

# to the HERLAND VOICE

June, 1993

## THE MEANING OF STONEWALL

by Vivien Ng

It's my second nature to dwell on the past. After all, I am a professional historian--I make my living making sense of the past. I am more or less comfortable with it, even though dwelling on the past--such as, for example, botched relationships--can sometimes be downright painful. (That's all you'll ever get out of me: I am writing for *Herland Voice*, not *True Confessions*!)

What I am trying to say is that I am a sucker for anniversaries. The month of June brings us a major chest-sweller--the 24th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village, New York City. As a historian, I understand what Stonewall represents--it marks the beginning of the gay liberation movement. As a lesbian activist, I also appreciate the fact that Stonewall spawned the "We're here! We're queer! Get used to it!" in-your-face attitude that has revolutionized the way lesbians and gays view ourselves and our relationship with the straight world. But such a significant event had no direct impact on my coming out experience, because it was only in the early 1980s that I found out about the Stonewall Riots. Not once during my graduate school days was Stonewall ever mentioned in any of my classes.

Can I say that unless we are historians and/or activists, or unless we are consciously aware of its meaning, Stonewall has no relevance in our lives? Absolutely not, because the only truly unaffected are people who died before June, 1969. "Before Stonewall" and "After Stonewall"--these are markers in history that, for lesbians and gays, define precisely when we as a people become politicized. "Lesbian" and "gay" are no longer labels for "lifestyles." They are political identities. After Stonewall, "lesbian" and "gay" mean more than merely "homosexual."

How did Stonewall happen? What caused the riots? Years of police oppression. Years of police intimidation. Years of patrons of gay bars being herded onto paddy wagons. Finally, one night, "Enough is enough!"

As I reflect on the meaning of Stonewall, I recall details from the 1993 March on Washington. I note in particular how curiously few drag queens and other outlandishly-costumed daredevils there were. A filmmaker I know came back from the March sorely disappointed, because she had been unable to film enough footage of drag queens. She asked afterwards: "How come the marchers are so boring?"

(continued on page 6)



OKC's second Annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade (1989)

## PRIDE '93

You are invited to show your pride as a part of the Herland contingent in the 1993 Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. International Gay and Lesbian Pride Week will culminate on Sunday, June 27 in Oklahoma City with the 1993 Pride Parade. The theme this year for the annual event is "A Family of Pride." Parade organizers say they hope all lesbians and gays will participate in the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week festivities in the spirit of pride and cooperation.

The Parade will step off from Memorial Park near 36th and Classen in Oklahoma City at 4 P.M. on June 27. Pre-parade events include a worship service conducted by the Gay Christian Ecumenical Council beginning at 2 P.M. A rally sponsored by the Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Caucus will follow the service.

The parade route has been lengthened to accommodate an expected increase in the number of marchers and to allow participants to see other parade entries. The route will proceed from 36th and Classen north to Classen and 42nd. At N.W. 42nd, the parade will make a u-turn to NW 39. Marchers will go west on 39th to Barnes and the parade will end in the west parking lot of the Habana complex.

Pride Week activities in Oklahoma City begin June 20 with a Block Party at N.W. 39 and Barnes in Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma's Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade is organized by Pride Network Inc. □



# ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

Some of us in the community are feeling kind of hurt by Herland being women-only space. How come, what gives, what's up? Why are the women there prejudiced against men?

Sincerely,  
Bob's Your Uncle

Dear Bob,

You haven't been hanging around Herland very much lately, honey, have you? There hasn't been a social event at Herland in years that didn't have several men present and welcome. Men come to meetings regularly at Herland, for instance, Simply Equal and AIDS Coalition Committee meetings. Men shop at Herland. Men are on the Herland Voice mailing list and are kind and very appreciated donors to Herland.

Herland rents space to a lesbian-only counseling group one night of the week, but that is the policy of the group paying for the space, not of Herland.

Herland does just one thing which is restricted to women-only; the biannual retreats, which are designed as safe-space for women.

Why is there an occasional need to create and offer a safe space for women? Well, let's talk briefly about the pandemic of violence against women. Consider this: statistics indicate that there are 683,000 forcible rapes a year in the United States - in other words, 1.3 women raped per minute. The breakdown by perpetrator, not that it really matters, is: 22% stranger, 9% husband or exhusband, 11% father or stepfathers, 10% boyfriend or ex-boyfriend, 16% other relative, 29% other non-relative, 3%, unidentified. And battering - in Oklahoma alone there were 15,552 domestic violence calls to police in 1992.

Beyond the statistics lies the basic truth that no woman is unaffected by this violence against some women. Women sleep in sweltering heat every summer, afraid that an open window will let in more than a welcome breeze. Women monitor their actions and activities, in ways that never occur to men to do, in order to keep themselves safe from male violence. A woman wanting to go to her office on a Saturday or Sunday will always weigh her wishes and needs against her possible lack of safety in an "empty" building. Now, it should be said that everyone at Herland recognizes that not all men are batterers, not all men violent. Everyone at Herland knows kind gentle men whom they love and honor and trust. Nevertheless, the violence that directly affects a large number of women, indirectly affects all women. Therefore, all women benefit from safe, women-only space; and Herland will continue to provide it at their retreats. Other than the retreats, Herland welcomes all people of good will.

Hope you feel better now,

Fondly,  
Sybil

## THE GRATEFUL BEAN CAFE HOSTS MUSIC; PEGGY JOHNSON PERFORMS ON JUNE 5TH

The Grateful Bean is a great place to eat, drink coffee or tea, slurp on a malt. Now the Bean is proud to sponsor local acoustic folkies on the weekends. On Saturday, June 5th, at 9 p.m., singer-songwriter-guitarist Peggy Johnson will sing the blues, tell some stories, and maybe even recommend a tasty dish from the menu. The kitchen will be open until 10 p.m. and the music will go on until midnight.

Says Peggy, "The food is delicious, the people are so nice and I'm so excited to have a new place to play in Oklahoma City!"

Located where Kaiser's Ice Cream store used to be, the Grateful Bean is at 1039 N. Walker in Oklahoma City. That's 10th and Walker, of course, and the new restaurant has been there since the end of April. The menu contains a host of vegetarian dinners guaranteed to satisfy your palate. There are also several chicken dishes and salads. All are served with hearty organic French hearth bread. The malts are served in frosted glasses, as is fresh Kaiser's ice cream. Desserts include Ye Olde Sweet Potatoe Pudding and apple pie among others and will make the musical evening all the more sweet.

The cafe is owned and operated by Oklahoma Bean Project, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation. The Bean Project runs the cafe and also bags beans for sale at 15 outlets in Oklahoma City, including Pratt's Grocery. Its purpose is to help people help themselves by developing skills, expanding choices, and increasing self-sufficiency. The Project employs many who were previously unemployed or under-employed.

Pete Schaffer is the owner/head guy around there but everyone is nice and eager to please. Stop by for lunch or dinner from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, until midnight on Fridays and from 5 p.m. until midnight on Saturdays. Call 236-3503 for more details. □

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# June, 1993



June 1, 1660: Quaker Mary Dyer hanged in Boston for preaching non-violence.

June 2, 1863: Daring raid by Harriet Tubman frees 750 slaves.

June 16, 1873: Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

JUNETEENTH: Celebrates June 19, 1865; the day Blacks in Texas learned of their emancipation.

		1 Simply Equal Chapter Meeting, 7 pm Testing the Limits	2	3	4 Tina & Dale's Float Trip All weekend long War Eagle Camp near Tahlequah	5 PEGGY JOHNSON Canterbury Festival, 3pm and at the Grateful Bean 10th & Walker in OKC, 9 pm
6 PEGGY J. 1:30, Edmond's Canterbury Festival ERICA WHEELER picnic & Concert at Herland, 6pm	7	8 Simply Equal, Herland, 7 pm	9	10 3rd Annual Virginia Woolf Conference, Lincoln Univ., Jefferson City Missouri through the 13th----->	11 CoDA, 7 pm	12 PEGGY JOHNSON at La Baguette 323 W. Boyd Norman 8:30 - 11:30
13	14  MISS BROWN TO YOU 9pm, at VZD's	15 Simply Equal, Herland, 7 pm	16	17	18 CoDA, 7 pm	19 JUNETEENTH
20	21 SUMMER SOLSTICE	22 Simply Equal, Herland, 7 pm	23  Wilma Rudolph Olympic Superstar born 1940	24	25 CoDA, 7 -m	26 Oklahoma NOW Conference in Tahlequah
27 GAY PRIDE Parade (24th anniversary of Stonewall) # Emma Goldman 1869 - 1940	28	29 Simply Equal, Herland, 7 pm	30	June 27th, quite a day; the birthday of Helen Keller, in 1880 and Emma Goldman, in 1869; as well as the anniversary of the gay rebellion called Stonewall, in 1969.		

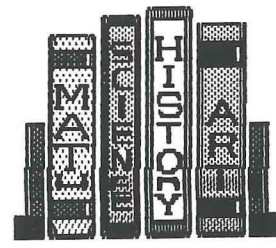
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC

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# OGLPC PHOBIE/AWARDS OF MERIT BANQUET

The annual "Phobie Awards" and Awards of Merit Banquet, sponsored by Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, was held at Gushers on Sunday, May 16. OGLPC Co-Chairs, Ginger McGovern and Paul Thompson, presided over an afternoon of *camaraderie*, excellent food, and awards presentations which brought both laughter and tears.

Two State politicians received Phobie Awards for their sponsorship of anti-gay legislation. Although their various bills never got out of Committee, Dan Webb and Bill Graves received plaques in recognition of their homophobic efforts.

Representative Don Nickles earned a Phobie for his consistency and persistency--a consistently homophobic attitude toward Gay Rights and a persistent opposition to Gays in the Military.

A Phobie Award went to "Cola" Rankin of the Lower Deck in Norman "because of her proud and forthright bigotry." (Ms. Rankin won Community and media attention by posting a NO DYKES ALLOWED sign and refusing to allow lesbians and gays into her bar.

Judge Donald Powers earned his Phobie by removing custody of two young children from their lesbian mother; and The Daily Oklahoman's award was for a general homophobic stance and, specifically, discontinuance of the comic strip "For Better or For Worse."

All the Phobie recipients were, coincidentally, absent. Their awards will be delivered to them.

Five Awards of Merit were presented.

**Representative Jeff Hamilton** was recognized for his courageous decisions and positive leadership in matters of human rights, including sponsorship of a bill requiring the State Health Department to form a plan for study and treatment of AIDS.

**Cookie Arbuckle**, who was honored for her hard work and compassion toward persons living with HIV/AIDS, accepted her award "In honor of all people living with AIDS and the remarkably incredible battle they wage."

**Steve Lazarus**, for his leadership and positive influence on the OU campus, including the passage in 1991 of a code which bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

**Nathaniel Bachelder** of the Peace House for his carrying civil rights concerns into Main Stream areas, which he accepted with, "All issues for social change are connected, so when we make progress in one, we make progress in all."

**The Reverend Richard Monroe**, a posthumous award for his advocacy for AIDS awareness in the United Methodist Church and his work as Executive Director of the AIDS Support Program.

**Mary Reynolds** received the Ron Shaefer award for her dedicated work for peace, the environment, and justice in everyday life, for her widely recognized talent as a performer, and for her use of that talent for numerous and positive causes.

The Bill Rogers Award for 1993 went to **Pat Reaves** and **Allen Nyitray**, the founding co-facilitators of Simply Equal. This organization gathered our diverse community into a cohesive group to lobby against and successful defeat anti-lesbian/gay legislation.

Councilman Mark Schwartz, Senator Bernest Cain, and Representative Jeff Hamilton (sporting a "Flush Rush" button) spoke briefly about current concerns and their need and appreciation of our support as they repeatedly put their political lives on the line to prevent discriminatory legislation and combat homophobia.

Senator Cain, who has received many OGLPC Awards of Merit, assured the gathering, "I give you my word that anywhere I find legislation that is restrictive, that holds back people's rights, I'll be there."

The attitude which seemed common to all the Merit Awards winners was expressed by Representative Hamilton: "To be human is to be a person of compassion, caring for each other."

In closing, Paul Thompson observed, "There is plenty of work for every group, every focus--there is no reason why organizations can't work together....Make it easy for our politicians to support us--work for them; be there for them." □

## SIMPLY EQUAL OF OKC

The Oklahoma City chapter of Simply Equal established as its primary goal for this year the passage of a human rights ordinance by the Oklahoma City Council to outlaw discrimination of any kind on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, **sexual orientation**, national origin, age or handicap.

Simply Equal will also continue to monitor for any evidence of efforts to introduce anti-lesbian/gay measures of the Colorado/Oregon type. If movement toward that type of initiative is seen, stopping the measure will take top priority.

The effort to show support for lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military continues. Simply Equal is collecting postcards to be sent to Senator Nunn, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and all members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation. They are also encouraging everyone to write Senators Boren and Nickles and their Congressman with their views on the subject.

Officers elected at the meeting on May 4 are: Co-facilitators, Alan Nyitray and Pat Reaves; Treasurer, Jimmie Harris; Secretary - open; Howard Harris will continue in that position for present. Spokespersons, Terry Gatewood and Peggy Johnson; Co-chairs of the four committees are: Communications, Terry & Peggy; Education, Margaret Cox and Howard Harris; Fundraising, Joe Scholes; and Legislative, Paul Thompson. All committees will have a man and a woman as co-chairs. Women co-chairs are still needed for the Fundraising and Legislative committees.

Simply Equal of Oklahoma City meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at Testing the Limits, 2136 NW 39th Street. The coordinating committee is currently meeting every Tuesday at Herland, 2312 NW 39th Street, at 7 P.M., and everyone who is interested is encouraged attend those meetings. □



## HERLAND LEGAL DEFENSE FUND GUIDELINES

The purpose of the Herland Legal Defense Fund is to help gain a legal precedent protecting the child custody rights of lesbians and gay men in Oklahoma through financial support for legal expenses of child custody cases in which lesbianism is an issue.

### Criteria for selection of cases:

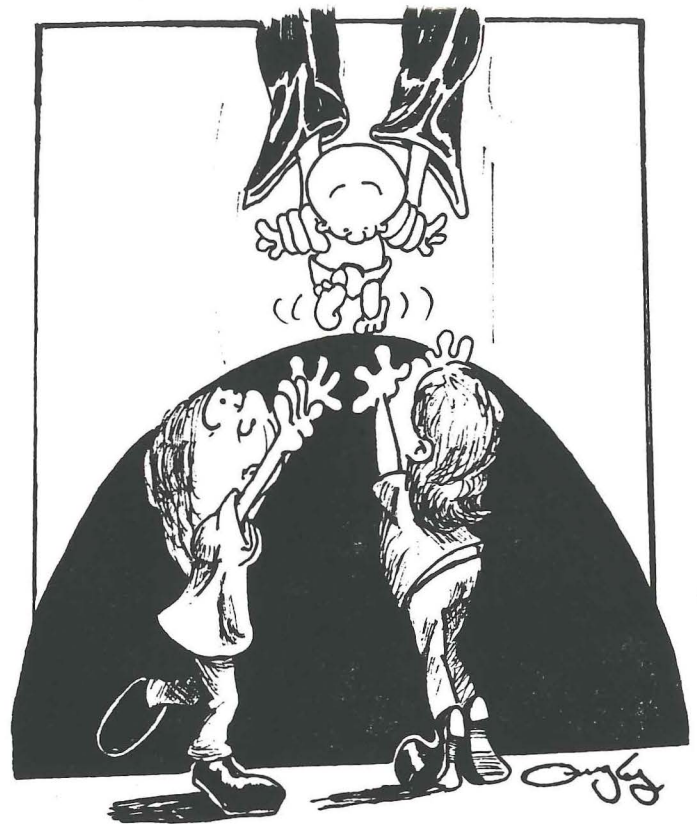
- ♦ Appeals have priority for support by the fund.
- ♦ If a ruling has already been issued, the Judge's ruling states that sexual orientation was a consideration in removing custody.
- ♦ There must be no evidence of child neglect or abuse.
- ♦ Potential for legal success will be a priority for funding of cases by the HSRLDF. A legal advisory panel will be formed to advise the HSRLDF in this area.

### Application Process:

- ♦ Requests for assistance will be made in person to the HSRLDF committee. The committee will report to the HSR board.
- ♦ Copies of all relevant legal documents will be provided to the HSRLDF committee.
- ♦ If an evaluation has been completed by a social worker or psychologist, it will be made available to the HSRLDF committee.
- ♦ The person requesting assistance must be a resident of Oklahoma with a financial need and the case in an Oklahoma court (or appropriate Federal court).

### HSRLDF Operating Procedures:

- ♦ Expenses critical to the continuation of the case have the highest priority for allocation of funds.
- ♦ Women involved in cases supported by the HSRLDF will be encouraged to seek assistance through the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the National Lesbian Center.
- ♦ The HSRLDF will hold as confidential information the identity of persons receiving support through the fund and all information about the cases. The legal advisory panel will be asked to assist in developing guidelines for individuals involved in the cases regarding media and publicity.
- ♦ All payments from the HSRLDF fund will be made directly to the individual's attorney on documented expenses. □



## HELMS ATTACKS ATCHENBERG NOMINATION

Senator Jesse Helms (R-NC) attacked the nomination of San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg as assistant secretary at Housing and Urban Development "because she is a damn lesbian." Helms said he will not vote to confirm a lesbian who wants to "shut off the Boy Scouts because they wouldn't have queer scoutmasters." If you want to call me a bigot, fine," said Helms.

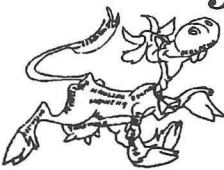
Achtenberg is President Clinton's choice to head the office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at HUD. Her appointment would make her the highest ranking lesbian in the Clinton administration and is the first time an "out" lesbian or gay person has been appointed to such a high government position.

Opposition to the Achtenberg nomination was fueled by Pat Robertson's 700 Club, the daily television program which has repeatedly urged viewers to call Capitol Hill to express opposition to her confirmation.

## ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN ORDINANCE PASSES

The Oregon community of Cornelius passed an anti-gay measure initiated by the Oregon Citizen's Alliance on May 18. Measure 34-5 amends the city charter to ban specific civil rights protections for homosexuality as a group. In addition, it says that city money may not be spent "to promote homosexuality or express approval of homosexual behavior."

Lon Mabon, OCA chairman, said the victory in Cornelius gave momentum to the OCA's efforts to pass similar initiatives in 32 other Oregon communities and a statewide measure in 1994. The new initiatives were filed after voters rejected a statewide OCA initiative last year. □



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# ERICA WHEELER RETURNS!

Don't miss the chance to spend an evening with Erica Wheeler, who was such a popular performer at the Retreat a year ago. Sunday evening, June 6, Erica will appear on Herland's Back Yard Stage singing those fresh and original songs that have moved her into the front ranks of the current wave of new singer-songwriters.

Erica Wheeler's career took off with the release of her first recording, *Strong Heart*, in Dec. '89. With it, Erica began touring nationally, building a base of fans, receiving critical acclaim and invitations to many of the best listening rooms in the country. In Dec. '92, her career took another leap forward with the release of her first CD, *From That Far*. It has been enthusiastically received by DJ's, club owners and fans across the country.

An outdoor enthusiast, the natural world serves as an inspiration for many of her songs. With a spirituality akin to that of many Native American traditions, Erica has infused her beliefs into lyrics which offer gentle inspiration to her listeners.

Outstanding lyrics, stunning vocals, tasteful guitar playing and the warm integrity she conveys easily on stage all combine to create a performer of extraordinary beauty and depth. We are fortunate that she has been able to put Oklahoma City on her current tour. □

"To the extent that it is possible, you must live in the world today as you wish everyone to live in the world to come. That can be your contribution. Otherwise, the world you want will never be formed."

*Ora in The Temple of My Familiar by Alice Walker*

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Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request.

*The Voice* is printed on recycled paper.

# PLANES, TRAINS, AND AUTOMOBILES: RAPPIN' JANE'S REVIEW OF *MISS BROWN TO YOU*

After much anticipation, the band Miss Brown To You has released the song "Miss Brown to You" on the album *Miss Brown To You*. The album is full of favorites and three newish tunes.

The band, Mary Reynolds, Louise Dick, Elyse Angelo and Terry Hoersch take the listener on a trip through musical time and space dimensions that would be logically inconceivable to Mr. Spock. Most notable of the ethereal tunes is the Louise Dick composition "Weezie's Tune." While Terry and Elyse keep us firmly in contact with ground control, Mary and Louise launch solos that go further and further into deep space. "Blackbird" and "Mourning Dove" stay a little closer to earth, but it may still be a good idea to see if your car seat can act as a flotation device before you listen to this album in an automobile.

Miss Brown's greatest hit, "Night Train Lullaby" has long been a "singing myself to sleep" favorite of mine. Mary's sax is perhaps best on this tune and Terry, Elyse and Louise keep the train moving right on down the line. The train never leaves ground, but there is no question that this train is going places.

And to what hot, humid place is it that I am taken by "Why Don't You Want Me?" It must be south, it must be summer, and I must be sittin' on the porch listening to the sounds of a band down at the sinful little sugar shack on the river. You know, that place Idgie Threadgood goes in "Fried Green Tomatoes" or that place in "The Color Purple" where Whoopi hears Sugar sing. If this song doesn't move you, check your pulse or call 911, 'cause something's wrong.

If you ever thought those *Gazette* polls were rigged, give a listen to Mary's vocals on "There Will Never Be Another You" and you will know that at least the best female vocalist category was not. Mary has won the award every year that it has been given, and there are nine reasons why on this album.

If the *Gazette* had a category for "vocal event" like they do out in Nashville, I'd nominate the glory-hallafunky-speaking-in-tongues duet from "Miss Brown to You." Mary and Lousie take off on a syllabular slide that would have the "Hooked on Phonics" folks running for cover.

A fan at the Arts Festival told me that Miss Brown's arrangement of the Beatles' "Can't Buy Me Love" is the best Beatle cover they ever heard. And while it may be true that money can't buy you love, ten bucks will get you a copy of this album, and you will love it, I guar-ron-tee. Check with any member of the band or stop by Herland or the Earth to get your copy now. Tell 'em Rappin' Jane sent you. (I'm not on commission.) □



## THE MEANING OF STONEWALL

(continued from page 1)

Recall, if you will, how many self-appointed lesbian or gay spokespeople remarked how "fair" network coverage of the event had been, because for once they did not focus only on drag queens. You'd think that they were ashamed of and embarrassed by drag queens.

How did Stonewall happen? We must credit the drag queens who, along with gay and lesbian people of color, made it happen. They *dared* to rebel against police oppression and intimidation. They deserve our gratitude, not embarrassment.

The original Stonewall Inn closed years ago, but I noticed to my great delight, during a recent trip to New York, that at Stonewall Place in Greenwich Village now stands a new bar, the Stonewall. The publisher of Martin Duberman's new book, *Stonewall*, threw a book party for him and his friends on May 4, at the new Stonewall.

Next year, on June 25, 1994, the international lesbian and gay communities will be descending on New York City to rally and march to the United Nations. At least a million are expected to come to the city to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Stonewall. Be there, or be . . . ! □

### THE STONEWALL REBELLION

In the sixties, gays and lesbians in New York City could not gather legally. Gay bars could not get licenses. People could be -- and were -- arrested for wearing more than three items of clothing considered appropriate for the opposite sex. Gays and lesbians were frequent subjects of verbal and physical harassment. Police raids on gay bars were common. Afraid of arrest or calls to employers and families, men and women complied with the police or fled.

On June 27, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village because it was serving liquor without a license. They began sending customers out the door, and crowds gathering outside cheered the departing patrons. A paddy wagon arrived and police shoved patrons into it. Anger erupted. The rebellion began. The crowd threw cans and bottles at windows, and hurled coins, stones and parking meters at the police. Back-up police in riot gear arrived, striking the crowd with night sticks. The raid and rebellion lasted 45 minutes and sparked week-long demonstrations.

Though police continued to raid gay bars, Stonewall had signaled the ability to say, "Enough," and created a collective defiance against official repression. Gays and lesbians began to organize, politicize and fight for their civil rights around the country.

## COMMUNITY LEADERS IN AIDS, GAY/LESBIAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGNS WIN STONEWALL AWARDS FOR 1993

The Anderson Prize Foundation has announced the 1993 winners of the Stonewall Awards "for achievement for gay and lesbian America." Five community activists were honored for their work on behalf of AIDS education, gay and lesbian rights and women's interests.

Earnest Hite, Chicago, co-founded and serves president of Image Plus, a support organization targeting African-American gay and lesbian youth, and founded the HOPE Project, an AIDS education program.

Pat Norman of San Francisco is the executive director of the California AIDS Intervention Training Center. She served as National Chair of the 1987 Gay and Lesbian March on Washington and is now one of three coordinators for Stonewall 25 commemorating the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion.

Suzanne Pharr, Little Rock, a social justice worker and coalition builder for the past 30 years, focuses much of her attention on the threat of the Radical Right. She founded the Women's Project in Arkansas in 1981 to work against violence, economic injustice, homophobia and sexism. "Some of the most critical work on racism, sexism and homophobia is being done in the middle of the country," Ms. Pharr said, "where people are figuring out the hard questions, what it means to live where you don't have services, where information flow is not as fast or complex as on the two coasts."

Edward Sedarbaum of Queens, New York, who shares a prize with Howard Cruse, his companion of 14 years, founded Queens Gays and Lesbians United to give gays and lesbians a voice in their residential neighborhood. His companion, Howard Cruse, is a pioneering gay and underground cartoonist who is best known as the founding editor of "Gay Comix" and the creator of the characters Barefootz and Wendel.

The Stonewall Awards, established in 1990, are named for the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in Greenwich Village -- the first widely recognized act of collective defiance against repression that launched the gay rights movement. They are given by the Anderson Prize Foundation, set up and funded by the late Paul A. Anderson, a futures trader in Chicago. Through the awards, the Foundation promotes education about and awareness of the concerns of the gay and lesbian community. □

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# TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER

More than 900 lesbian and gay health care providers will discuss strategies for including lesbian and gay issues in the emerging national health care agenda on July 21-25, 1993, at the 15th National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and 11th Annual AIDS/HIV Forum to be held in Houston, Texas.

"We've seen tremendous positive changes in the lesbian and gay movement since it began at Stonewall in the 60s. But, one recurring problem that has impeded our progress is our community's tendency to splinter over specific issues and to create hostile 'camps,'" said Joyce Hunter, president of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF), and 1993 conference program co-chair. "By addressing this issue at the opening plenary session on 'Horizontal Hostility,' we hope to create an environment which will unite the efforts of our health care community in one forward direction," she added.

Other plenary sessions which will address the current state lesbian and gay health care include: "The Politics of the Lesbian and Feminist Cancer Movement," "Perspectives on Future AIDS Policy," "Gay Positive School Curricula," and "Is Our Community Under Siege?"

Preceding the opening session, 11 full-day pre-conference institutes will explore health topics such as sexual abuse, internalized oppression, and special health care concerns for people of color. Following the opening, more than 220 workshops will be presented in five educational tracks including AIDS/HIV Forum, Lesbian and Gay Health, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Strategies for Inclusion.

The Health conference is sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation and The George Washington University Medical Center. For registration information and a program brochure call (202)944-4285. □

# NGLTF CONDEMNS "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" AS ENFORCING THE CLOSET

Washington, DC, May 18, 1993...The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) opposes the suggestion of a "don't ask, don't tell" policy to solve the current controversy over the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military. Such a policy would require gay and lesbian service members to stay in the closet and would mandate discrimination in the name of "compromise."

As put forward in recent Senate hearings and the media by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) and others, the "don't ask, don't tell" policy would codify President Clinton's interim directive that is now in effect. In essence, the military would refrain from asking the sexual orientation of new recruits and would end organizing witch hunts to ferret out gay and lesbian soldiers. Service members who are gay or lesbian, however, would not be permitted to openly "announce" their sexual orientation.

Debate is now forming around the limits of "announcing" one's sexual orientation. Is the photo of a partner of the same sex "announcing" one's homosexuality? Is discussions about your same sex-date "announcing" one's sexual orientation?

"We oppose any compromise that would codify discrimination through enforcing the lie of the closet," said Torie Osborn, NGLTF executive director. "Don't tell" would require gay and lesbian service members to be constantly vigilant. The closet is not a 'compromise.'"

"The Tailhook scandal vividly illustrates the need for enforcing existing military regulations," said Tanya Domi, director of the NGLTF Military Freedom Initiative. "Gay and lesbian soldiers should be held to the same standards as straight service members. We simply want a non-discrimination policy with parity in treatment." □

## BULLETIN BOARD

You won't want to miss the Second Annual "Vacation with Tina and Dale" Float Trip, beginning at 5 pm on Friday, June 4, and concluding at 6 pm on Sunday, June 6. The festivities include an option to float one or two days down the meandering Illinois River, contests, camping in a secluded site, and miscellaneous frivolities, at War Eagle Camp, located outside Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Floating will cost \$8.50 for Saturday and \$8 for Sunday, and camping costs \$4.00 for each car. Floating and camping are optional, you may come and go as you please. Questions may be directed to Tina, 321-8148, or Dale, 843-8378.

Patricia Ireland, President of the National Organization of Women, will be a special honored guest at the OK NOW annual conference. See page 8 of this issue for more information.

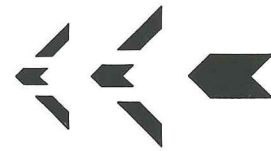
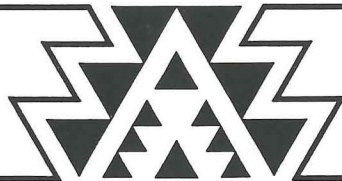
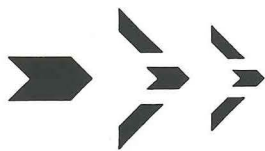
Lesbian-only counseling group, Wednesday evenings. Contact Jo. L. Soske, M.Ed., MHR, NCADC, NCC, LPC at 364-5708.

Sixth annual Two-Spirited Gathering--A gathering of Native American lesbians and gays and their families will be held August 26 - 29 near Tucson, Arizona. For information, send a stamped self addressed envelope to: P.O. Box 1727, Bisbee, Arizona 85603.

The 18th annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is scheduled for August 10-15. For information, write WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 or call (616)757-4776

The 19th Annual Feminist Women's Writing Workshop, held on the shore of Seneca in Lake New York's Fingerlakes Region, will feature as writer-in-residence KWELISMITH, a poet and performance artist. Some scholarships are available. For information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Feminist Women's Writing Workshops, P.O. Box 6583, Ithaca, NY 14851.

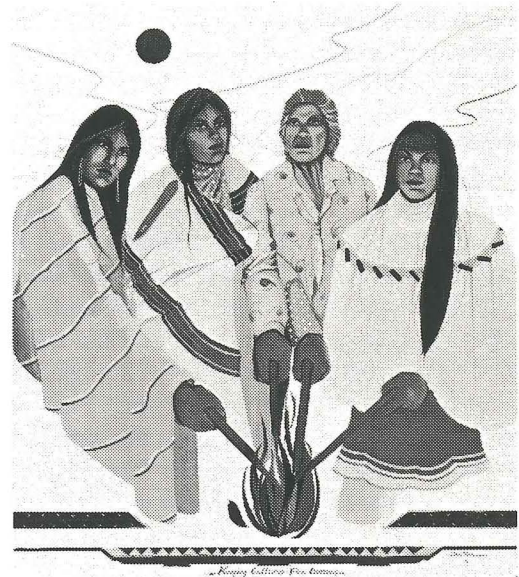




*Sharing Stories . . .  
Strengthening Communities*

*Oklahoma NOW Conference  
Co-Sponsored by Muskogee NOW*

*Saturday, June 26, 1993  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma  
Cherokee Heritage Museum*



**ISSUES:** Sustaining a Culture: Tribal Sovereignty & Legal Issues  
Honoring Our Foremothers Through Environmental Action  
Valuing Ethnic Diversity & Confronting Racism  
Mind, Body & Soul: Protecting the Health of Native Women

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS WILL BE GIVEN BY WILMA MANKILLER,  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF OF THE CHEROKEE NATION**

**SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE:**

Linda Epperley, J.D. Creek/Seminole Attorney  
Shan Goshorn, Wolf Clan Cherokee, Artist/Educator  
Dale Lee Woody, M.H.R. Cherokee Human Resources Consultant  
Lisa Tiger, Creek/Seminole/Cherokee AIDS Educator/Activist

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES:**

Admission to Cherokee Museum and Village - Lunch - Signed conference poster -  
Pow-wow on Saturday evening - For those staying Saturday evening, a "bring your own  
goodies" picnic will be held on Sunday.

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Return registration with check to: Dana Tiger Studios  
HC 73 Box 277  
Park Hill, OK 74451

WRITE CHECKS TO MUSKOGEE NOW. Enclosed Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 NOW Member

\_\_\_\_\_ \$55 Non-NOW Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 low income stipend

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

NOW Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_