



CALADONIA

VOLUME I, No. 3

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

MARCH 5, 1982

Anti-Reagan Rally Planned by AFL-CIO

by Jana B.

OKLAHOMA CITY-

A large rally to protest Pres. Reagan's economic and political policies is being planned by the AFL-CIO for the day of the scheduled presidential visit to the Oklahoma Legislature March 16th.

Rally organizers say the objective of the protest is to let Reagan and the Oklahoma legislature know that many people oppose "Reagonomics". Joe Johnson, local AFL-CIO leader, said that Reagonomics is "for the wealthy and not the workers or the poor."

Organizers plan to hold the rally on the south steps of the capitol simultaneously with Reagan's speech to the legislature, tentatively schedules for 11 am, Tuesday, March 16.

Several organizations have applied to join the AFL-CIO

rally, including the American Agriculture Movement, National Organization of Women, NAACP, A. Phillips Randolph Institute (a Black labor organization), American Federation of Teachers, the Central Indian Alliance, and Disabled American Veterans.

ERA "HELD HOSTAGE"

While the Tulsa World calls it 'buried alive', ERA workers here in OKC refer to the ERA as 'held hostage' and are asking supporters throughout the state to wear green ribbons as a reminder of the ERA's status in Oklahoma.

Ruth Adams, Project Director of the statewide ERA Countdown Campaign, said that legislators are 'thwarting the people's will, as reflected in polls, by refusing another vote on ERA.'

Dan Draper, Speaker of the House, has repeatedly stated

that he felt there was no point in bringing the issue to a vote in the House, in view of its defeat in the Senate. As a result, Draper has refused to bring the issue out of the House Rules Committee and up before a vote of the Chamber at large.

Technically, the ERA is alive, since it is still in committee in both the House and Senate, but since legislative support has diminished, the chances of the ERA being brought up for a vote again before the June 30 deadline look slim.

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Karen DeCrow and Phyllis Schlafly recently debated the ERA on the Richard Hogue Weekdays program on OKC's channel 25. The audience, dressed in greens and reds, was caught up in the fiery confrontation.

Photos by Jana B.



NEWS BRIEFS

LESBIAN LOSES APPEAL

OKLAHOMA CITY--The Oklahoma Supreme Court, in a precedent-setting ruling, refused early this month to restore child custody rights to a Tulsa lesbian. The high court's ruling establishes homosexual activity as legitimate grounds for changing child custody.

The Supreme Court ruling upholds Judge David Winslow's decision to return the four-year-old boy to his father, as a result of his mother's lesbian relationship. The court said Winslow was justified in changing his earlier child custody order because of the potentially detrimental effects the mother's homosexual relationship could have on her son's emotional well-being.

SUNBELT RETIRES

OKLAHOMA CITY--The Sunbelt Alliance retired this month after almost four years of anti-nuclear activism. The Alliance, which was formed in 1978 to fight the construction of the Black Fox nuclear plant, announced their retirement after an announcement by the Public Service Organization that construction on Black Fox had been suspended. P.S.O. cited economic problems as the reason for closing the Black Fox plant, but sources in the Sunbelt Alliance claim that a non-receptive political climate was a major factor in the P.S.O. decision.

JUDGE CALLS CHILD "SEDUCTRESS"

Lancaster, Wisc.---Parents are petitioning to recall Circuit Court Judge William Reineck, due to remarks he made during the trial of 24 year old Ralph Snodgrass and his alleged "seductress", a 5 year old girl.

"I am satisfied we have an unusually sexually permissive young lady, and he (the defendant) did not know enough to refuse," the Judge said. "No way do I believe

Mr. Snodgrass initiated sexual contact," Reineck stated, and called the 5 year old "the aggressor" in the sexual assault.

---"The National NOW Times"

NEW NEWSPAPER OPENS

NORMAN, OK.--The Oklahoma Free Press announces their first issue March 15. The Free Press wishes to provide Oklahomans with an alternate news service which will utilize both national news sources and local commentators.

Some issues of special interest to the Free Press are civil rights, human rights, the economy, the environment, and government spending. The Press will accept "copy-ready" articles, photographs, and drawings. Legitimate organizations and special interest groups may submit a copy-ready newsletter for free publication. If your article is of a controversial nature it must also be factual and documented. For more information call 329-1844/329-2798, or write Oklahoma Free Press, P.O. Box 1262, Norman, Ok. 73070

CALENDER

MARCH 6

SHARON RIDDELL CONCERT

Sharon Riddell, a feminist, vocalist/musician/songwriter will be appearing in Norman at O.U.'s Dale Hall (rm 211) on March 6th at 7:30 p.m.. The concert is being produced by "Let's Talk Women" and all proceeds will go toward Oklahoma's "Second Annual Music Festival" to be held later this year. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from Barbara (672-6459), Tonia (528-4494), or Roxanna (848-3058).

MARCH 11

BOOKSTORE, BHR BENEFIT

The Brazen Hussy Rag and La Salle des Femmes-a special bookstore are co-sponsoring a fund-raising "Coming Out Party" at D.J.'s Thursday, March 11, from 7-11p.m. Live entertainment will include Bonnie Houghton, Cate Cannon and Brette Baldwin. "Grog and Grub" will be available, and the cover charge will be \$2.00.

MARCH 19 & 20

WOMEN & MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

(University of Oklahoma)
Organized by the Women's Studies Program and the Women's Resource Center of Norman, sponsored by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council, the

COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FORMS

NORMAN, OKLA. ---A new organization has formed in Norman with the goal of providing an information resource. The Coalition for Social Justice currently has publications available concerning NOW activities, feminist groups, and political organizations. This information can be picked up at the VVAW office, room 304 of Ellison Hall, University of Oklahoma.

The Coalition is currently seeking people who will volunteer their cars to take riders to Oklahoma City to greet President Reagan when he arrives at the State Capitol March 16.

While the organization is based on the OU campus, members urge the general populace to make use of the new facility.

Anyone wanting further information, or willing to volunteer a car should contact Neal at 364-6310 or Kathy at 364-5785

conference will focus on women's problems in mental health, with special emphasis on analysis of the feminine role and its effects on the mental health of women.

Keynote speaker will be Phyllis Chessler, author of "Women And Madness". Chessler will speak at 8 pm on Friday March 19, OCCE Forum at Timberdale & Asp in Norman. Other topics include: alcoholism, older women, loneliness, sexuality, stress, holistic health, ethnic lifestyles, mid-life crisis and lesbianism.

Registration is \$2 (covers cost of childcare for the conference). Academic credit is also available. For info, call Elaine Barton, Women's Studies Program, 325-3481.

MARCH 26

ARTEMIS HOUSE COFFEEHOUSE

A good turn-out has prompted the return engagement of Artemis Coffee house. The next coffee house scheduled is from 7-10p.m. Friday, March 26th in the ninth floor lounge of Dale Hall Tower at the University of Oklahoma.

Among scheduled entertainment are two fiddlers, a poet and a singer. Refreshments will be sold by the Lovelight Bakery. The coffee house is a co-operative venture between the Norman Women's Resource Center and Women's Studies Department at O.U. Everyone is welcome!

Film Review

On Golden Pond

OK - I do love Kate Hepburn and I do respect Henry Fonda and well, it was nice seeing Jane's assets in a skimpy bikini and don't forget the pretty scenery and the jes' folks attitude of the film and oh, the splashy opening, too, but I still wasted four bucks on something that could have flown on TV. On the big screen it never took off.

Why? Well-there was no plot and the characters, while flawlessly acted were poor characterizations. For those of you who don't believe me, an example: All throughout the movie we hear Chelsea (Jane Fonda) talk of some conflict with Norman (Henry Fonda). We never hear Norman's side, only Chelsea's. We see at the end of the movie that a simple back-flip was all that was

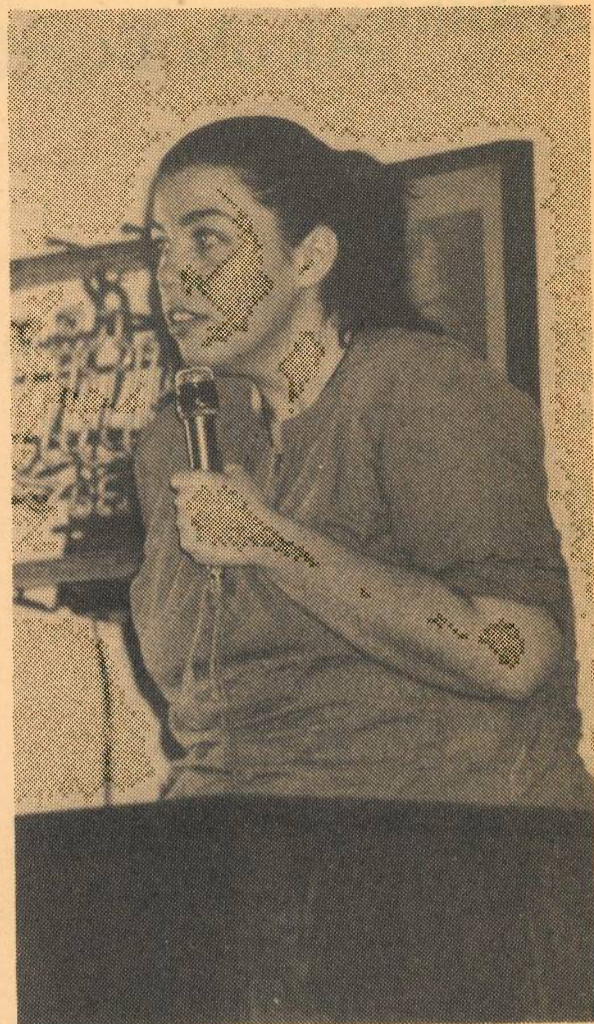
needed to end the conflict between them.

The relationships between Chelsea and her mother and Norman and Chelsea's step-son were both vacuous. In fact, a kind of pretty vacuity is the hallmark of this film.

As viewers, we were assaulted with every cheap shot the "Hollywood Film Machine" could throw at us. Cheap sentimentality pretentious realism, affected romanticism has pervaded most scenes. From technically beautiful but overused nature scenes to melodramatic "meaningful moments" the film floundered in a cesspool of syrupy-sweet writing.

In the grandest Hollywood tradition this film will probably walk off with all the Academy Awards. For those of us who care about quality in films, we can only hope.

-JR



Artemis House Opens to Enthusiastic Crowd

Approximately sixty people attended the first women's coffeehouse to be held in the Oklahoma City area. Sponsored by the Women's Resource Center and the Norman Women's Community, the coffeehouse was held in Norman on February 15.

"Response was excellent", said Johnna Rogers, a member of the planning committee. Entertainment was provided both in the form of live music and poetry readings, and the crowd seemed quite enthused by

both. Sunny Day, a local woman songwriter and musician, sang her original compositions a cappella. The result was surprising: an exceptionally warm performance by a very talented lady. The lack of accompaniment was not seen as a lack at all.

Poetry was provided by Myra Fourwinds and read by Johnna Rogers. Although the lecture-hall atmosphere of the location didn't help in the communication of poetic sentiment, Ms. Rogers

did a very fine job.

The coffeehouse concept was first initiated with the plan of providing an alcohol-free atmosphere for women to come together and share ideas, talents and time. In this writer's opinion, the coffeehouse was a success on all counts.

Coffeehouse organizers are planning to bring a wider range of entertainers to next month's fest, and to provide a more open, less rigid setting.

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SHARON
RIDDELL

DALE HALL
room 211

MARCH 6, 7:30 p.m.

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Based on our experience of the first Artemis House Coffeehouse, we strongly urge all women to come to the next one, and to bring their friends.

EDITORIALS

Lesbian/Alcoholic

by Jo

"Hi! My name is Jo and I'm an alcoholic.

I find myself saying those words alot lately, and it's somewhat strange since I spent so long trying to deny them.

This article will not give an account of the ruin and destruction that alcohol brought to my life. I never lost a job because of drinking. I was never arrested for drunk driving. I did not lose my child, my home, my credit, or my friends. I have learned, however, that there aren't any "never's" in my life - only "not yet's". All of the above can happen. To make sure that it will, I need only drink.

There are many myths about alcoholism. These myths are unfortunate because they perpetuate the alcoholic's misunderstanding of herself and hinder the understanding of her friends and lovers.

One does not have to drink everyday to be an alcoholic. Many alcoholics do not. I did not drink every day and many times I attempted to use that fact as proof that I was not a problem drinker.

Alcoholics are sometimes able to stay dry for weeks, months or even years. Frequently she will see her dry periods as evidence that she can in fact "take it or leave it". However, as an alcoholic, when she picks up her next drink, she will resume her drinking career right where she left off.

Alcoholics are not constitutionally weaker than non-alcoholics. Our drinking is not due to a lack of will power or a deficient character. We have a disease and one of the symptoms of our disease is loss of control once we begin drinking. We come from all professions, backgrounds, socioeconomic levels, and educational levels. Many of us are responsible, intelligent, independent, and creative people in all other aspects of our lives. Just as this is true, it is also true that alcohol can and will remove all of these positive aspects of our personalities if untreated.

It is a terrifying feeling to realize that you have lost control of your drinking. We tend to try many things to regain this control-numbering our drinks, drinking only beer or wine, drinking only on certain days or during certain hours, never drinking alone, always drinking alone, and the list goes on and on. The terrible fact is that though these things may work briefly, once we have reached this point our drinking is out of control. Most of us cannot count the number of times that we have said, "Never again". The guilt and the remorse are terrible, and many of us feel utterly lost before we actually seek help.

For many wommin the problem of alcoholism is further complicated by the use of tranquilizers and other drugs. Many doctors have not progressed past the point of seeing wommin as anxiety ridden, hysterical beings. These disciples of the A.M.A., which is not known for its over-concern for wommin, will often gladly give us "a little something to calm our nerves". Is it possible that this is just one more means in a fight to make us submissive and dependent? Many of us then become involved in a cycle of drinking and then using

tranquilizers to pull us out of our hang-over so that we can drink again.

I think that the problem of alcoholism and drug dependency presents some special problems for us a lesbians. Our subculture is very party orientated. Many of us have no place to meet each other except for the bars. When we do get together as a group, it's seldom chemically free. Even some of our literature suggests that we try experiencing certain things under the influence of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This was a great concern to me when I decided to take some action concerning my drinking. The first A.A. meeting I attended consisted largely of straight alcoholics. I told a wommin that she did not understand my situation. Drinking is part of my subculture. After all, what will I do at book club meetings if I don't drink? If I join A.A., I'll never fit again.

For several weeks, I was deeply concerned about being alienated from the community forever. In fact, I have found that the opposite is true. One out of three lesbians who drink are alcoholics. Wommin who are aware, caring, and supportive, unlike many

(cont. on page 3)

DYKEWISE

by Ronin

Now that we are fairly well into the 80's we need to be giving some thought about how to survive them. Unemployment is high, prices and interest rates are outrageous; meanwhile Regan continues to trim the budget by making the rich richer and the poor considerably poorer. We are not to worry however, this is all part of Regan's master plan which is beginning to look a little like a final solution. Haig is warming up in the Latin American bullpen and El Salvador is coming into the game as an designated economic uplift. Understandably, many of us are worried about how to survive the hard times which promise to be particularly hard on working class lesbians. Many lesbian communities are using networking, barter and collectives to combat the economic

crunch.

This basically boils down to working together and pooling our skills and resources. Let's face it - 50 of us working together have a better chance of surviving than any one of us alone. This might mean pooling our money and buying food as a group to get cheaper prices. It might mean trading off skills like carpentry, mechanics, plumbing, ect.. These ideas have been put to good use in other areas and the Oklahoma City lesbians and gay men really need some of these programs.

If anyone is interested or has questions an/or suggestions write in care of the Rag and we can all get in touch with each other.

Brazen Hussy Rag
1630 N.W. 19th
OKC 73106

LETTERS

COORS RESPONDS

Dear Editor:

A January 30 "Brazen Hussy Rag" article, critical of Adolph Coors Company, demonstrated to us here some basic misconceptions concerning our brewery.

First of all, Adolph Coors Company's 1980 contributions amounted to well over \$1,000,000 and supported more than 380 civic and charitable organizations. Many of the organizations listed in your article have not been supported by this company. Your article claims that 25% of the Moral Majority's private donations were from the Coors family. This is absolutely false. While a member of the Coors family has privately donated a small sum, it is important to understand why. She believes that this group, like many others in this free society, has a right to be heard in order for individuals to make up their own minds on many of the complex issues facing this country today.

Adolph Coors Company is the only major brewer in the United States, and most probably one of the only major corporations, to prohibit -- in writing -- discrimination on the basis of sex or "sexual preference." So states our policy regarding equal opportunity:

"Coors industries will provide equal opportunity in employment, transfer and promotion to all individuals without regard to race, creed, color, sex, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, age, handicap or national origin."

Our record and our posture have received close scrutiny from gay organizations and publications, including the Houston Human Rights League, the Gay Political Caucus of Houston, the nationally-circulated "Advocate," and another San Francisco-based publication, the "Castro Times." In each case, Adolph Coors Company has been given uncompromising support.

Regarding Coors' policy of non-discrimination toward gays and lesbians, Ray Hill, Executive Director of the Houston Human Rights League said:

"Our differences (are) settled. I have been advised by the leadership of GPC that the statements of policy adopted by Coors for personnel and advertising will become the standards for the rest of the brewery industry and notification is being prepared to ask that other brewers adopt similar statements of non-discrimination for their companies."

These statements were made in 1978. I would suggest that BHR check with other industries to see if they have adopted similar progressive

"standards" which have been set by Coors, now for more than four years.

The "Advocate" recognized Coors' commitment to equal opportunity for all people a year (11/16/77) earlier, again after extensive investigation.

"Our investigation produced no evidence that Coors discriminates against gay people and considerable evidence it does not.

The "Castro Times" conducted its own investigation, this time in 1981. It came away with the same conclusion.

These issues are smoke screens which have been used to hide the truth about Adolph Coors Company from the public.

Do your readers know, or have you attempted to tell them, that:

-- Adolph Coors Company has one of the best, if not THE best affirmative action programs in the Rocky Mountain Region. Coors has been certified as an equal opportunity employer by the federal government since 1972.

-- Adolph Coors Company recognizes its employees are its most important resource. In an era when quality of life is as important to the worker as a paycheck, Coors has developed special programs for employees, including athletic programs, flexible work hours, insurance programs, vanpooling, employee education programs, fully paid time off, and a fully equipped Wellness Center open to all employees and their families free of charge.

The list could go on and one, {sic} but the real story is in recognizing that Coors is a family of 10,000 people whose main concern is making the purest beer in America, a job we do without equal.

Our doors are open to any and all who wish to find out the facts about us for themselves. But

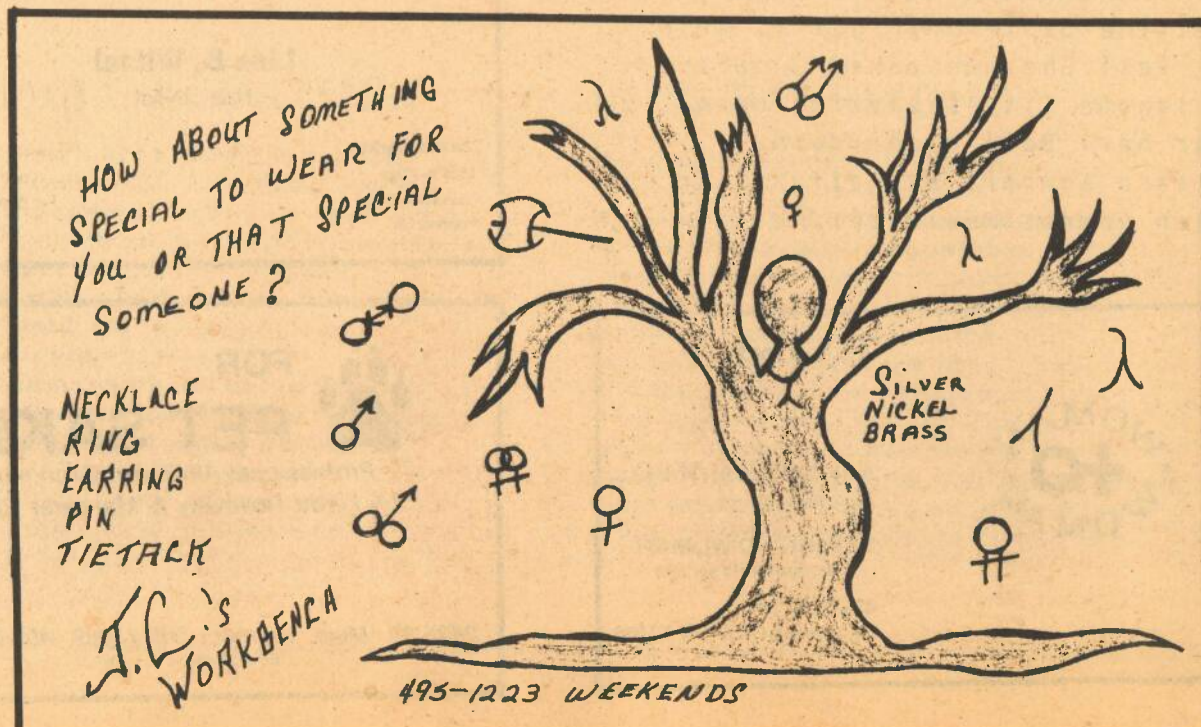
please don't judge us on the basis of half-truths and misconceptions.

Sincerely,
JOHN M. MEADOWS
Manager, Community Affairs

Editorial Collective

BHR wishes to point out to Mr. Meadows that we implicated the Coors Company only in as far as the company generated funds, which were received as profits by the Coors family. We went on further to say the Coors family gave a portion of this income to various right-wing causes or organizations. Both of these implications are true and reliably documented.

We have never addressed the Coors Company hiring practices. Our own research and the gay news network assures us that after years of pressures and boycotts by the gay community Coors can finally be considered an equal opportunity employer. At this point in time we personally know of no corporate wrongdoing on the part of the Coors Company. We stand by the statements made about the Coors family and would be delighted to present our documentation to the public in an open forum.



My Point of View

Concert Organizers Call for Support of Community

Dear Sisters:

This letter is to let you know about an upcoming event in the women's community. I am taking the time to write because WE truly need your support. Let's back up and start from the beginning.

Do you remember the last National Womens Festival in Champaign, Illinois? Well, I went to it. There were wonderful women artist (music, art and craft) there from all over the USA. One of the women was Sharon Riddell from Nashville, TN. Others were, Gayle Marie, Gwen Avery, Mary Watkins, and all the others of whom you know. I approached Gayle Marie and asked why she had never come to Oklahoma. She was not even aware there was a community in Oklahoma. To make a long story short, Gayle did come to Oklahoma. The sad thing is that it was sort of a chance. She was not well known in Oklahoma even though she was well known outside of Oklahoma.

Well we've done it again. We've ask Sharon Riddell to come to Oklahoma. We've gone so far as to have a place to have her concert, put out flyers, and got tickets. I truly believe that this woman will give you a concert worth your while. Forget questions like, is she as good as Chris, as communicative as Meg, and why have I never heard of her. Yes she is good, and the reason you have never heard of her is the same reason we all had never heard of many of the others until a couple of years ago.

Sharon Riddell is coming to Oklahoma and we are having trouble getting the word out (probably because we really don't know exactly how), and getting Sisters to buy tickets. Yes! She has asked a native Oklahoma City sister to open for her, Beth Richardwon. Please support our efforts to keep womens music coming to

Oklahoma.

Another note. Have you heard of the new Women's bookstore? Well, Sharon is going to auto-graph pictures that will be sold to raise money to help the bookstore. Again, please support our efforts. We will be

out selling tickets all this week, or you can write me PRONTO, or call (kinda late) and I'll see that you get your tickets.

Thank you,
Barbara Cleveland
and Let's Talk Women

Tomorrow has Become Today

by VJ Redick

Tomorrow will be too late unless all people unite and stand together.

We have been doing too much talking and not taking enough action about the state of our lives. We are allowing our human rights to be seared from our bodies.

I am making a plea today. Now is the time to stand up and fight.

On March 16 our Illustrious and Imperial President Reagan will bless the Oklahoma State Capitol with his presence.

George Bush will be speaking at the University of Oklahoma in April.

In the days of the founding of our country, citizens were willing to use whatever means they could to defend religious and moral freedoms.

The policies that the state and federal governments are currently setting are abominations to the original principles of our country's founders.

A few hundred people who spend time on North Lincoln Boulevard are dictating changes in policies and in human rights that make Big Brother look like your nicest next door neighbor.

Women need to stand up and be counted. We need to be seen

and heard by everyone. We need to let government know we will be treated as equals and will not tolerate sexual discrimination in any of its forms.

The Graves bill, a bill directed towards denying funds to homosexual-oriented groups, did not pass. But all of us must realize that the far right will try to stop other groups, namely leftist political groups, from meeting and engaging in any activities. The far right would like for all of these groups to be declared illegal through government legislation which would allow law enforcement officers to arrest members on charges of treason. Treason is still punishable by death.

We can sit back on our eas chairs in our living rooms or we can unite and take action.

Spend those spare pennies. Go to the store, buy a magic marker, some poster board and a few dowels.

March on the State Capitol footsteps when Reagan comes to town on March 16.

Cast you paranoia of Big Brother aside. We ourselves will become Big Brother if we remain silent.

405/524-1062



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Tight Pants

by Myra Fourwinds

Glenna turned past the grey cinder-block building to enter the long alley. The garbage cans were overflowing. Broken furniture: chairs, table legs, and even couches leaned against the fences and walls. The cracked pavement was greasy with city filth. Broken glass and fast food wrappers rotted into paper mache sculpture. as she chanted silently, rhythmic to her breathing, Glenna's confident stride was familiar with this path. She was at home here. She was a survivor of urban alienation and demoralization, or so she considered herself, anyway.

As her Nike gym shoes strode across a patch of brick showing through the concrete, Glenna was barely aware of the alley's details: the back porches, the clothes flapping on lines. She had studied the view carefully for such a long time, her graphic recall was perfect. The orange tomcat that slept on the tile roof of the third house, the wooden crate behind a garage where street urchins played house, or school, or fort, she knew them well.

Turning abruptly, exactly five strides after the bricks, automatically Glenna ducked under the sagging arbor on her left. Cracked brown paint on the back porch stairs crunched and chipped off under her feet. Glenna felt proud and confident. She was in her own territory. She was happy with herself.

Slipping quietly in the back door, Glenna smelled curry cooking as she entered the kitchen. Setting her lunch-pail on top of the refrigerator, Glenna saw the back of the chunky figure of her lover, Chula, leaning against the doorway, involved in a telephone conversation. The coarse black hair was flying wildly as Chula's head shook back and forth in apparent agitation.

"No, I haven't talked to her, Ro," Chula was saying, "but we are supposed to be non-monogamous, after all, so what can she say?" Chula had not realized Glenna had come into the kitchen. Glenna suddenly felt very nervous, that she was where she wasn't supposed to be, overhearing something she wasn't supposed to hear. Just then Chula turned to stir the curry, and as her dark eyes

met Glenna's, Chula froze in obvious surprise. Glenna turned and walked quickly out the back door.

Glenna settled herself calmly in the chair on the porch, overlooking the back yard. She had rehearsed the scene many times, in her mind. She would be understanding, supportive unthreatened and calm when she was confronted with the unexpected news she now anticipated hearing momentarily. But when Chula did not appear, through the door, in five, or even ten minutes, Glenna began to feel nervous.

"Here it is," she thought to herself, "purify, let it go through, I won't be caught up this time." Stretching her legs out to cross her ankles with gym shoes balanced on the brown cracked paint railing, Glenna chanted her calming mantra. Still she felt her heart speeding, her throat tightening, her stomach sinking. Staring at her shoes, she could not hold herself in the chair any longer. Her feet wanting to run fast and far, Glenna gripped the supporting post holding up the porch roof. Still, Chula did not join her.

Glenna left up and ran across the yard, through the gate and into the alley. Past the garages, into the gate just beyond the bedsprings leaning up against the wall, Glenna turned left into an open chain link gate. Running down the concrete stairway into the basement apartments' doorway, Glenna felt propelled with emotion. Exactly what the emotion was, she did not stop to analyze just now. As her hand reached the doorknob, turning, a scene occurred to her with clarity.

Last Friday night Nelda who lived in this basement apart-

ment across the alley, had invited Glenna to an open house at the women's bookstore. Many of Glenna's friends were there. The bookstore collective was showing films done by local women that evening. After learning this, Glenna went with Nelda to the upstairs part of her house. Several women lived in the large two-story house. Nobody was ever sure how many women lived there, for it was a local gathering place for a part of the community.

One woman who lived there, Rochelle, had been quite amused with the many and varied women who passed through her house, or bed, whichever the case. Rochelle one day decided to make it sanctioned, and so opened her "parlor" on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons, in the manner of French circles between the Great Wars. She had a grand opening with invitations published throughout the community. Thereafter, women felt free to "hang out" in Rochelle's parlor.

When Glenna went to Rochelle's with Nelda after the films, Rochelle was not there. When Rochelle did come in she acted unsociable and retired to her room. Rochelle was an older woman, left over from guerrilla street theatre in anti-war days. She was reminiscent of the bohemian beat style. A Baret usually topped her wildly flowing shoulder length chestnut hair. Rochelle was everywhere at once, in dark maroon and purple velvet tones.

Glenna had noticed Rochelle's entrance and immediate exit, but supposed it was one of (cont. on page 8)

HALF A PHOENIX

There is half a phoenix in the curve
of your mouth, the soft lilt of your lips,
and eyes that are both cinnamon and ice
—all promises of pleasure thinned to pain,
down to edges with no centers,
then back to centers with no edges,
turned, and turned again to fall
and rise, and fall again
like the hollow and electric light
revealing clocks that move their hands
in attitudes of prayer—and time
conspires to take my place,
but place is not a thing of mine
and love is not my word to rhyme.

INTO STARLIGHT

The silver edge of clouds in summer
is like your open arms, which hold
the orphaned air—and I am searched, apart,
by eyes like flickering crystal rainbows ...
raining kisses, like handfuls of fresh water
drip down my skin in cool passion, slow,
momentum loosening from soft lips
your tight, hot tongue—a thin wire
stretching taut into the melting butter
of my thighs—sidereal time explodes;
as Lucifer's engines, so thrust we into
starlight—my hair, a silk-spray of shimmering threads
spays like the wave's spent foam upon the beach
of your curved shoulder, and lingers out desire.

Tight Pants (cont from page 7)

Rochelles' famous stormy moods. Nelda was sitting at the table, peeling a tangerine. She looked up as Glenna rushed in, panting from running. Between gasps for air Glenna demanded of Nelda "did you know Friday night that Rochelle was with my lover Chula?"

Nelda calmly studied Glenna's demeanor, for two cigarette puffs, and replied "I thought you didn't want to know about those things."

Glenda sat on a red enamel kitchen chair and shook her head, "Well, I've changed my mind," she said, "hell everybody else knows all about everybody else's things, I want to know what's going on."

Tapping her beer bottle against an empty glass on the table, Nelda spoke, "Blessed Be!", then stood up and went to throw her arms around Glenna in a hug, exclaiming, "Join the 'Incestuous Sis-

ters Sorority' dedicated to the concepts of sharing and openness."

"Oh, be serious," Glenna pleaded, "You find this too amusing sometimes. I'll admit it, I'm finding out what I can handle," she cupped her hand under Nelda's large, soft breast. Nelda playfully pulled at the hand as if to move it but did not put any effort behind her motion. "And," she added, "what I can't even suppose, even though I'm hesitant to admit it. Anyway, I want to know if that whore Rochelle is

more serious about mi chica than anybody's letting on."

"It happens to us all sooner or later it seems, my friend," Nelda kissed Glenna's forehead and sat back down with the peeled tangerine.

"Which part, you witch," Glenna shook a fist at her, "the hesitant to admit part, or Rochelle grabbing your lover? If it was somebody that can be decent in relationships, I could handle it, but Rochelle, endeared as she is to us all, is up to no good when she's tricking this close to home"

(to be continued)

Alcoholism (cont.)

alcoholics I find that I have two strong support groups- A.A. and my community. There are some things I can't do at this time. I can't go to the bars, and I can't spend a great deal of time around people who are drinking. I don't believe it will always be that way. I find that right now I don't miss those things.

If you question whether or not you are alcoholic, there are some questions you can ask yourself. Do I drink alone? Do I ever drink in

the morning? Do I ever miss work as a result of drinking? Do I ever forget events or conversations that took place while I was drinking? Do I ever sneak extra drinks? Do I find that I frequently drink more than I intended to when I began? However, your first indication is probably the fact that you are questioning.

If you have questions or you know that you have a problem, you are not alone. There are meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous all over the state. Among these are exclusively gay and exclusively lesbian meetings. Alcoholism does not have to be the end of anybody's life. It can be a beginning. It's not easy, but there is hope.

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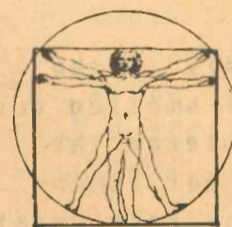


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