

# *The* HERLAND VOICE

August, 1993

## MILITARY POLICY DENOUNCED

Simply Equal of Oklahoma City joined with lesbian and gay advocacy groups nationwide condemning the Administration's new policy on lesbians and gays in the military and pledging to continue the struggle for a complete lifting of the ban.

Simply Equal has announced plans for a town meeting to discuss the Administration's new policy and further actions to support complete lifting of the ban on lesbians and gays in the military. The town meeting will be held August 3 at 7:00 P.M. at Triangle Associates, 2136 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City.

"Simply Equal of OKC feels that the ban is unacceptable, unconstitutional, and unjust. This policy is based solely on stereotypes, prejudices, and ignorance....Simply Equal of OKC calls for an end to the ban so that all patriotic Americans have the opportunity to serve their country," according to a statement released by chapter spokespersons, Peggy Johnson and Terry Gatewood.

Thomas Stoddard, Coordinator of the Campaign for Military Service, called the new policy, "'let's pretend' -- 'lets pretend' gay people don't exist." He said the policy provides no advance for lesbian and gay service members. "In short, under the new policy, lesbian and gay service members may be gay only in the abstract -- only in their private unarticulated thoughts."

Torrie Osburn, NGLTF executive director, denounced the new policy as an unworkable codification of the current discriminatory policy. "This policy is simply a re-packaging of discrimination. It enforces the closet, which is an exhausting exercise in half truths and blatant lies."

The announcement of the new policy, "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue," prompted protests in dozens of cities. In Washington, D.C., lesbian and gay veterans and leaders of several national organizations were arrested outside the White House following a demonstration.

Tanya Domi, a former Army captain and current director of the NGLTF Military Freedom Initiative, participated in civil disobedience for the first time. She said, "I've played by the rules all my life. But today, it is my duty as a veteran and as an advocate for gay and lesbian people to engage in this act of civil disobedience."

Lesbian and gay leaders continue to call for a complete lifting of the ban. "Nothing less than a complete lifting of the ban can uphold the high constitutional standard of our country, that all people are created equal," according to Simply Equal.

*(continued page 5)*

## ALIX IS COMING!

The Herland Fall Retreat scheduled for September 24-26 will feature entertainer Alix Dobkin. The irrepressible Alix Dobkin, "goddess of womyn's music", is an international women's folk singer who consistently demonstrates humor, compassion, and intelligence.

A "feminist folkie" with impressive vocal agility, Dobkin celebrates the diversity of international lesbian culture in songs interspersed with witty political banter. Those who know her through her music and reputation are delighted that she will be Herland's guest performer at the September 25 retreat, and those in the community who were privileged to spend an evening of dinner and storytelling with her some years ago are **thrilled** at the prospect of her return to Oklahoma.

Alix will perform Saturday evening, September 25, at the Herland Fall '93 Retreat at Lake Murray. Entry to the concert is included in the Retreat Registration price. For those not registered at the retreat, concert-only admission is \$10.00.

The 1993 Fall Retreat will be held at Lake Murray State Park near Ardmore, OK. In addition to the performance by Alix Dobkin, there will be plenty of opportunity for women to have fun together, learn from each other and build community. Any one who is interested in presenting a workshop or leading a discussion is encouraged to come prepared. The workshop sign-up and schedule will be done at the retreat.

Favorite activities from previous retreats will also be a part of this retreat. Bring your musical instrument, poetry, or other talent to share in the open mike time. Saturday night will feature the famous potluck with our (and your) favorite foods. There's sure to be a campfire and campfire songs.

Send your registration now to guarantee your spot at the retreat -- it's sure to fill up fast. A registration form is included in this issue of *The Voice*. Pre-registration is required for all scholarship requests. Advance registration is also required for children. All girls and boys under 10 are may attend with their parent without additional registration costs.

Watch for the September *Voice* for more retreat details. □

**REGISTER NOW FOR HERLAND'S  
1993 FALL RETREAT  
SEPTEMBER 24-26  
LAKE MURRAY STATE PARK**

# ST. SYBIL

*St. Sybil is an occasional contributor to this space. She welcomes questions, yearnings, befuddlements, unspecified nebulous ponderings, deep queries, deep thoughts, ridiculous questions - any inquiry at all upon which an observer from a distant time station might shed illumination.*

Dear St. Sybil,

A hot topic in our community these days is "outing" - the ethics thereof, etc. What do you think about outing?

Sincerely,

Wanda Duright

Dear Ms. Duright,

Well, I try not to think about it, but when I have to, I have a lot of concerns about it. For instance, who does the outing, who is outed, what is the purpose, what is the result, who wins, who loses - that kind of thing.

When I first learned about outing, and realized that people were not talking about a picnic at Grandmother's house or a trip to the museum, I assumed that it was the vicious work of rampant homophobes, designed to destroy the lives of gay and lesbian people of fame and achievement - because I have noticed that the corner grocer or friendly low level public employee seldom achieves the dubious distinction of being outed.

Imagine my surprise to discover that outing of "lesbigay" people is inevitably (not counting the military witch hunts, of course) the work of other lesbigays. Imagine also the surprise of many of those here with me who were earthly victims of deadly pogroms and persecutions. Harriet Tubman, Matron Saint of the Ferociously Brave, assures me that she doesn't know of a single case during her lifetime where "the white side of the family," as former mayor of Atlanta and Ambassador to the United Nations Andrew Young described some of his relatives, were exposed - outed - as black by other blacks.

What is the purpose of outing? Allegedly it is to gain greater support for gays and lesbians by showing the straight world how many upstanding, mainstream people are gay; this to me is a twisted use of the valid insight that if all of the gays and lesbians in the world were to come out, the straight world would be impressed, amazed, and robbed of the capacity or desire to pass mean, malicious, homophobic laws.

But, dear Ms. Duright, everyone is not coming out en masse, and the fact is that actors who makes a living as sex objects will have their earnings and opportunities seriously impaired by the public perception of them as gay or lesbian. Politicians aspiring to high office, or low for that matter, will likely have their ambitions stifled by the public's knowledge of their homosexuality.

People in favor of outing sometimes use the argument that the closet is a miserable, unhappy place, and that people will be better off once they are out and can breathe free. Puhleeze, this is paternalistic rubbish at its oiliest. Let's let people determine

their own fate, their own progress, their own agenda, their own lives. It's one thing to throw yourself on a grenade to save your buddies, and another to throw someone else on it.

The way it looks from here, and putting the best light on it, outing is a tactic of terrorism, designed to improve the lives of many at the expense of one. (Though many here with me think it's just meanness, pure and simple). Does anyone in your time continuum really still believe that the end justifies the means? I hope not.

By the way, did you hear the one about the plane load of lesbians and gays that ran into trouble? The pilot came on the PA and announced that they were running short of fuel, and the bad news was that they were going to have to jettison five people; and the really bad news was that they had no parachutes, and needed volunteers to jump. After a moment a lanky gay Texan in a cowboy hat stood up, shouted "Remember the Alamo," and jumped out. Next, an Oklahoma lesbian stood up, shouted "Viva Amelia Earhart," and jumped out. After a few moments of stunned silence and appreciation, a Queer Nation member from New York stood up, shouted "No more hiding in closets!" - and tossed out two movie stars and a US Senator.

Best wishes for being happily and voluntarily out,  
Sybil

Dear St. Sybil,

I'm involved with a wonderful woman, warm, passionate, kind, funny and smart, and we are thinking of moving in together and committing to each other, but there's one thing that really bothers me: I *never* get to touch the tv remote control. She seems to think that control of the damn thing is her birthright or something. Can you give me some good ideas on how to change this situation?

Thank you,  
Patsy

Dear Patsy,

Well now, honey, I suggest that you just get over it, right now. There are only two kinds of people in the world, you know, those who are always going to control the remote and most everything else, and those who like you are basically along for the ride. (You never got to control the remote even when it was just you and your kids, did you now.) So you have two options: you can fret and burn and harbor little resentments and one day kick her and the damn remote *and* the horse she rode in on out the door and down the street, or you can relax, put your feet up (she might rub them) and save your energy for more important things; like running for the school board, organizing a new chapter of Simply Equal, or figuring out what to get her for her birthday. Be glad you found each other.

Love and kisses,

Sybil

□

SIMPLY EQUAL-OKC

LIFT THE BAN TOWN MEETING

7:00 P.M., Aug. 3

2136 N.W. 39

# BACKLASH

by Vivien Ng

I have been in New York for three full weeks already. I have seen three movies and one Broadway play (*Angels in America*), been to three museums and a botanical garden, so I should be in a good mood today. But I am not. Current events have overwhelmed me.

A friend from DC came to visit and brought with her a copy of the *Private Eye Weekly*, a Salt Lake City newspaper. The front page told a stark and frightening story: "Farr From Over," about the firing of a professor at Brigham Young University because of her politics. According to the report, Cecilia Konchar Farr incurred the wrath of Mormon church elders and the university administration with her "anti-abortion but pro-choice political stance" and her advising a group of student feminists on the BYU campus.

A call this morning from a women's studies professor at Penn State deepened my sense of doom and gloom. She related a harrowing tale of two years of relentless harassment and out-of-context attacks on her and the Women's Studies Program by a well-funded conservative student-run newspaper. The university administration had been at best only lukewarm in their support for Women's Studies and women on campus. She asked: "Isn't there something the National Women's Studies Association can do to fight this backlash?"

The *New York Times* reports that two Clinton nominees are in trouble with the right wing. Dr. Tara J. O'Toole's confirmation by the Senate as Assistant Secretary for Energy is no longer assured, because she has come under intense scrutiny for her membership in a study group, Northeast Feminist Scholars. Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Surgeon-General designate, has come under increasingly hostile attack from the religious right for her pro-choice views and outspoken support for school-based clinics and sex education. Her confirmation hearing has been postponed. (I hope that by the time this issue of the *Voice* reaches your mailbox the Senate has come to its senses and moved to confirm both of them.)

This litany of feminist woes continues: The House of Representatives voted to reauthorize the Hyde Amendment, even though pro-choice activists had expected a very different outcome. So, although the Amendment was modified slightly to make exceptions for rape or incest, poor women in the U.S. will continue to be denied the same access to abortion as their middle-class sisters.

Much of the backlash has been in evidence for years; there's even a national bestseller on the subject, so why am I feeling so blue? Like so many of my fellow travelers, I was ecstatic over the results of the election last November. Finally, I have voted for a winner for a change and, more important, someone whose position on many key issues is (read was) compatible with mine. I have allowed myself to dream about greater changes to come: passage of the lesbian and gay civil rights act; the end to sinister exploitation of racism, sexism, and homophobia; the repeal of the Hyde Amendment; the passage of a "clean" Freedom of Choice Act, etc., etc.

What has happened since is nothing short of betrayal. The about-face with regard to Haitian boatpeople, the timid handling of the ban on lesbians and gays in the military, the long delay in appointing an AIDS czar, the abandoning of Lani Guinier, etc., etc. all spelled unprincipled politics as usual. I have since scraped off my Clinton/Gore bumper sticker.

There is enough blame to spread around. When Lani Guinier was nominated, for example, mainstream women's groups did not immediately mobilize to support her. Unlike the quick response to the nominations of Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, when grassroots activists were immediately contacted to lobby against them, there had been only a disturbing silence. The unexpected vote to reauthorize the Hyde Amendment, according to a number of irate Congresswomen, was a result of failure in Congressional leadership, which did not recognize the latent class bias of many of the so-called pro-choice lawmakers.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg pointed out on the first day of Senate hearings to confirm her nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court that after the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, pro-choice groups became complacent. How true. Mainstream groups did not mobilize when the Hyde Amendment was first passed. Their middle class bias clouded their vision and allowed the religious right to chisel away at a woman's right to have an abortion until almost too late. I do hope that we have learned a hard lesson from history and not fall prey to easy (and seductive) complacency. □

## WE SHARE A DREAM

The 30th Anniversary of the 1963 civil rights March on Washington, which featured Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic "I Have A Dream" speech, will be marked by another March on Washington, to take place on August 28, 1993. The New Coalition of Conscience will convene a massive march and rally at the Lincoln Memorial to renew the call for jobs, justice, and peace. NGLTF is one of the co-conveners of the March, and is coordinating a contingent of gay and lesbian marchers to join this unprecedented coalition.

To find out more about the March on Washington Mobilization, call their Southeast office at 404-526-8995 or 404-524-1956. To participate in the lesbian and gay contingent, call Linda Yanney at 202-332-6483. □

## OKLAHOMA NOW NEWS

Oklahoma NOW is organizing a phone tree to be used during the legislative session when bills of critical importance to women come before Congress and the Oklahoma state legislature. Six to eight times a year, the phone tree will be activated to inform members of important legislative votes or other important events, so that calls and letters from their constituents will get their elected officials' attention. If you would like to be a member of this phone tree, send your name and telephone number to Laura Rhodes, NOW Legislative Coordinator, 1009 Missouri Avenue, Norman OK 73071). □

# DEAR BILL: SO WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR US LATELY?

by Carol Wheller and Abby Hirsch

Well, quite a lot, come to think about it. But why, then, have so many of us felt so bitterly disappointed? We've seen retreats here, concessions there. But maybe we're looking at this wrong. Maybe we're at fault. Maybe we've been sitting back and expecting one man to change a whole Congress and a whole country.

Maybe we're playing into the hands of the Doles and the Nunnans and the Borens and the editors of The New York Snides when we put you down.

It's been a long time since anyone has taken on the issues you have. They're incredibly complicated, divisive, important issues and it's no surprise you haven't won them all.

Actually trying to make the economy work for anyone but the rich, for instance--when was the last time anyone did that? The previous twelve years saw even Democrats raising taxes on the middle class and letting the rich get away with untold boodle. They said you didn't fight hard enough for your plan. (Meanwhile, what did we do?)

Taking on the banks: You dared to suggest that banks shouldn't be making money on young people's struggle for education. And it looks like enough in Congress might be persuaded to agree to help lower the burden of debt on the nation's graduates.

And the issue of gays in the military--because you pushed the issue from the beginning, the level of public consciousness about homosexuality has risen enormously, as has acceptance. In fact, it looks like people are beginning to come around on the issue, beginning to wonder just what the big deal is. Didn't these guys know there were going to take a lot of showers and spend a lot of nights with other guys when they joined up? Is that maybe one reason they did join up (but they would rather not think about it)?

Things you've been able to do with the fabled stroke of the pen, you've done, and fast: repealed the gag rule; approved the importation of RU486; reversed the Mexico City policy that restricted aid to international family planning programs; lifted the ban on fetal tissue research and the ban on women having abortions in military hospitals abroad; appointed the first woman attorney general and nominated the second woman associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Other things we have now that we'd almost given up hope for: The Family Leave Act and the NIH Reauthorization Act (with the historic provisions on women's health research) and the Motor Voter Bill--you fought for them and you signed them into law.

Pamela Maraldo, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, says you've "launched a new era in American health care." Texas Governor Ann Richards says, "We have not had a leader in Washington for more than a

decade that understands the obvious fact that 'Women's Issues' are the issues that affect a majority of Americans. President Clinton not only understands...he has acted upon it."

Could it be that DeeDee Myers is right when she says of your administration, "We have done more for women's rights in the last 100 days than happened in the last twelve years. Sometimes our achievements get lost in a wave of negativity."

And then there are the not-so-little things, like the White House dress code: "They let us wear trousers to work now; it makes a big difference," says Kim Wood, White House intern. And the White House club code unequivocally demands that staffers resign from organizations with the slightest taint of discrimination. And, of course, the White House correspondence code; it's kind of disarming, Bill, that when you answer a letter, you start it, "Dear Carol and Abby".

**So What's Bugging Us?** The way you sometimes raise our hopes only to let them come crashing to the ground. Whenever you nominate a "first woman"--or a second or a third--for Justice or another high office, all of us shine with reflected glory. Then sometimes you or your staff let her down, or worse, blame her for other's errors, or worst, attack her writings for things they didn't say or that you should have known. Then we are all humiliated, because these women are our champions. (We feel sorry for Judge Breyer, but we view the constituency as less vulnerable.)

If you'll take this to heart, we'll try to stop carping, stop saying you're not fighting hard enough, and pick up our rolling pins and join the battle. And then, dear Bill, maybe we can say, All is forgiven (for now).

Reprinted from *Getting It Gazette*.

Talking frankly woman-to-woman is what the *Getting It Gazette* does best. All current contributors of \$35 or more receive all 1993 issues. Send contributions to: *Getting It Gazette*, 451 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011. Telephone 212/229-0763 Fax 0758. □

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## FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS IMPORTANT TO WOMEN

Three bills providing international assistance were approved by the House of Representatives in June. All three -- the foreign aid authorization and foreign operations appropriations bills and the State Department authorization bill-- contain provisions aiding women in developing nations.

One of the key provisions would provide funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The largest multi-lateral provider of family planning services in the developing world, UNFPA has not received U. S. funds since 1985. The Reagan Administration withdrew funding because UNFPA operates in China, which has been accused of involuntarily sterilizing women and performing coercive abortions. The Clinton Administration supports refunding UNFPA, and asked for \$50 million for the program in its fiscal 1994 budget.

Under the State Department authorization bill, which was approved June 22, UNFPA would be eligible for \$50 million. However, nearly \$14 million of that amount would be withheld unless UNFPA withdraws from China. The foreign operations appropriations bill, approved June 17, includes the additional stipulation that none of the funds for UNFPA be released until March 1, unless UNFPA ends its operations in China before that date.

The foreign aid authorization bill, approved by the House on June 16, authorizes \$395 million for family planning and population programs, while the appropriations bill provides \$392 million in actual spending, \$42 million more than last year, and only slightly less than President Clinton's request of \$400 million. The appropriations bill funds the migration and refugee assistance program at the Department of State at \$670 million, up from \$620, and includes language supporting staff training programs for staff who work with refugees identifying and addressing the needs of refugee women.

Included in the State Department authorization bill is language, authored by Rep. Olympia Snowe, Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, addressing women's human rights and the needs of female refugees. The bill urges the State Department to designate a senior level official to promote the issue of international women's human rights within the overall human rights policy of the U.S. In addition, the bill requires the State Department to address specific concerns of refugee women, including protection of women refugees, maternal and child health, education and training for refugee women, staff training programs on women refugees, and involving women refugees in planning and implementing the delivery of services. An estimated 80 percent of refugees around the world are women and children.

The Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Terrorism, Narcotics and International Operations approved its version of the State Department bill on June 29, but without the refugee or human rights language. However, such language is likely to be added as an amendment when the full Foreign Relations Committee takes up the bill in July.

*Reprinted from Update On Women and Family Issues In Congress, VOL. 13 NO. 6, June 29, 1993.* □

## BAN DENOUNCED

*(continued from page 1)*

Stoddard pledged, "The debate will continue. The struggle will endure. And the ultimate goal will be realized: eventually, completely and universally, lesbians and gay men will achieve their right to equal treatment in the armed forces of the United States.

"This issue will not go away, and the gay and lesbian movement will not go away," Domi said. "This capitulation to bigotry will not deter our struggle for equality and fairness. The 'don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue' policy is completely unacceptable. We will fight the policy in the streets, in the courts, and in Congress. We will not end this battle until we attain justice."

The Senate Armed Services Committee has included policy to continue the ban on lesbians and gays in the military in the \$262 billion defense budget under consideration. The legislation includes language opposing homosexuality and providing for discharge of a service member who engages or attempts to engage in a homosexual act, states verbally or non-verbally that they are homosexual or marries or tries to marry someone of the same sex. The full Senate is expected to consider the defense budget before it leaves for summer recess on August 9. □

## CREATING CHANGE UPDATE

Scholarships for NGLTF's Creating Change Conference, to be held in Durham, North Carolina, are available to assist limited-income activists, activists of color, and activists with disabilities. The scholarship application deadline is September 10 (student deadline is September 24). To receive an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Creating Change 1993 at NGLTF, 1734 14th St. NW, Washington DC 20009. Apply early. Funds are limited.

To make a contribution to the Creating Change Scholarship Fund or for any other information about Creating Change 1993, contact Ivy Young, Director of Creating Change, at 202-332-6483, ext. 3304. □

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our loses during the May 8th flood.**

**Pam & Chris**

## ELEANOR ROOSEVELT - Vol 1: 1884-1933

by Blanche Wiesen Cook  
Published by Penguin Books

Reviewed by Carol White

For Mother's Day this year I received three pair of men's gold toe socks, an ancient coin to add to my collection, and my very own paperback edition of *Eleanor Roosevelt - Vol 1: 1884-1933* by Blanche Wiesen Cook. I *won't* share my socks, I'll let you *see* the coin (no touching), but I *want* to let everyone share in appreciating Eleanor Roosevelt!

Cook presents by far the most thoroughly researched look at E.R. (Eleanor Roosevelt) to date. Don't be put off by it's length of 500 pages or the \$14.00 price sticker. The book is most worthy of your investment of time and money. Wrapped in an intriguingly warm style, Cook's writing flows with candor and savvy.

With great ease I could give a lengthy litany on each chapter of the book. Briefly, among the most notable are the relationships E.R. had with Marie Souvestre (founder of Allenswood, a progressive feminist "finishing" school in England), Ester Lape and her life-partner Elizabeth Read (impressive political activists), and Nancy Cook and her life-partner Marion Dickerman (Cook was a potter, jeweler, photographer, and carpenter; Dickerman was an educator and political activist).

Skillful and touching is the author's handling of the impact of Lorena Hickok on the life of E.R. Long "suspected" as a lesbian affair, Blanche Wiesen Cook, with intuitive accuracy, discusses the realities of the relationship. Gently reminding the reader that physical intimacy is never the be-all and end-all of love shared between women, Blanche Wiesen Cook elevates the decency of privacy. There are no "scandal sheet" details spewed forth here. There needn't be.

A few months ago, I saw Blanche Wiesen Cook interviewed on C-SPAN. She was rather unassuming and very witty at times. Yet, when asked a difficult or seemingly trivial detail about E.R., she at once let the audience know they were in the presence of the world's leading authority on the life and times of Eleanor Roosevelt. Close to the end of the interview Cook was asked about the dedication she gives very humbly at the beginning of the book. She replied that the book is dedicated to Clare M. Coss, her life-partner of more than 20 years. (Stirrings of pride and shrieks of joy rattled the rafters in my living room at that nonchalant reply!)

I wish Cook's E.R. Vol. II was already in print. Perhaps it will be by next Mother's Day. You can bet I'll let you know. □

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## HOUSE APPROVES DISEASE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION BILLS

With an overwhelming majority supporting the measures, the House easily passed three bills in June authorizing funds for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to administer programs important for women's health. On June 14, the House passed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Amendments of 1993 (H.R. 2202) and the Injury Prevention and Control Amendments of 1993 (H.R. 2201). The following week, on June 21, the House approved H.R. 2203, legislation reauthorizing a program for the prevention and control of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

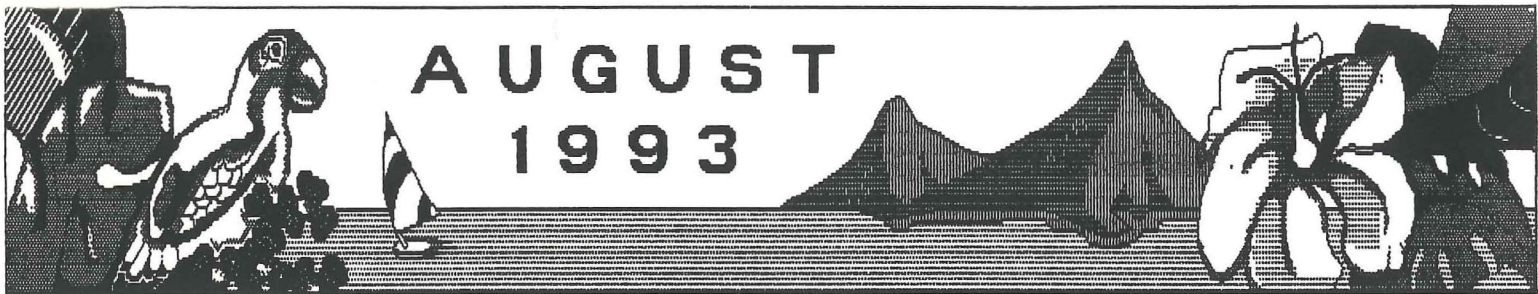
H.R. 2202 extends for five years the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act which authorizes state programs to provide mammograms and pap smears for low-income women. Currently, 12 states have funding for comprehensive screening programs and an additional 18 states are in the planning stages. The bill authorizes \$135 million for the program in fiscal 1994, nearly \$50 million above President Clinton's request for the program.

Included in H.R. 2202 are several new provisions to improve and expand the breast and cervical cancer prevention programs. Due to concerns that Native American women are not being adequately served by this program, language in the bill allows tribes and tribal organizations to apply for funds. In addition, H.R. 2202 sets aside \$3 million in 1994 for three demonstration projects to provide to women additional preventive health services. Such additional services include screening for high blood pressure, cholesterol, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The Injury Prevention and Control Amendments add provisions to the current CDC injury control program designed to improve the treatment and prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. Modeled on legislation introduced by Reps. Jim McDermott, Constance Morella, and Mike Kreidler, H.R. 2201 authorizes CDC to collect data, evaluate prevention efforts, and establish hospital-based demonstration projects to identify and treat victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, the bill calls for public education projects on the health consequences of domestic violence. Speaking in support of H.R. 2201, Rep. Kreidler noted, "among the people who do not understand the connection between violence and public health are our health care providers. It is time to break the silence surrounding these issues of victimization and get women the help they need." H.R. 2201 authorizes \$50 million for the program for FY 94.




The Sexually Transmitted Diseases Amendments of 1993, funds states to continue providing STD prevention and control programs which primarily screen for STDs, such as chlamydia and gonorrhea. Authorized at \$80 million in fiscal 1994, the program is of particular importance to women and infants who are at high risk of suffering infertility, infant mortality and birth defects because of STDs.

Reprinted from *Update On Women and Family Issues In Congress*, VOL. 13 NO. 6, June 29, 1993. □



# AUGUST 1993

Doc Herland says, Ohmigosh, we've got Alix Dobkin coming in September, a Harvest Moon Ball in October, and then just guess who'll be here November 18th! Well, Doc's not telling, but save the date; you'll be glad you did.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Zoom Beach	2	3 Simply Equal 7 pm Triangle Associates	4	5	6 CoDA, 7 pm	7 MARY REYNOLDS at Rose State Tom Steed Center 6 pm
8	9	10 Simply Equal 7 pm Herland	11  MISS BROWN TO YOU at VZD's 8:45 p.m.	12	13 CoDA, 7 pm	14  PEGGY JOHNSON 9 PM at the Grateful Bean 10th & Walker
15 HERLAND BOARD MEETING 4:30 pm	16	17 Simply Equal 7 pm Herland	18	19	20 CoDA, 7 pm	21
22	23	24 Simply Equal 7 pm Herland	25	26	27 MARY REYNOLDS at the Country Coffee in Tyler, TX # CoDA, 7 pm	28  PEGGY JOHNSON 9 PM at the Grateful Bean
29	30	31 Simply Equal 7 pm Herland	<div data-bbox="779 1480 1518 1648" data-label="Text"> <p>Lucy Stone, August 13, 1819 - 1893. US reformer, campaigner for women's rights, and fervent abolitionist. She helped to found the American Woman Suffrage Association in 1869 and edited its magazine <u>Woman's Journal</u> from 1870 -1893.</p> </div>			

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# NEVADA SODOMY LAW REPEALED

Nevada Governor Bob Miller signed into law a bill to repeal Nevada's sodomy statute on June 16, 1993. This marks the first legislative repeal of a sodomy law since 1986 when the U.S. supreme Court ruled in *Bowers v. Hardwick* that homosexual sodomy is not constitutionally protected.

First-year Nevada state senator Lori Lipman Brown introduced the bill to repeal the sodomy law in the state senate on May 13, 1993. The 82-year-old law was previously amended in 1977 to apply to sexual activity between members of the same sex only.

Judy Corbisiero of Nevadans for Constitutional Equality said, "This effort proved that when the gay community in northern and southern Nevada pull together we can make things happen."

After a grueling lobbying effort, the repeal measure passed both chambers by more than a two to one ratio. Lee Plotkin, a member of the Law Vegas Lesbian and Gay Pride committee who also lobbied for the repeal, said "We developed a formula to make this effort work. If it can work in Nevada, it can work anywhere." □

## GLAAD NOTES

**The Right Fight:** To assist in the fight against bigotry, People for the American Way has published *An Abridged Guide to Right Wing Activity in 1993 at the Grassroots Level*. This concise intelligence guide is a state-by-state listing of targets in the "Religious" Right's war on civil liberties. Many of the listings highlight anticipated attacks on multicultural textbooks, sex and AIDS education programs, and "anti-family" school board policies. The entertainment industry is also on the hit list, as are art exhibits and other forums for creative expression. For more information, write to People For the American Way, 2000 M Street, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036. □

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# WOMEN'S HEALTH

A new report from the Nurses' Health Study found that women who quit smoking quickly lower their risk of having a stroke (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, Jan 13., 1992: 232-236). Based on a twelve-year survey of the health of 117,006 women, the researchers found that within two to four years of quitting, former smokers have the same relative risk of developing a stroke as women who have never smoked. About half of all deaths from stroke in women under the age of 65 are estimated to be caused by smoking.

Info from *Women's Health Now*, Volume 1, No. 2. □

## GOOD NEWS FROM COLORADO

The State Supreme Court of Colorado has upheld a temporary injunction of Amendment 2 that prevents Amendment 2 from taking effect until the trial on the constitutionality of the Amendment can be heard in October in Judge Jeffrey Bayless' District Court in Denver. Judge Bayless had issued an injunction in February, saying there was a right "not to have the state give sanction to private biases."

The State Supreme Court also upheld Bayless' criterion that the State must show a compelling interest in order to discriminate by enforcing Amendment 2. This is the strictest criterion the U.S. Supreme Court allows for any kind of discrimination (usually reserving it for race and religion), and makes it highly unlikely that the Amendment will be found Constitutional.

The State Supreme Court, according to news reports, agreed that it is unlikely that Amendment 2 can meet the strict test of compelling interest. The Colorado Supreme Court would be the court to which the loser in Bayless' upcoming decision will try to appeal.

Colorado State Attorney Gale Norton is appealing the injunction to the U.S. Supreme Court and has asked Judge Bayless to postpone the trial on the constitutionality of Amendment 2 while the U.S. Supreme Court considers the injunction. The filing would be in mid-September with a ruling possible in July, 1994. If Bayless refuses to postpone his trial, the state will likely appeal that refusal to the Colorado Supreme Court.

A legal expert said the chances might not be good because Amendment 2 hasn't had a full trial. "That's a strong factor against the likelihood of review," said Richard Collins, a University of Colorado law professor and constitutional law specialist.

What the state seems afraid of is that they are required to prove "compelling governmental interest" in enacting and enforcing Amendment 2. Except for the American Constitutional Law Foundation (ACLF), the conservative legal group that helped write Amendment 2 and claimed that the language will pass Constitutional muster, many legal experts are saying that the state burden of proof is overwhelming. □

# BULLETIN BOARD

**Classified:** Single working mother of 10-year old daughter wishes to share housing with non-smoking woman or women in similar circumstances in Putnam City or Yukon school districts. I value shared expenses as well as my own privacy. Experienced in community living. Please leave message at Herland, 521-9696.

The White House is moving into the Information Age. President Clinton and Vice-President Gore now have e-mail addresses. The Internet address for President Clinton is **PRESIDENT@WHITEHOUSE.GOV** and for Vice-President Gore is **VICE.PRESIDENT@WHITEHOUSE.GOV**. Electronic mail can be sent to Internet addresses from Compuserve and almost all online communications services. Check with your service to find out how to send mail to the Internet.

Thanks to all the Porthole family for a great "Christmas in July" benefitting the Legal Defense Fund.

The 3rd International Conference on Sexual Assault on Campus will be held October 7-9 in Nashville, Tennessee. Sponsored by the Safe Schools Coalition, the conference seeks to bring individuals, campus organizations and community institutions together to address efforts to reduce the magnitude of sexual assault; programs for meeting the needs of survivors; school policies, government, and law enforcement needs. For information: Sexual Assault Conference, P.O. Box 1338, Holmes Beach, FL 34219; phone 1-800-537-4903.

Submissions of poetry and line drawings by black lesbians and gay men sought by Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083; (310)410-0808.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Barbara Streisand and Glenn Close are producing a made-for-TV movie based on the true story of Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who served for 26 years as one of the highest-ranking women in the armed services before being expelled four-years ago after revealing she was a lesbian. The movie, which will star Glenn Close, is scheduled to air in the fall of 1994.

*The Family Next Door*, a national newsletter to help lesbian and gay parents celebrate the joys and conquer the challenges of parenting, is coming out in August. Each edition will include information about education, health, family planning, social and legal issues and much more. To subscribe call (510)482-5778 or write Next Door Publishing, P.O. Box 21580, Oakland, CA 94620.

Herland Sister Resources presents

## 1993 FALL RETREAT FOR WOMEN

SEPTEMBER 24-26  
LAKE MURRAY STATE PARK

Single Person's Annual Income	Retreat Pre-registration per person	Household Annual Income
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 guidelines. On-site registration will be \$60 and with no exceptions. The deadline for pre-registration is September 20, 1993. Registration is non-refundable after September 22.

Complete and return the pre-registration form to Herland, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee enclosed:  \$15  \$25  \$35  \$60  I need a scholarship to attend.

I'm enclosing an additional \$\_\_\_\_\_ to provide retreat scholarships.

I'm bringing \_\_\_\_\_ children.

I would like to ride with someone.  I can help provide rides to the retreat.