamb then the door; I clawed; I kicked. By the time he pinned me on the bed I was no longer thinking coherently. I remember sobbing over and over, "Please don't--I'm happy!"

Perhaps some of that soaked in because he paused, looked down at me, and said, with what sounded like genuine concern, "Would you rather I'd come in your mouth?"

"No, no, no, no..." I managed to kick him again before he returned to the body-press.

I think that the only other thing I said was, afterwards, "What will your wife say?"

"Oh, she knows," he said. "She knows I can't help it."

Mother and Bob were asleep. I locked myself in the bathroom and sat in the corner on the floor, shivering and crying and picking the splinters from under my nails. I thought of calling the police; I thought of calling my brother...I thought of a lot of things and I'll try to tell you the main reasons I didn't report this rape (some of my reasoning may not have been logical, but it was what I felt at the time): 1. It would make my mother's life more difficult because Bob would lose either his job or a boss he liked and he'd find some way to call it promiscuity and say "like mother, like daughter"; 2. Mother wouldn't believe me--oh, she wouldn't disbelieve me, but, like when a deacon molested me at church, she'd say I "must be mistaken"; 3. My brother was an OKC policeman and I'd heard his stories of how they laughed about rape cases; 4. If they laughed about his sister or if he could find Jay, I knew he'd completely lose control and either get hurt or kill someone; 5. I was due to fly out the next day--my daughter was waiting for me and I wanted to get away, not stay for tests and court hearings and other painful stuff...I just wanted to GET-OUT-OF-THERE.

I took a bath and packed. Just before we left for the airport the next morning, two dozen long-stemmed red roses arrived for me with a note that said, "Please forgive me. I'm sorry." It wasn't signed.

Thanks to my doctor, I didn't nosedive again. He was insistent that nothing could destroy my inner strength unless I allowed it. I chose to believe him. I did wonder, however, how I would feel about making love. The next time I had sex, though, everything seemed fine. Afterwards we were lying there, in what I think is called "after-glow," just chatting quietly. My belly was sort of stinging so I turned on the light. As we lay there, watching, my skin mottled, turned red, and large blisters rose until my entire stomach was covered. I had to have emergency treatment for second-degree burns.

I no longer trust my mind when it tells me I'm O.K. □

Michigan Women's Music Festival

WRITE FOR BROCHURE & INFO ON CONCERT PROGRAM.



WWTMC P.O. BOX 22. WALHALLA. MICHIGAN 49458

AUGUST 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15, 1993

BULLETIN BOARD

Among the musical delights in May, don't overlook Elyse Angelo's Percussion Recital and Farewell Party for Mary at the Hotel Bohemia on May 7; call 528-0020 for reservations.

Another non-traditional musical event is the Jam Session at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7th and Robinson, OKC, on May 23rd; from 5-8 pm. Hosted by Miss Brown To You, there will be various jazz and blues artists, performing for a benefit for St. George's Guild Food Closet. This will be a perfect event to wind down from the wonderful Retreat at Roman Nose.

Gay & Lesbian professional, business and social organizations have established GLOBAL, Gay and Lesbian Organizations Bridging Across the Land to facilitate communication among its member organizations and encourage the sharing of ideas and opportunities for professional development. For information contact Maureen O'Leary at (510) 652-1946.

After two Sunday sessions as a group, Women with Women with Children is ready to move on to the most important phases of any group that has children -- having fun and EATING. They invite all women and their children to a potluck Italian Feast on Sunday May the 18th at 3320NW 21st, OKC from 1 to 5 pm. Please RSVP to 942-4331.

Hurricane Alice, a writer's quarterly, is developing a Fall issue on Native American women writers. Submissions of poetry, short stories, essays, other writing, and artwork are welcomed. Carolyn Bordeaux, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux (Sicangu Lakota in their language), will be editing this special Indian women's edition. She can be reached by calling (612)331-8812 or writing 113 Warwick St. S.W., Minneapolis, MN 55414 or the Hurricane Alice office at 207 Lind Hall, 207 Church Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Mark your calendar now for a lawn party at Herland featuring Erika Wheeler in performance on June 6. We'll have hot dogs available starting at 6:30 and Erika will perform at 7 P.M. It'll be a great way to spend a summer evening!

Lesbian only counseling group, Wednesday evenings. Contact Jo L. Soske M.Ed., MHR, NCADC, NCC, LPC at 364-5708.

The Syvenna Foundation writers' retreat for women invites applications for its residency program. Located near Linden, Texas, the Syvenna Foundation operates four residency terms per year. The program is designed for women of all ages who are at the beginning or intermediate stage of their writing careers. All types of writing - academic, creative, or technical - are considered. Each successful applicant is provided with a private cottage and a stipend of \$300 per month. For further information, write: The Syvenna Foundation, Route 1, Box 193, Linden, Texas 75563; or call: 903/835-8252.

Herland Sister Resources presents 1993 SPRING RETREAT FOR WOMEN

May 21 - 23
Roman Nose State Park
(NEAR WATONGA, OKLAHOMA)

Single Person's Annual Income	Retreat Pre-registration fee	Household Annual Income (2 or more persons)
under \$ 6,500	\$15	under \$13,300
\$ 6,500-\$13,250	\$25	\$13,300-\$18,000
\$13,250-\$19,500	\$35	\$18,000-\$26,000
\$19,500-\$30,000	\$45	\$26,000-\$30,000
over \$30,000	\$60	over \$50,000

Please choose the registration fee most appropriate for you based on these suggested income guidelines. Complete and return the pre-registration form to Herland, 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Registration fee enclosed: \$15 \$25 \$35 \$45 \$60

- I'm enclosing an additional \$ _____ to provide retreat scholarships.
 I need a scholarship to attend.
 I would like to ride with someone. I can help provide rides to the retreat.

Return to:
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