
HERLAND ° SISTER

r e s o u r c e s

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DIVERSITY MAKES US STRONG

by Patti Bond

Norman, Okla. -- "We have seen humanity at its worst. We have seen women begging for a better life, to be killed for asking. We have seen children bruised, broken and abandoned in the streets. We have seen men so filled with rage they don't know they're hitting. We have seen each other consumed and swollen by the pain of doing this work. But with all that we've seen, we push forward in a refusal to close our eyes to the vision of this work. And the vision of this work is a safe world... a safe place for women and children."

The quote is taken from an address given by P. Catlin Fullwood recently in Oklahoma, speaking at a conference of the Oklahoma Coalition on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Fullwood is a community organizer of the Southern California Coalition on Battered Women and is a member of the steering committee of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is also a member and past chair of the Women of Color Task Force, NCADV.

Her introduction was greeted with cheers, and a standing ovation thanked her for her words encouraging unity within the movement.

"We've all come together from our personal identities and our personal histories and our personal places to come together in a plan of action. And that's power. Our diversity is our power. It is our strength," said Fullwood. "We don't have to be the same, we just have to be united in a single cause...to end violence in the lives of women."

Fullwood said she and others began the work expecting to go to the systems, tell them of the problem they were not properly addressing -- that the victims were not getting a fair shake in our criminal justice system.

"We really thought we were going to say the words and everybody was going to say, 'Yea, you're absolutely right. Let's fix that.'

"But what we were met with was, 'But, don't you think she didn't have any business being out in the street at that hour? Don't you think she shouldn't have been dressed like that? Well, why do these women stay?'"

"We weren't radical feminists... We got radicalized because no one wanted to listen to us. They made us be radical. What we thought was a very simple message, that all women deserve protection under the law... whether the assailant is a stranger, a friend, a husband. That we need and demand equal protection."

"So somehow, we, in taking this posture, which we thought was perfectly understandable and legitimate posture, that women didn't deserve to be beaten in their home and raped in the street, and we were treated as radicals."

She said as she was asked questions such as why men batter and why women stay, she realized she didn't have the answers. She only knew it was wrong. But "how many times can you get up and say, 'Well, I think it's wrong that men hurt women.'"

She said people demanded more. They wanted an understanding of why it happens.

"Because in order to make social change, you have to understand the intricate social systems that support violence against women."

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She explained the system as a room with walls, with some people living in a room with more walls. The walls being racism, sexism, heterosexism in the form of homophobia, classism, economic violence, health violence, sterilization abuse, etc.

"You're walking along in these great strides in your room and all of a sudden you come smack dab into one of those walls. Toe to toe, eye to eye with your oppression. And it's real," said Fullwood.

She said that in stripping away the layers to find the truth about why women are beaten and raped, they found that it wasn't just sexism, but all the other "isms" that rely "upon the dehumanization of other people" who we believe are lesser.

She said the minority in power (primarily white, wealthy males) use the differences in the rest of the population to hold on to their power by dividing them, forcing them to spend their energies explaining how they are different.

"The diversity is the difference that makes us the strongest... It is also our greatest challenge," Fullwood said.

"I think it's important to note that those women who built this movement -- women of color, lesbians, non-lesbians, working mothers, working mothers in the home, single parents, married women -- are all women. We serve all women because all women get battered and raped," said Fullwood.

"Our strength is our willingness and our need to say who we are. We are different women with different issues. Oppressions are simultaneous. They are interconnected. We come from this place of knowing that we all can be battered women. We can all be raped. This can happen to any of us."

Holographic Pornography

"Soon, possibly this year, you will be able to give and receive holographic greeting cards. Already here - holographic pornography..." according to National Geographic magazine. Pornography means "the graphic depiction of whores." Holography means "the whole message." High tech's new toy for the porno boys?

from New Directions for Women

US Prostitutes Collective Expands

A complaint bureau and a legal service for prostitutes have been established in San Francisco by the US Prostitutes Collective (US PROS), a national network of women in the sex industry. The bureau will record reports of police and client brutality, including the names of the abusers. The law service will offer free legal advice to prostitutes and other women on battering, child custody, divorce, immigration, juvenile law, prostitution charges and rape. US PROS can be reached at P.O. Box 14512, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Penthouse in the Subways

As a result of feminist protest and community pressure, Penthouse magazine has cancelled its subway advertising contract with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. A coalition of a dozen women's organizations opposed to the Penthouse ads formed immediately after the first one appeared in 100 subway cars. The ad showed a woman lying on a billiard table with poker chips around her neck. The coalition held press conferences, leafletted subway stops, circulated petitions and met with transit and authority board members and marketing officials.
from Sojourner

A Big Step for Married Women

In Florida, a man found guilty of raping his wife has been sentenced to 14 years in prison. It is the first time a husband has been convicted of this crime while living with his wife. The man, William Rider, will appeal, according to his defense attorney. His wife, Marion, called it "a big step for married women. The first American known to be tried for raping his wife, John Rideout, was acquitted in 1887 in Oregon.
from The New York Times

Does Abortion & Manslaughter Correlate?

An Illinois judge drew criticism from feminists after sentencing a woman in the manslaughter shooting of her abusive husband. The judge said he considered the fact that the woman had previously had three abortions as an index of her regard for human life.
from Harrisburg Area Women's News and Rag Times

Supreme Court Weighs Helm Bill

Oklahoma teachers, who have been banned from "advocating...encouraging or promoting public or private homosexual activity" if their actions could "come to the attention of school children or school employees, must now turn to the Supreme Court to discover the limits of their freedom of speech.

During its first day in session for 1984, the Supreme Court agreed to her Board of Education v. The National Gay Task Force, its first gay rights case in years, and one of a number of First Amendment cases. The Oklahoma City Board of Education claims that teachers' right to freedom of speech is "not absolute and may be subjected to certain restrictions."

Such restrictions are aimed, it says, at allowing a school system to eliminate teachers who are "unfit." The Board of Education lost its last round, in Oklahoma's 10th Circuit of Appeals. How it will fare in the increasingly conservative Supreme Court remains to be seen.
from Washington Post

National Calendar

January 18-20 "Motherhood is Powerful" workshop explores meaning of being a mother in today's world, to separate myth from reality. Sliding scale. Write Rowe Conference Center, Kings Highway, Rowe, MA 01367 (413) 339-4216

February 15-16 "A Century of Women's Health: Practices & Practitioners" conference intended for physicians, nurses, other health related professionals, educators, anthropologists and historians. Includes Barbara Ehrenreich. \$25/\$15 student. Write University of Arizona, Office on Continuing Medical Education, Health Sciences Center, Tucson, Arizona 85724 (602) 626-6173

February 23-25 "Perspectives: Is Her Work Standard Repertoire Yet?: The West Coast Women Conductor/Composer Symposium" will review contributions of women primarily in western U.S. Write Marsha Mabrey, School of Music, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403 (503) 686-3761

March 6-24 "Study Tour of the People's Republic of China: Women's Economic and Social Development" sponsored by Women's International Network News. Trip focuses on health,

family planning, women's participation in agricultural and industrial development, contributions to the arts, politics and law. Meetings with All China Women's Federation and editorial staff of Women of China magazine. Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou, Xian and others. Write WIN News, 187 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02174 (617) 862-9431

June 6-9 "Ninth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews" has social programs, speakers, Shabbat Services, tours, workshops, entertainment. Shoreham Hotel. Write Bet Mishpachah, The Gay and Lesbian Synagogue of Washington, D.C., P.O. 1410, Washington, D.C. 20013 (202) 833-1638

QUERIES

Women in Prison: Are you in prison or jail or have you been in the past? I am interested in your story for an anthology - will answer all letters. Write Kao, 523 E. Michigan, Apt. 111C Orlando, FL 32806

Long Island Lesbian Thespians wants information on Lesbian plays or playwrights. Every script submitted will be read. Write Jacquie Ariel Clyde, 2 Clinton St., Hicksville, NY 11801 (516) 822-9147

Wanted: 2 creative works of lesbian fiction for publication during 1985 by Aphra Press. Write: Carolyn Netzer, Editor, Aphra Press, H.S.J. Box 867, Springfield, MO 65801 SASE

Feminist Mental Health: An International Agenda for the Year 2000. The Task Force on the U.N. Decade for Women, a working group of the Northern California Assoc. of Women in Psychology, invites participants (mental health theorists, researchers, practitioners and activists) to a working conference on feminist mental health, March 5-7 in New York City. Please submit a max. 600 word statement in answer to these three questions to UN Decade for Women Task Force, c/o Dr. Ellyn Kaschak, Dept. of Psychology, San Jose State U., San Jose CA 95128. "What is a uniquely feminist approach to mental health?" "Are there universal cross-cultural principles we can identify that represent feminist definitions of mental health?" "What would the world look like in the year 2000 if a feminist mental health agenda were in effect? Based on this vision, what strategies would you propose toward creating and implementing such an agenda?" Limit 50 invited individuals - deadline January 14, 1985.

4th Annual Festival of Women Storytellers

The Oklahoma City Arts Council is sponsoring "Wintertales" January 25 and 26, 1985, featuring Laura Simms, New York, Gioia Timpanelli and the "Territory Tellers."

Three workshops are scheduled during the day Friday and Saturday including an advanced course in the art of storytelling, by Laura Simms and The Story's Value, by Gioia Timpanelli on Friday. A Winter Faire reception with herbs and Medieval performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. Friday; a storytelling performance by the "Territory Tellers" begins at 8:00.

"Women and Wild Animals," by Laura Simms, is featured on Saturday, along with "Stories and Themes in the Late Middle Ages," by Gioia Timpanelli. A performance for children will begin at 3:00 p.m. Reception at 7:30 p.m. followed by a Storytelling Concert Saturday evening at 8:15.

All events are free except the Concert and take place at Stage Center, 400 W. Sheridan. For more information about workshop times, contact Lynn Moroney, coordinator, Oklahoma City Arts Council, 236-1426

Artsline, 236-2787 provides a recorded message of current arts events in Oklahoma City.

The Joy That Kills, Airs

"The Joy That Kills," a one-hour adaptation of Kate Chopin's "The Story of an Hour," will be telecast on "American Playhouse" Monday, January 28, at 8:00 p.m. on OETA.

The film focuses on a beautiful young Creole woman, Louise Mallard, who has suffered from a serious heart condition since childhood and, as a result, has never ventured outside of her family's French Quarter home in New Orleans.

Instead, she travels the world of 1877 in her fantasies as she and her husband, Brently each day look through a stereoscope at travel cards of exotic faraway places. Kate Chopin's short story tells the tale of a frail child-bride, who is married to a man who refuses to let her out of the house "for her own good."

Fantasy & Reality: Oklahoma City University's Film Institute Films and discussion through April 21. Sundays, 3:00 p.m., Burg Auditorium Call (405) 521-5050 for information

Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds

Oklahoma Historical Society, traveling exhibit at Warr Acres Library January 7 to February 15, 1985. Call (405) 2616 for more information.

Herland Coffeehouse

The Herland Sister Resources, Inc. monthly coffeehouse features the extremely talented and versatile Oklahoma City singer/songwriter Mary Reynolds. Her performance begins at 8:00 p.m. Friday, January 25, at the Herland Bookstore, 1630 N.W. 19th Street at Blackwelder. Free and open to the public.

Herland's coffeehouse is an informal gathering place for women - a social conversation event provided as an alternative to the bar scene. Hot tea, coffee and snacks are available in an alcohol-free space. Recovering alcoholics are especially welcome. And to all of you folks outside the metro, 'yes, it's worth the drive!'

Herland's coffeehouse is an opportunity for women musicians to share their art before a supportive audience. Let us know when you're available.

And in February, Friday the 22nd, Donna DeSalvo of Oklahoma City will entertain. Don't miss her zany stage presence and fine musicianship.

Herland News

Herland Sister Resources is incorporated with the state and the papers are off to the Feds. Thanks to our legal consultants who have generously donated their professional expertise.

Your donations will soon be tax deductible and not a moment too soon since the corporation's birth is absent of liquid assets. The collective has agreed to institute a systematic pledge drive for which we have been pledged, to date, \$75 per month for 6 months. This will go toward the standing expenses of operation - rent, bills, mailing of this newsletter, etc.

We have also recieved a 6-month \$500. loan at the prime lending rate for the purchase of books.

Many thanks go to our donors and lender. We are, however, below the subsistence level and must actively solicit pledges and loans at this time. We want your financial support.

IT'S AVAILABLE

TABS: Aids for Ending Sexism in School. Centerfold posters, lessons, activities, news, reviews. Subscription 4 issues pr. yr.: \$20 prepaid, \$25. billed, TABS, 744 Carroll St., Brooklyn, NY 11215 (212) 788-3478

"God, Gays and the Gospel: This Is Our Story" 1 hr. documentary covers religious struggles of gays and lesbians and growth of Metropolitan Community Churches. Write: Universal Fellowship of MCC, 5300 Santa Monica, #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029 (213) 464-5100

SHARE, c/o Tina Owens, 754-2 California Ter. Chicago, IL 60657, is a directory of feminist library workers, a comprehensive national listing of women willing to share skills, resources. \$3. plus \$1. postage payable to Illinois Library Association/SRRT

Turn-of-the-Century Women is a new scholarly journal devoted to studies about women in the 1880-1920's. SASE for info to Margaret Stetz, Dept. of English, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903

The Brown Papers is a quarterly publication of the National Institute for Women of Color. \$15. to NIWC, 1712 N. St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

The Flame is a quarterly publication of the Coalition on Women & Religion, 4759, 15th Ave., N.E. Seattle, WA 98105 \$12.

Azulao, 615 Fargo, Houston, TX 77006, \$20. is a networking publication and local women's support group

The Disabled Women's Theatre Project (a stage production written, performed and produced by women with physical disabilities); Louder Than Our Words: Women and Civil Disobedience: Abuelitas de Ombigo (Grandmothers of the Bellybutton) (on granny midwives in Nicaragua) and Labor More Than Once (on lesbian mother's struggle to regain parental rights to her son), are video tapes distributed by Women Make Movies. Send \$2. for catalog to 19 W. 21st St., NY, NY 10010 (212) 929-6477

Working Woman's Guide to Her Job Rights (84 ed) 56-page booklet about federal laws that protect women's rights during job search, employment and retirement. Single copies free from Women's Bureau, US Dept. of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210

Taking Charge of Our Lives, 254 pages, by the American Friends Service Committee describes problems and challenges of peace, food, shelter, aging, community, children, energy and other issues facing all people in the world. Harper & Row, 1700 Montgomery St., San Francisco, CA 94111

Margaretdaughters Inc., a new feminist publishing company, will publish works by women that support feminist values and help to create social and political change. Peace and Power: A Handbook of Feminist Process, offers philosophic and pragmatic guidelines and real-life situations to illustrate feminist process in action. SASE to P.O. Box 70, Buffalo, NY 14222

The Winged Chariot, c/o Moonstar Enterprises, 864 20th St. San Diego, CA 92102 is a Tarot newsletter with a feminist orientation. Write for info/sample

Goddess Rising, 4006 1st Ave., N.E. Seattle, WA 98105 is a quarterly newsletter of wimmin's spirituality. \$4/yr. Free sample issue and mail order catalog

A Gay Curriculum for high schools and colleges is being developed by the Boston Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, P.O. 2232, Boston, MA 02107, for info

Relocating? Telewoman will send you info from women's presses in the new area. Please send postage to cover your request to P.O. 2306, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Incest Survivor Information Exchange, P.O. 3251 New Haven, CT 06515, is a newsletter which prints resource information on incest-related topics. Articles, poems, graphics are invited from survivors, 3/yr

Women of Color News, 2702 N. 37th St. Milwaukee, WI 53210, is committed to non-lesbians, lesbians, Hispanic, Black, Asian, Native American, sub. \$5/yr, sample copy \$1.50

Women in Medicine Archive, c/o Dr. Sandra L Chaff, Director, Archives and Special Collections on Women in Medicine, Med. College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19129, offers many possibilities for research. Write for annotated bibliography, photographs, reprints

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- American Geriatrics Society. 10 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019
- Bridges: For The Woman Alone. 391 Brooklyn Ave., New York, NY 11217
- Broomstick. 3543 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
- Hot Flash. c/o Jane Porcino, School of Allied Health, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY 11794
- Network News: The Newsletter of the Displaced Homemakers Network. 755 8th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
- Our Own. Box 42, 2124 Kittridge St., Berkeley, CA 94704
- Reentry. Box 83, 333 Jay St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
- Organizations
- AARP. American Assoc. of Retired Persons. 1909 K. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20049
- CWPS. Center for Women Policy Studies. 2000 P. St., N.W. Ste 508, Washington, D.C. 20036
- Institute of Minority Aging. University of San Diego State, 2300 Campanile Dr., San Diego CA 92182
- Legal Research and Services for the Elderly. 1511 K. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005
- NAFOW. National Action Forum for Older Women. 17 Pepperidge Rd., Morristown, NY 07960
- PWLEF. Older Women's League Educational Fund. 3800 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94611
- SCAN. Service Centre for Aging Information, Central Control Facility, P.O. 231, Silver Spring, Maryland 20907
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