

to the HERLAND VOICE

July, 1993

A FAMILY OF PRIDE

Organizers estimated there were over 700 marchers in Oklahoma's annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. Marchers were met by a crowd of over a thousand people when they arrived at "the strip" at N.W. 39th and Penn.

In keeping with the theme, "A Family of Pride," participants reflected the diversity of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. They came from all over the state with a charter bus load from Tulsa and contingents from towns like Stillwater and Ada. They were Native Americans, Latinas and Latinos, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Anglos. They were parents, leather dykes, teachers, social workers, drag queens, and preachers -- in short, they were a cross-section of Oklahomans.

The day's events began with a picnic hosted by the Oklahoma City chapter of Simply Equal and election of Oklahoma representatives to participate in the Stonewall 25 planning process. Events continued with a worship service led by the Gay Ecumenical Council.

The pre-parade rally organized by the Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus included speeches by Bill Rogers, Chairperson of the Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission, Peggy Johnson of Herland and Simply Equal, and Jose Zuniga, recently discharged Soldier of the Year.

Sgt. Zuniga shared that he chose to participate in the Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade as his first Pride Parade as an out gay man. He turned down an opportunity to speak in San Francisco to come to Oklahoma to talk to middle America about the need to lift the military ban.

Sgt. Zuniga was discharged from the Army after he came out publicly at the March on Washington in spite of his distinguished military service. He was named the Sixth Army Soldier of the Year in March, 1993 and had received numerous other awards and decorations. Zuniga denounced proposed compromises on lifting the military ban saying, "We will not give in. We will not barter our rights."

Excerpts from Peggy Johnson's Pride Rally Speech

I was a Navy journalist, but I am in the Navy no longer. I am a lesbian activist, bent on making the world a more comfortable place for us to live. That includes lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. We must press our representatives for that important change....

I speak today not to educate the ignorant and close-minded that lesbians and gays are people who have a right to be. I do not speak to those lost in a small world of hatred and hypocrisy.

I speak to my friends -- my family of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transsexuals, transvestites and heterosexuals. I speak to you personally on this day -- on our day -- ignoring those who would see us dead, impoverished, and institutionalized.

For today is our day. This parade is our parade. This is our day to shine, proud to live, proud to love, proud to be. This is Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. We are out in the light of this day. The light makes us grow.

(continued pg. 6)

GALA '93 AWARDS

Herland Sister Resources was honored as "Outstanding Community Organization of 1992" by Pride Network, Inc. at GALA '93. With the theme "Celebrating the Best in the Community for 1992", GALA '93: Creatively Black & White was held June 21 at Gusher's Bar. This year is the first year the Gay and Lesbian Awards have been presented by Pride Network. The awards ceremony was co-hosted by Mychall Lee Allen and Shatzy Watson.

Alan Nyitray received the Richard Monroe Humanitarian Award in recognition of his service to Oklahoma's gay and lesbian community. Alan is a past co-chair of the Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and current co-facilitator of Simply Equal - Oklahoma City.

GALA '93 Honorees

- Outstanding Female Volunteer**
Cindy Bookout
- Outstanding Male Volunteer**
Paul Thompson
- Outstanding Female Entertainer**
Peggy Johnson
- Outstanding Male Entertainer**
Mychall Lee Allen
- Outstanding Community Organization**
Herland Sister Resources
- Outstanding Female Sportsperson**
Rhonda Blake
- Outstanding Male Sportsperson**
Cheyenne Rosborough
- Outstanding Female Impersonator**
Jacquelyn DeVaroe
- Outstanding Community Event**
1992 Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade
- Outstanding Male Entertainment Group**
OKC Metro Men's Chorus
- Outstanding Youth Organization**
YGLA
- Outstanding Female Entertainment Group**
Checks 'N Denim
- Outstanding Male Club/Bar**
Bunkhouse
- Outstanding Female Club/Bar**
Porthole
- Outstanding Business**
Gushers Restaurant
- 1992 Woman of the Year**
Shatzy Watson
- 1992 Man of the Year**
Paul Thompson
- Richard Monroe Humanitarian Award**
Alan Nyitray

□

ST. SYBIL

Sybil Ludington, unsung and mostly-forgotten heroine of the American Revolution, is an occasional contributor to this space.

Dear St. Sybil,

I am interested to hear what you, as a famous patriot, consider patriotism to be. Not all of us have the opportunity to leap on our pony and carry warnings through the night like you and Paul Revere did.

Admiringly,
Ima N. Viuss

Dear Ima,

What Paul and I did was easy - anyone can be a hero when such an opportunity presents itself. Was it patriotic? I guess; but again, it was so simple - one night, one job that needed doing, the wherewithal to do it - duck soup.

So what is patriotism? Well, what is *not* patriotism is getting all teary-eyed when the flag passes - that's sentimentality; running for major political office - that's ambition; bashing flag burners and other dissidents - that's blind hatred; "My Country Right or Wrong" - that's jingoism - *and* stupid.

If I were to look in on the United States in 1993 and check for patriots, I would look for people who were brought up to believe the American dream and who work to make it a reality for others:

▼ Teachers who choose to work where the children are most needy; Legal Aid lawyers; Big Brothers and Sisters; poverty health care workers, labor organizers - my new friend Cesar Chavez, Patron Saint of farm workers, was a Patriot.

▼ Volunteers in hospices, AIDS workers, volunteers who rock sick babies for hours; settlement house workers - another new friend, Mitch Snyder, Patron Saint of the Castoff, the Castout, and the Homeless, was a Patriot.

▼ Vista volunteers, Peace Corp volunteers, Peace House workers, Pantex vigilers, Plowshares activists, the Women of the Puget Sound encampment, - my wonderful new friend Leona Luecke, Matron Saint of the dedicated, was a Patriot.

Real patriots go quietly about their way working to make the country they love even better. The one thing you can be sure real patriots will never do is describe themselves as patriots. In the famous words of Samuel Johnson, "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel". Remember this the next time you are tempted to go hear some self-described patriot Marine Colonel speak...

Love,
Sybil

Dear St. Sybil,

Did you march in the gay pride parade June 27?
Curious

Dear Curious,

I was the wind making the heat bearable, the clouds giving you shade, and the cosmic clockworks making everything run so well. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Love & kisses,
Sybil



Simply Equal representatives from OKC and Norman discuss lifting the ban on lesbians/gays in the military with Senator Boren's aide, Jim Hopper. Pictured from left, Terry Gatewood, Peggy Johnson, Tina Steeves, Jim Hopper, Helen Miller, Steve Lazarus, and Kerman Raines. □

DOT CELEBRATES LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL PRIDE

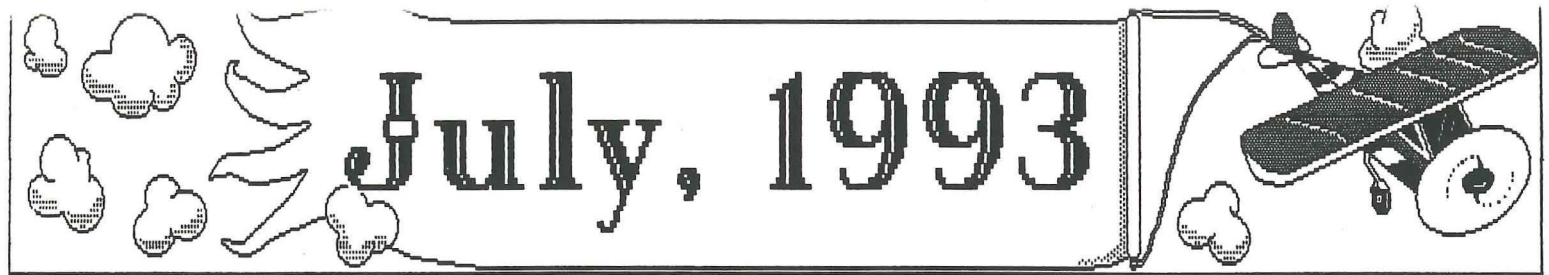
Frederico Pena, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is among the first cabinet level officials to support actively the lesbian, gay and bisexual employees in his department. The Secretary issued policy statements on May 27, 1993 covering diversity and equal employment opportunity.

These statements are historic in that they are among the first policies issued by a Cabinet Secretary that include protections based on sexual orientation. The Secretary defined diversity as "hiring, developing, promoting and retaining employees of all races, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, and cultural backgrounds; the old, the young, and the middle-aged; the able-bodied and the disabled; men and women."

In his policy statement on equal employment opportunity, Pena stated, "it is the policy of this Department that no one be denied opportunities because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or sexual orientation."

In addition to being among the first cabinet-level Departments to provide protection for lesbian, gay and bisexual employees, the Department of Transportation was the first cabinet-level agency to have activities to observe lesbian, gay and bi-sexual pride. The major event held on June 15 featured addresses by Secretary Federico Pena and Congressman Barney Frank. Other activities included a lesbian, gay, and bisexual history display in the lobby of the FAA building, a seminar led by a panel from the Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and a seminar on the effect of AIDS on workplace, family and friends. □

Have you heard who's
coming to OKC?



DOC HERLAND KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER. DO YOU????

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Birthdays in July:

Mary McLeod Bethune, July 10, 1875 - 1955
 Emmeline Pankhurst, July 14, 1858 - 1928
 Amelia Earhart, July 24, 1898 - 1937
 Eleanor Smeal, July 30, 1939
 Patricia Schroeder, July 30, 1940

				1	2 CoDA, 7 pm	3
4	5	6 Simply Equal at Triangle Associates 7 pm	7	8	9 CoDA, 7 pm	10 Peggy Johnson at Lena's Place Atlanta, GA
11	12 Miss Brown To You 8:45 pm At VZD's	13 SIMPLY EQUAL at Herland 7 pm	14 Bastille Day * Woody Guthrie 1912 - 1967	15	16 CoDA, 7 pm	17 Garage Sale at Herland bring/buy good stuff
18 Board Meeting 4:30 pm All Welcome	19	20 Simply Equal at Herland 7 pm	21	22	23 CoDA, 7 pm	24 Workshop on Living Wills, etc. Herland, 2 - 4 pm Peggy Johnson 9 p.m. at the Grateful Bean 10th & Walker
25	26	27 Simply Equal at Herland 7 pm	28	29	30 Peggy Johnson at the Grateful Bean 10th & Walker 9pm-Midnight * CoDA, 7 pm	31 Incest Survivor's Workshop * Peggy Johnson at La Baguette 9 pm

July 7, 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Now she may soon be joined by Ruth Bader Ginsburg - wow, we're taking over.

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CONDUCT UNBECOMING: GAYS AND LESBIANS IN THE U.S. MILITARY: A REVIEW

by Peggy Johnson

The first thing I did was look in the index for my name. Of course it wasn't there. I'm one of the ones Randy Shilts describes as not fighting the military's ban on lesbians and gays. I just quietly got discharged.

The second thing I did was look up my ship's name in the index. It wasn't there either. I guess all of us were quiet about it.

So as I was reading along, I was surprised to read the following sentence on page 418. "The more successful witch-hunts were the ones nobody heard about, such as that of lesbians aboard the USS *Puget Sound*, a destroyer tender." I re-read it three times, then a fourth. Here I had read over 400 pages of descriptions of people I've come to admire -- Leonard Matlovich, Perry Watkins, Miriam Ben-Shalom -- and my whole experience was recorded in one sentence. If I had to do it over I would shout it out. But I can't do it over. I don't want to do it over.

My response to the Naval Investigative Service's treatment of me was more common as Shilts reminds the reader throughout the book. But I was always proud that I never denied being a lesbian and that I didn't give any names of the other lesbians I knew. As the book explains, many did give names -- lots of names.

My interrogation was but a shadow of many described. You must read this book to find out what has been going on for years and continues to happen to average members of our society. Even if you are a passivist, hate war, think no one should be in the military, you need to know this. You need to find out what happens to gays and lesbians from small towns, those who join to get away, people too young to know whether they believe in war or not.

The military is a microcosm of our greater society. *Conduct Unbecoming* shows what the military does to its gay and lesbian members. It shows the inconsistency of the policy that bans us. It gets in the face of the people who made and uphold the policy. It explores the lives of the ones whose lives were most directly affected by it.

You must educate yourself about the story of Leonard Matlovich. Though he won his lengthy lawsuit to be re-instated in the Air Force, after his discharge, he never quite fit in with the gay community. Find out how his story ends.

You must learn about Perry Watkins who always said yes when asked if he were a homosexual. He was retained for 13 years in the Army until finally being discharged. One stage of his court case contains an excellent legal analysis on the reasons for lifting the ban.

Conduct Unbecoming shows what the military does to its gay and lesbian members.

A federal district court ordered the reinstatement of Miriam Ben-Shalom but the Army refused to comply. Paul Starr and Barbara Baum did prison time. Others were demoted for being character witnesses for those accused of being lesbian or gay. Find out how their stories end. Realize that the purges dwindle during wartime, including the Persian Gulf War.

Randy Shilts' writing style is somewhat cumbersome for a poor memory like mine but really does work over the long haul. Think of a well written murder mystery in which the writer introduces too

many characters as each chapter progresses. It's hard to keep up with so much character development and action laid out in a chronological fashion. But, hey, you can always flip back to refresh your memory.

The thing is that there *are* too many characters. And there are thousands more who are not in the book who got out quietly like I did. Let us be quiet no longer.

The book's treatment of women in the military is pretty good and I'm sure Shilts had to push extra hard in researching lesbians' plight. Often while reading, I really noticed the sketchiness of the lesbian discussion until the major lesbian purges in the mid to late 1980's. This absence is more a social commentary than lack of treatment by the writer. The feminist backlash was in full swing by then.

You'll learn that gays in the military is not about gays in the military at all. It's about health. It about banishing the closet. It's about the freedom to be.

Conduct Unbecoming contains exhaustive research about the development of the military ban on homosexuals within the context of our ever-changing society as a whole. Shilts' descriptions of what was going on in the military and in the broader world will stir your mind to wonder why you didn't know. You'll wish you had known then what you know now. You'll learn that gays in the military is not about gays in the military at all. It's about health. It about banishing the closet. It's about the freedom to be.

Randy weaves the onslaught of AIDS into his chronological arrangement. Anyone with an interest in the development of the epidemic must read of the especially horrendous treatment infected soldiers received from the military.

This book contains a major history lesson that you've not heard in those war classes where you never could remember the dates. You'll remember these dates. They happened before and during your lifetime. It's the "during" part that'll shake you up. These are some more names to remember. And don't forget that thousands of our names won't be in the book.

As the book wound to a close, I couldn't put down the story about the Navy coverup of the tragedy on the USS *Iowa*. Many of you will remember vaguely the facts surrounding the explosion onboard the old battleship. The Navy set up an intricate scam to blame it on an allegedly gay sailor, Chris Hargett, who died in the explosion. His sister fought tirelessly and successfully to clear his name and denied that he was gay. "But if he was, so what," she said. "What's the connection between being gay and blowing up battleships?"

Indeed, what is the connection between being gay or lesbian and anything except perhaps how we individually express that part of ourselves? In this book, you will meet many who were forced to speak up about their homosexuality and lesbianism for the public record. Randy Shilts has created a volume documenting their lives and exposing the hypocrisy of the military ban. The reader cannot help but see the connection between the United States military policy and the general treatment of gays and lesbians by society as a whole. □

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Barney Frank

RE: Outline of proposed compromise regarding the right of gay men and lesbians to serve in the military.

I am proposing the following compromise. Obviously this is a proposition which needs to be made much more specific, and part of my reason for proposing it is to make sure that when a compromise proposal is drafted, some of us who in fact prefer a total lifting of the ban are in on that drafting. It is in the course of these negotiations that I hope we can fill in some of the specifics.

The essential position is to draw a distinction between what people are legally entitled to do when they are on base, on duty or in uniform, and what they can do when they are off duty, and on their own time and in non-military installations. Under my proposal, gay men and lesbians who are off duty, not in military installations and in civilian clothes would be allowed to act as any other gay or lesbian member of society. They could socialize, enjoy a relationship, etc., without this having any potential negative legal effect on their service.

In fact, such a rule would have protected the vast majority of lesbians and gay men who have been victimized by being kicked out of the military in the past. That is, historically very few people have volunteered their sexual orientation to their superior officers or to the bulk of their fellow enlisted women and men. People have been kicked out because they were spied upon, because phone conversations were overheard, because people saw them going into places which revealed -- or at least indicated their sexual orientation. In all cases these things were reported to superior officers who then acted to kick people out. Under the proposal I am making, this would not be allowed to happen. If someone reported to a superior officer that someone had been seen off duty going into a gay bar, or had been seen with a person of the same sex at a movie theater in circumstances that suggested a relationship, or was seen dancing with someone of the same sex at a particular party, etc., etc., the legal effect of this would be zero. That is, the individual to whom this was reported would be required to say that this was irrelevant and it would have no effect on people's right to serve.

The part of my proposal that is a compromise on our part is an acceptance of the restriction that currently exists against lesbians and gay men being explicit about their sexual orientation while they are on base, on duty, etc. This would restrict gay men and lesbians from engaging in behavior while on base, etc., which gave a clear indication of their sexual orientation. It would prohibit them from being public about their sexual orientation to their colleagues at large, their superior officers, etc.

Off base and off duty, gay men and lesbians in the military would be free to act on their sexual orientation without fear that someone could report them and cause them to lose their careers. On duty they would be subject to essentially the same restrictions they are subjected to now. Thus, this does free only part of their lives, and is hardly the goal we would prefer if we had the votes to enact one.

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from Representative Frank's written explanation to the lesbian and gay community of his compromise proposal.

Unfortunately with less than two months to go before congressional committees begin voting on this, I believe we have to face a stark fact: if the choice before the Congress is instant equality or a statute which enacts the complete ban into permanent law, Congress will choose the latter.

It was for this reason that I decided to try to promote a compromise that would be far better than the very limited proposal known as "don't ask, don't tell", which proposal would have left gay men and lesbians totally unprotected for any activity they engaged in which expressed their sexual orientation on their own time, off base and off duty.

I had four criteria in trying to find a compromise. First I obviously wanted one that would give us the maximum of what we are trying to get, given that we cannot get 100%. Second, and equally important it had to be one that could be sustained by a vote of both Houses of Congress. The third one is that we find a solution which has as its logical core a recognition that gay men and lesbians were not the problem, but that the problem we were dealing with had to do with prejudice from some of the straight majority. Finally, I wanted a compromise that would leave us in a position to make further improvements.

The proposal I have advanced...is the one I think best meets these needs. What it says is essentially that the military will not ask people their sexual orientation, will not investigate them for their sexual orientation, and will pay no attention to things that happen when people are off base, off duty and out of uniform which may express their sexual orientation. In return for this, the gay men and lesbians joining the military would have to accept a restriction on their ability to express their sexual orientation while on base, in uniform or on duty. I should add explicitly that under my proposal, if someone were "reported" to the military commanders because he or she had been observed going to a gay bar, or because someone noted that he or she lived with a same sex lover, the response of the military would have to be "none of your business." That is, off base activities of gay men and lesbians would simply not be relevant to their careers. This is where my proposal differs from the "don't ask -- don't tell" proposal because under versions I have seen of that proposal, people who were seen going into a gay bar, or whose mail was read, or who are overheard talking on the phone, etc., etc., would be kicked out. In fact, until recently when a number of brave people volunteered their sexual orientation to help us in this fight, this is how the overwhelming majority of gay men and lesbians were in fact victimized. They were not people who on the whole made any declaration of their sexual orientation. They were people who were going about their business and who were spied upon on their own time, either by official investigative forces of the armed services, or by vengeful or nosy individuals. This practice would be banned.

It is also important to note that the problem is not gay men and lesbians, but the prejudice they may encounter among some straight people. That is, accepting this proposal would mean acknowledging the fact that gay men and lesbians were perfectly qualified to serve in the military, and that people who serve in the military were entirely free on their own time to live the life of a gay man or a lesbian. It makes clear that the problem is that the military believes that some significant percentage of straight people would react in a disruptive fashion to the presence of gay men and lesbians.

...I also believe that this is a first step... it is explicitly based on the assumption that the problem is not with gay men and lesbians but with the prejudice that exists against us in some elements of the straight community; and it offers us the basis for moving ahead.

.... I believe my proposal offers us the best chance to do that [integrate more fully], especially since under my proposal, there would be no statute locking in any particular set of rules, but rather a modified executive order. The alternative is a statute which takes the policy of total and complete exclusion with all of its negative symbolic, monetary, and practical implications and writes it into law. □

"DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

by Vivien Ng

How any thinking person can regard the "don't ask, don't tell" formulations (Sam Nunn's and Barney Frank's) as "reasonable compromises" is beyond me. How President Clinton, who made lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military a major campaign promise, can characterize either version as a positive step toward eliminating institutionalized discrimination is truly a stretch, even for a man as elastic as he is. How he can claim to be our friend when he states publicly that what he is striving to accomplish here is to give us a chance to serve in the military while not appearing to "endorse the gay lifestyle" is downright gall. Which goes to show that some friends can be our worst enemies.

Remember that fuss over Patricia Ireland, when she became president of NOW? I still have a drawer full of newspaper clippings from that time in December/January 1991/92. A story in *USA Today*, for example, reported that "some feminists were shocked Ireland went public with her personal life." Similarly, *Washington Post* reported that "several feminists, though none on the record, said Ireland's revelations about her personal life could reinforce a stereotype of NOW, accurate or not, as being out of step." Several leaders of women's organizations fretted privately with me that they wished Ireland would "just keep her private life private."

Statements such as "I don't care what you do in your private life as long as you don't flaunt it in public" are nothing more than fig leaves. And you know what, "liberals" are more liable to cover their homophobia with these fig leaves than outright bigots, who at least don't try to hide their true feelings.

"Keep your private life private" is the liberal community's way of saying to us: "Stay in the closet." But because they don't "get" it, and because they are so good at acting progressive, they have managed to confuse, for themselves and others, privacy with concealment. I am just about as private as any person can be. I can count on one hand the number of people in the entire state of Oklahoma who know the intimate details of my private life. But many people know that I am a lesbian. (At least a thousand, if you count just the circulation of *The Voice*.)

I bet it has happened to you, too. That when you tell people that you're a lesbian, they blanch and then stutter, "Oh, there's no need to tell us about such intimate matters." Straight people have such dirty minds, don't they?

"Don't ask, don't tell" is a formula devised by pseudo-enlightened people. It presumes that a person's sexual orientation can be compartmentalized, packaged, put in a closet. It assumes that the boundary between our public and private selves is an impenetrable wall. How else can they imagine that it is possible for a person to be "out" off base but "in" on base?

Adrienne Rich, in a talk given at Scripps College in 1984, put it very bluntly to her hosts: "Here in Claremont . . . I have often felt invisible as a lesbian. I have felt my identity as a feminist threatening to some, welcome to others; but my identity as a lesbian is something that many people would prefer not to know about. And this experience has reminded me of what I should never have let myself forget: that invisibility is not just a matter of being told to keep your private life private; it's the attempt to fragment you, to prevent you from integrating love and work and feelings and ideas, with the empowerment that that can bring."

"Don't ask, don't tell" is a public policy that seeks to disempower lesbians and gays. We will not be duped. □

PATRIOTISM

by Deborah Fox

"Patriotism: n. Love of and devotion to one's own country. Patrios - of one's fathers, patris - fatherland, pater - father." (*Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary*)

I was born in the State of Arizona of the United States of America. I am an American. My lineage is primarily Polish and Russian. My roots are European.

"America" is what white European men named this continent the natives called Turtle Island. Various European countries fought each other and the natives of this land for "rights" to this land. America, the "New World", is founded upon stolen land. Our forefathers refused to cooperate with and learn from the Native Americans, believing instead that white maleness was superior to all other peoples. Their arrogance was so great they even defaced a majestic mountain, carving their mark upon Mr. Rushmore. Our forefathers tried to destroy the Native Americans and nearly succeeded. Today, Native Americans are still being robbed of their land and their dignity.

America is a mosaic of various peoples of varying cultures and former countries. Yet the American governmental body has not reflected this. White, male supremacy dominates and everyone else is beneath their heel. This is changing, but not fast enough for my liking.

I wonder what America would be like if our forefathers had listened and learned from Chief Seattle or the countless powerful Indian women who have been erased by male supremacist literature and history texts. What would America be like if Wilma Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee Nation, were President? What would America be like if the Government was multi-racial, multi-cultural and equally gendered?

Patriotism to me, implies being loyal to and upholding the status quo: white, male domination, hierarchy, consumerism and exploitation of Earth's resources.

Patriotism definitely means separation from other countries, which alienates people of one country from people of another country. Patriotism does not promote world peace, the Oneness of all life, and global community.

"..as a woman, I have no country, as a woman I want no country, as a woman, my country is the whole world." Virginia Woolf □

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HATE CRIMES STATUE UPHELD

The U.S Supreme Court on June 11 affirmed the constitutionality of a Wisconsin state statute that enhances penalties for crimes motivated by a bias against the victim's race, religion, color, disability, national origin, ancestry or sexual orientation. The Supreme Court justices made clear that the decision in *Wisconsin v. Mitchell* differs significantly from their ruling last year in a hate speech case known as *R.A.V. v. St. Paul*. While the St. Paul ordinance punished hate speech or "messages," the Wisconsin statute allows for increased sentences when illegal conduct is motivated by bias.

"The *Wisconsin v. Mitchell* decision, and the fact that it was unanimous, is a critical victory for the lesbian and gay movement," said Martin Hiraga, NGLTF Anti-Violence Project director. "It vindicates our contention that because hate crimes are not simple assaults, but attacks against entire groups, they deserve tougher sentences."

"We hope this decision sends two messages," said Hiraga, "First, to would-be anti-gay, anti-Semitic and racist bashers - they cannot attack anyone with impunity any more. Second, to state and Federal legislators - now is the time to pass carefully-crafted and constitutionally-sound legislation to combat hate crimes."

NGLTF has been documenting anti-gay hate violence since 1982 and produces an annual report on violence, victimization and defamation against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the nation. The NGLTF Anti-Violence Project, working with activists from across the nation, has pushed for local, state and national hate crime legislation, such as the Wisconsin law and the Hate Crime Statistics Act.

When the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith filed an amicus brief in *Wisconsin v. Mitchell*, NGLTF joined it and 15 national Jewish, civil rights and law enforcement agencies in supporting the state of Wisconsin.

"Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals must now push for the passage of hate crimes penalty enhancement legislation in their own cities and states," urged Hiraga. "And wherever such laws already exist, we must constantly monitor law enforcement authorities to make sure that the laws are being implemented and used to counter hate crimes." □

A Family of Pride (continued from pg. 1)

But let us be silent no longer. Let us shout it, though fear may tell us no. Let us tell our mother, father, sister, brother. Let us tell our co-worker, our boss. At the very least, let us not laugh at another gay or lesbian joke. Realize that racism and sexism have the same elements as homophobia and cannot be tolerated.

Finally, let us come out to each other, come out for each other. Our time is ripe. This is our day. This is our year. This is our lifetime. We have been playing hide and seek. We have been playing hide and seek for our whole lives. I say: COME OUT! COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!

We need each other. The hatemongers press down hard against us, fueled by the likes of Rush Limbaugh, Jesse Helms, Phyllis Schlafly, Jerry Falwell. Don't believe them. Don't give them the time of day. We must stand tall together on the hard road ahead to achieve our simple task. Get involved with Simply Equal, Herland, Oasis. Our task is simply the right to be. Grasp it now. We are history in the making. We must not let the time pass us by. □

ZOOM BEACH

Sunday, August 1, the old tradition of Zoom Beach will be revived. The beach area at Lake Thunderbird in Norman will be open from 1 - 6 pm. Event organizers hope to attract thousands of gay men and lesbians from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas for this event, the proceeds of which will be donated to local AIDS service organizations.

Organizers will not be able to sell or give away beer, but guests will be able to bring their own beer and wine coolers as long as they are 3.2 or less, and not in glass bottles. No hard liquor is allowed. Advance ticket price for the event is \$6.00 per person until Saturday, July 31. Due to restrictions by park officials, tickets cannot be sold at the gate; they must be purchased in advance. The ticket price will include standard picnic-type fare of hot dogs, chips and watermelon. Guests are asked to bring their own soft drinks, water, etc.

Music for the event will be provided by Bryson, Inc., who has donated the Bud Light karaoke truck. The music will be a combination of top 40 and top country hits, spun by Checkerz, house deejay at Angles. Other planned activities include volleyball, horseshoes, a water balloon toss, a watermelon seed spitting contest, and a Mr. and Ms. Zoom Beach contest.

Tickets for the event, as well as for the Gay Day at Frontier City in September (see next month's *Voice* for more details) will be available at several locations throughout Oklahoma City, including Herland, Lobo's, Triangle Association, Jungle Red's, and several local bars; or by mailing a check or money order to The Gayly Oklahoman, P. O. Box 60930, OKC, OK 73146.

Children are welcome, but Park officials ask that you leave your animals at home. □

THE DINNER PARTY

Judy Chicago's famous work, *The Dinner Party*, is a 48-foot equilateral triangle set as a dining table. A series of 39 place settings tells the symbolic story of women in Western civilization. Each setting is executed in hand-painted china ceramics and needlework. The table sits on the Heritage Floor, which consists of 2,300 hand-cast, lustered porcelain tiles that bear the names of 999 more women, whose lives and work form the foundation for the achievements represented at the table. The entire work was designed by Ms. Chicago, and hundreds of artisans contributed to its execution.

After touring 14 institutions in six countries, *The Dinner Party* virtually disappeared. It is obviously a huge work of art and monumental to dismantle and move. It has come close to finding a permanent home a couple of times, but never quite made it.

If things go according to recently formulated plans, however, *The Dinner Party* will have a permanent home in New Mexico, where Ms. Chicago now lives. Members of Through the Flower, the foundation established to control *The Dinner Party's* fate, have decided to permanently house it in Santa Fe. A capital campaign will be launched next spring, about a year before the work is exhibited in Los Angeles in 1995.

"We're going to need about \$10 million for a building and an endowment," Ms. Chicago says. "Our goal is to have the facility open in the year 2000 as a symbol of women's achieving equality by the end of the millennium. But we're going to need a nationwide grassroots effort to accomplish it."

To raise money, Through the Flower is asking people to have a dinner party for *The Dinner Party*. If you want to play a part in establishing a permanent home for this important, beautiful and powerful work of art, write Through The Flower, P. O. Box 8318, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504. □

ANTI-GAY/LESBIAN INITIATIVE INTRODUCED IN MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (June 21, 1993) -- The Privacy Rights Education Project (PREP) joins with civil rights, legal, professional and religious organizations throughout the state of Missouri in expressing dismay and outrage at the introduction of an anti-gay and lesbian initiative campaign announced today, said Leah Edelman, administrative coordinator.

"This campaign clearly shows a lack of respect for basic human rights and dignity," Edelman said. "By singling out an entire class of people for different treatment under the law, The Amendment Coalition creates an environment of fear and intolerance."

At a press conference in Jefferson City today, members of The Amendment Coalition, a conservative organization headed by Kerry K. Messer of the Missouri Family Network, announced plans to begin a statewide petition drive to place on the 1994 general election ballot a constitutional amendment. If passed, the proposed amendment would deny Missouri's gay, lesbian and bisexual citizens protection from discrimination under the law. It would also void existing civil rights codes in the cities of Festus, St. Louis, Columbia and Kansas City.

"I am disappointed that any group of people would deny the basic human rights of another," said St. Louis city Alderwoman Mary Ross. Ross sponsored the city's revised civil rights code, which includes protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation, last October. The proposed amendment is similar in form and function to Amendment 2, which was considered and adopted in Colorado last year. Although enjoined from enforcement pending the outcome of a court judgement on its constitutionality, the campaign leading to Amendment 2's passage coincided with an over 400 percent increase in violence against lesbians and gay men in Colorado, and increased reports of anti-gay discrimination and defamation throughout the state.

"We are saddened that such a measure would even be considered in the state of Missouri," said Margaret Johnson, a PREP spokeswoman, "but we are not surprised. Missouri is only the latest state to be targeted by conservative activists to deprive lesbian, gay and bisexual people of their rights."

"We believe our state has far more important and immediate concerns before it, which could benefit from the talents and abilities of all of its citizens," Johnson continued. "However, The Amendment Coalition has thrown down the gauntlet, and we -- a people deeply concerned about equality of justice and opportunity -- have no option but to reluctantly pick it up and work to defeat this amendment."

"We have confidence that the citizens of the state will not support discrimination in any form, and we urge people of conscience throughout Missouri to join us in our efforts to oppose this amendment," said Edelman. □

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PREMENSTRUAL DYSPHORIC DISORDER

The Boston Women's Health Book Collective is urging women to write the American Psychiatric Association to protest its recent decision to include premenstrual syndrome as a diagnosis in its Manual of Mental Disorders. Some arguments against including "premenstrual dysphoric disorder" in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders are:

1. There is NO sound empirical basis for such a category. As many researchers have documented, enormous numbers of studies have been done, but most are profoundly flawed and certainly do not constitute evidence that there should be such a disorder. Indeed, the DSM subcommittee studying PMS reached an impasse about whether or not it should go in the handbook and took the curious step of asking two other people to review the research and decide what should be done.

2. Such a category carries social and political dangers for women.

-- At Senate confirmation hearings, job interviews, custody proceedings, and mental competence hearings women could be asked, "Have you been diagnosed as having premenstrual dysphoric disorder"?

-- There is no parallel category for men, no suggestion that the well-documented mood and behavior changes that result from variations in "male hormone" changes should be given the label of a mental illness (no "testosterone-based aggressive disorder").

-- There is no sex-blind category for mood or behavior changes caused by physiological problems.

3. Such a category carries economic dangers for women.

-- Former DSM Task Force Chair, Robert Spitzer, acknowledged in a press conference that psychiatrists have no effective treatment for PMS, so the primary effects of this category will be to pathologize women, increase the income of doctors who diagnose women as having PMS and then "treat" them, and drain insurance coffers.

For more information, contact the Boston Collective at 617/625-0277. Letters protesting the PMS designation may be written to Joseph T. English, MD, President, American Psychiatric Association, 1400 K Street N.W., Washington, DC 20005. □

ACLU UPDATE

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit accusing the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee and city officials of violating the U.S. Constitution by denying a group of lesbians and gay men a permit for a parade to commemorate its annual gay and lesbian pride day.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court by the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and the ACLU of Tennessee, also says that the City's process for obtaining parade permits violates the U.S. Constitution by not clearly defining criteria necessary to receive permission for a parade or march.

Filed on behalf of the Chattanooga Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee, the lawsuit seeks to force the City to provide a permit for the gay pride parade and seeks to require the City Council to adopt a constitutional permit application process.

"As sure as there are gay pride marches, there are attempts to silence them," said William Rubenstein, Director of the ACLU's national Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "Nearly every year we are confronted with denials of parade permits. The ACLU has litigated such cases in the past few years from Long Island to Long Beach, and we will continue to protect vigilantly the rights of lesbian and gay Americans to uncensored expressions of gay pride." □

BULLETIN BOARD

Herland will sponsor a workshop on durable power of attorney and laws which effect lesbians at 2 P.M., Saturday, July 24 at Herland. Attorney Collen Woody will present the workshop which will make participants aware of the need to plan for the future and issues to be addressed in those plans.

Dr. Cindy Chandler presents "What is Spirituality", Saturday July 3, 1993 from 12-3 P.M. at New Horizons MCC, 3136 N. Portland, OKC. Call 942-6313 for details.

The 10th Annual Pantex Pilgrimage and Peace Camp will be Friday, August 6 through Monday, August 9, at the Peace Farm across from the Pantex Nuclear Weapons Plant near Amarillo, Texas; and is sponsored by Red River Peace Network. For more information call 806/335-1715 or write HCR2, Box 25, Panhandle, Texas 79068.

NGLTF's *Lesbian Health Issues and Recommendations* includes information on access to health care, greater health risks, cancer, HIV, violence, aging, substance abuse and more. It highlights five general recommendations for the Department of Health and Human Services and dozens of specific recommendations for various government agencies and departments that oversee health issues. Copies are available from NGLTF for \$3 each. Contact: NGLTF Publications Department, 1734 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

The *Herland Voice* will address the following topics in the coming months, and all of our readers are encouraged to contribute articles, poems, photos for publication.

September, 1993: Women, work and unions
October, 1993: Violence against women
November, 1993: Women in prison
December, 1993: AIDS and women
January, 1994: Reproductive freedom

Mark your calendar now for the Herland Fall Retreat. Scheduled for September 24-25 at Lake Murray State Park, the retreat will feature an appearance by Alix Dobkin. Watch *The Voice* for more information and registration details.

Drop by Herland on July 17 for another of our great "multi-family" yard sales. There's sure to be something you just have to have -- and you'll be doing a great community service cleaning out our garage and helping to support Herland's ongoing operation.

Did you know Herland is completely operated by volunteers? The next time you stop by let the women working the center know how much you appreciate them. If you'd like to volunteer -- staffing the center, keeping the library organized, working on a committee or joining the Board -- give us a call. We'd love to have you!

A WORKSHOP FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

A Sacred Journey

RECOVERING YOUR SELF

JULY 31st - AUGUST 2nd

Friday, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
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Using the Inner Family Healing Process and other tools for balance and integration of life, together we can respectfully hear, *be with and love* the different parts of us who:

- Protect and keep us safe;
- Want to be loved, yet feel isolated and alone;
- Playfully interact with life;
- Angrily register when our needs are violated;
- Hate us;
- Love us just where we are;
- Want to die;
- Are creative, alive, sensuous and enjoy life.

"Healing and wholeness occur rapidly and effortlessly when all the parts of you who negotiated the complex process of survival are honored—their truths received."

Karla Crescenta—Colorado past participant

Sexual Abuse in any way, especially in childhood, hugely affects our access to the natural spontaneous core of our being. Join *A Sacred Journey*, a journey to self honoring, healing and wholeness.

For more information, please contact Rhonda Smith at 942-4748.
Workshop is limited to 15 people. Please register by July 25th.