

HERLAND VOICE

November, 1994



HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

Recipe for a Wonderful Retreat

- 90 or so women in a variety of shapes, ages, colors, and talents
- crisp autumn evenings and sunny afternoons
- spice liberally with changing forest colors

Carefully gather all the necessary ingredients. Season with the sounds of women's song and an African drumbeat. Mix well in a secluded, lake-front group camp set in the hills of Eastern Oklahoma and enjoy!

By all accounts the Herland '94 Fall Retreat was a great success. For one short weekend, ninety women gathered at Arrowhead State Park and created our own small community of mutual respect and affirmation -- a too brief glimpse of what the world could be.

Driving toward Arrowhead State Park late Friday afternoon, we watched storm clouds lined with pink and lavender. They soon cleared leaving a sky bright with stars and the just-past-full moon.

The main hall was a hub of Friday evening activity. Women arrived all evening -- from Ada, Dallas, Eufaula, Norman, OKC, Stillwater, Tulsa and Wichita Falls. Retreaters pitched in setting up the books for sale, cooking supper for the arriving women, building the campfire, and making the campground our own little village for the weekend. Gathered around the campfire, retreaters sharing stories and songs renewed old friendships and made new friends.

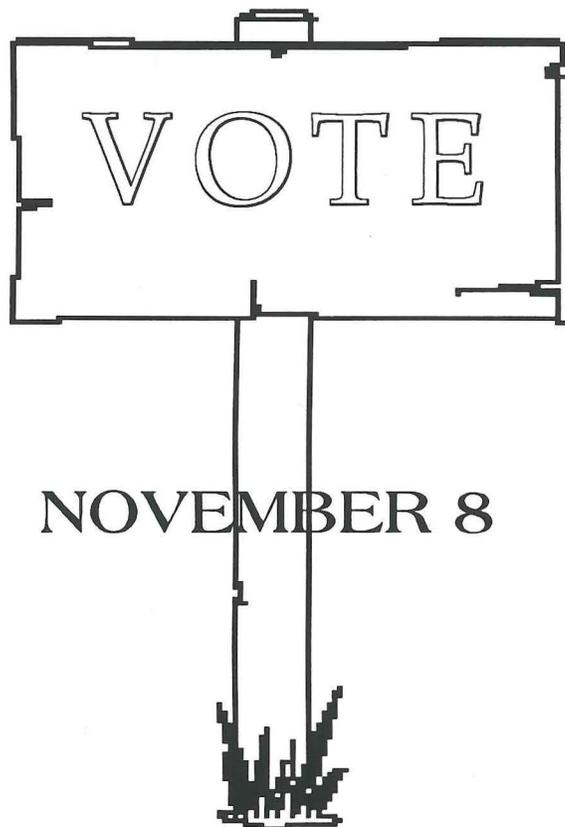
Everyone got involved in making the fun happen. Jingles and all the kitchen volunteers made sure we could start the day with a hearty breakfast. Anne shared her art of making intricately designed paper snowflakes in an impromptu workshop and soon the main hall was decorated with the designs created by the learners. Kathy organized a softball game and got the athletes, wanna-be-jocks, has-been jocks, and even never-been jocks playing together. The "Goddess Within" workshop led by Joni

left the sidewalks decorated with brightly colored chalk portraits of some of the goddesses in our community. Virginia and Denise led a workshop to discuss the Bible and Homosexuality.

Some of Oklahoma's finest musicians and our favorite poet, Judith Rycroft entertained us at the open mike. We were treated to the songs of Janis Galloway, Donna Williamson, Cutchula Fuller, Peggy Johnson, and Nancy Nesser. Jan McDonald gave a special demand performance of "I Am My Own Grandma." Barbara Cleveland and the Arrhythmias got everyone to making music with their drumming.

Saturday night was filled with song starting with the Therapy Sisters own patented form of musical group therapy. Around the campfire, we sang along with Mary, Peggy, Janis, Cutchula, and Sue.

Sunday morning's leaving-time came too soon. We said our so-longs and promised to meet again and make the magic again at the Herland Spring Retreat at Roman Nose State Park, May 19 - 29, 1995. ☆



MUSIC REVIEW

by Jill Garner

STONES IN THE ROAD

by Mary Chapin Carpenter

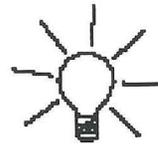
When I decided to write music reviews, my goal was to write only about lesser known musicians to expose people to names they might not otherwise know. However, I like Mary Chapin Carpenter's latest album so much that it has inspired me to break that tradition. If you're looking for light happy songs like Carpenter's former radio hit *I Feel Lucky*, you won't find them here, although her new single *Shut Up and Kiss Me* comes closest. What you will find on this album are a lot of great songs that show off Carpenter's talent at songwriting combined of course with her wonderfully deep, clear voice.

Many of the songs on this collection rival the lyrical brilliance of songs such as *I Am a Town* and *St. Christopher* from her past albums. *Stones in the Road* has a different feel to it from her past albums though, maybe because there are more songs of love than I've ever heard Carpenter do. *This Is Love* is my favorite song lyrically. A love ended but forever enduring is beautifully captured with lines like "The love that smashed us both to bits spent its last few hours, Calling out your name, I thought this is the kind of pain, From which we don't recover, But I'm standing here now with my heart held out to you, You would have thought a miracle was all that got us through, Well, baby all I know, all I know is I'm still standing." Another standout song on the album is *John Doe No. 24*, a story of a deaf-blind man who was shuttled around mental hospitals for several years before dying anonymously. With only her acoustic guitar and Branford Marsalis on the saxophone, the song gives me goosebumps every time I hear it.

Jubilee, with Shawn Colvin providing backup vocals, is a great song that delivers a powerful personal message to me to let go of the past. "There's only so long, You can take it all on, Then the wrong's gotta be on its own." Saying that Carpenter has a way with words would be an understatement in my opinion. Whether longing for love in *Outside Looking In*, mourning its loss in *Where Time Stands Still*, celebrating passion in *Tender When I Want to Be* and *Shut Up and Kiss Me*, or singing of the joys in living life to its fullest in *Why Walk When You Can Fly*, Carpenter's words move and thrill me in ways that music you love should.

If you're looking for country music, you may be disappointed with this album. Carpenter has never been "country" anyway and calls herself an acoustic musician with pop and country influences. And this is not an album with a lot of light catchy songs. But this is Carpenter at her introspective best, writing songs as well as the best of the best songwriters, and singing them beautifully the way she does so well.

Also, I recently caught Alison Krauss' show at Poor Davids Pub in Dallas and it lived up to my highest expectations. For those of you who missed my article on Krauss, she has a voice that I can't get enough of hearing, plays the fiddle beautifully, and has a very talented band, Union Station. Krauss could be a hit in country but has chosen to stay with the music that she loves, bluegrass. The next time she appears in a bluegrass festival near you, run, don't walk, to catch a show you won't forget! ☆

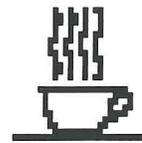


Need a CHRISTMAS Gift Idea?

It is never too late to purchase the Herland Legal Defense Fund cookbook *Family Cookin'*. This book is filled with some pretty scrumptious recipes that will challenge your taste buds!

Proceeds from the sale of *Family Cookin'* are used to help defray the legal costs of lesbian mothers caught up in child custody battles in Oklahoma.

Great recipes, good cause, and all for the incredibly low price of \$7. Get your copy today from the Herland Bookstore while supplies last! ☆



When is the Next Coffeehouse?

Tentatively, we have scheduled the next, great Coffeehouse escape for November 26. Plans are not finalized yet, however, so be sure to keep your ears open! As the date draws nearer, you may want to give Herland a call at 521-9696 for details. ☆

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Clinical Psychology

Norman, OK
321-2148

**Individual,
Couples & Family
Therapy**

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ATTENTION WOMEN VETS:

B U L L E T I N B O A R D

Are you a Veteran? More than 14,000 women living in Oklahoma have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Many of us have chosen for reasons of our own, I guess, to not make use of our benefits. Except for the educational benefits which I used to further my education when I first left the service, I never really thought much about my veterans' "benefits".

Some of these benefits are worth checking in to. Yes, there is the inevitable paperwork and red tape, but it isn't really that bad, and there have been some changes. The VA is encouraging women veterans to come in and claim what is rightfully theirs, and there are some relatively painless ways to explore this arena. One is to check out the Women Veteran groups in your area. Another way is to call or drop in at your nearest "VET CENTER". The VET CENTER should not be confused with the VA Medical Center or VA Hospital. The VET CENTER is, I have personally found, very user friendly and pretty darn good about getting things moving and producing results. Here, in the Oklahoma City area, there is even a woman counselor.

You may wonder what this might have to do with you. You weren't in combat, never got a purple heart...etc. Hey, I'm here to tell you that you didn't have to be on the front lines to deserve to utilize your benefits.

Were you sexually assaulted, raped or harassed while you were in the military? Were you injured? Hospitalized? Would you like to try to upgrade or change your discharge? Check it out! The VA is doing a lot of work with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and Agent Orange. Much more attention is being given to women's health problems.

There is also the issue of the Persian Gulf Veterans and their unusual health problems. More than 41,000 women filled combat-support positions during Operation Desert Storm - the largest single deployment of military women in American history. A Persian Gulf Registry was established by the VA in 1992 and any women vets who served in Desert Storm who may be experiencing health problems should not hesitate to contact the VA or the closest VET CENTER.

Women veterans in the Oklahoma City area, or anywhere in Oklahoma can call Marilyn Coulson at (405) 270-5184 or stop by the VET CENTER at 3033 N. Walnut. ☆

Writing Retreat for Women: Norcroft, a project of Harmony Women's Fund, has been established to provide space and time for women writers to concentrate fully on their craft. It is a writing retreat, not a workshop; there are no instructors. Located on the North Shore of Lake Superior, Norcroft offers residencies of one to four weeks for four women writers at a time. Each writer has a private room in the lodge, as well as a writing shed in the woods. Residencies, including lodging and food, are provided at no cost to residents.

Norcroft is committed to nurturing a full range of feminist voices; heterosexual and lesbian women of all races and ethnic backgrounds, of all ages (21 & over), sizes, and abilities are encouraged to apply. (Please note, facility is not fully accessible to women using wheelchairs or with other disabilities. Please contact them for particulars). Previous publication is not a requirement for acceptance. 1995 residencies are available from April 29 through October 28.

Applications must be postmarked by December 1, 1994. For further information and application forms, contact: Norcroft, P.O. Box 300105, Minneapolis, MN 55403; Telephone: 612-377-8431.

Lesbian-only counseling group, Wednesday evenings. Call Jo L. Soske, MEd/MHR/ICADC/NCC/LPC at 364-5708.

Reminder: Academic Dykes will have a potluck at 7 pm on November 5 in Stillwater. The program will be reading of Marilyn Frye's essay, Lesbian 'Sex' from *Lesbian Philosophy and Culture*.

Peace Fest will be held on November 19 at Saint Lukes from 10 am - 5 pm. Herland will have a booth set up with lots of new books. Come on by !



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Wanderlust

by Vivien Ng

I have often wondered why I love to travel so much, why I always feel compelled to move on to the next place, to the next experience. I have also wondered whether my wanderlust is only a symptom of a deeper yearning, one that is so deep that I have yet to put a finger on it, let alone divine its meaning. I do know that I am happiest when I am on the road, when I am in transit from one place to the next. Just the other day, I found myself sitting by the window at the airport in Memphis, waiting for my connection to points further north. The huge red tail of the plane that would take me there was barely visible beyond the jetway. The steady rain that had started to fall was quickly transforming the ground outside into a pockmarked pane of reflective glass. About twenty feet from me, a string quartet was tuning up and then began to play the soulful music of Mozart. I put away the book that I had brought along to read, pulled out my journal and wrote these happy words: "I am content!"

Even as I wrote these words, I knew that this contentment was ephemeral, that it would soon give way to another sentiment, another mood. Soon, I would become anxious to get on the airplane, to climb the heavens and land at a place I had never been before. I wrote in my journal:

"Sitting in airports brings out the Buddhist in me, especially the part of me that comprehends Buddha's teaching about the impermanence of things. In another hour I will be gone, my presence here in Memphis having had no impact whatsoever. So what is this trip all about? When I was a girl of nine, I loved to spend my nights sitting in the backyard to gaze at the stars. Always, my stargazing would soon give way to thinking about the meaning of existence. I remember being troubled by the thought that my life on earth amounted to no more than a fleeting moment, hardly long enough to make a difference. I wondered whether there was really any point in trying to accomplish anything in this life. I don't remember how I got over this phase but perhaps in spite of my Catholic upbringing I was a latent Buddhist after all."

But I am not a Buddhist. The Buddha also taught the so-called Four Noble Truths -- that is, life is suffering; this suffering has a cause, which is craving for existence and sensual pleasures; this suffering can be suppressed; the way to suppressed suffering is the practice of the Eightfold Path. Maybe I can someday do something about my craving for "existence," but I don't think I ever want to extinguish my desire for sensual pleasures. (Why bother to be a lesbian when I can't have fun?) In spite of my misgivings I still find certain elements of Buddhism extremely appealing.

At the risk of committing the sin of trivializing the tenets of Buddhism, I must say that the notion of impermanence has proven to be very useful to me, as when I try to explain to others my reluctance to make long term commitments. Of course, at these times, I fail to mention that according to Buddhism, once we accept the "truth" about impermanence, it follows that we deny

the existence of a permanent self, we destroy all our selfish desires and self-interests, we give up our egoistic pursuits, and we renounce the quest for personal pleasures.

I don't know why I love to travel so much, why I feel the compulsion to move to the next place, to the next experience. Maybe I shouldn't dwell too much on it and just accept it for what it appears to be: my unbridled enthusiasm for life, my innate ability to relish every moment, every new experience. Life is too short to worry about these things. ☆



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COME OUT! COME OUT!
WHOEVER YOU ARE!

Saturday, November 12, 8:00 p.m., at the Neon Moon come out and enjoy an evening of music and comedy to benefit Herland Sister Resources. Boulder comedienne Nancy Norton will lead you on a delightful, high-energy journey to Neurotic Headquarters. A nationally touring headliner, Nancy reveals what it's like to grow up in the Ozarks (not everyone there lives in a trailer park, there's a waiting list), be a nurse, get married, get divorced, come out to conservatives, and be just smart enough to know she'd be the dumbest member of Mensa. Witty, fun, and a little insane she makes Ellen Degeneres laugh!

Opening the show for Nancy will be Stacie, an Oklahoma City singer who has been making quite a name for herself in music circles. With a dynamic voice, Stacie delights audiences with a blend of her own tunes and covers of top hits. Don't miss this chance to hear one of Oklahoma City's finest performers.

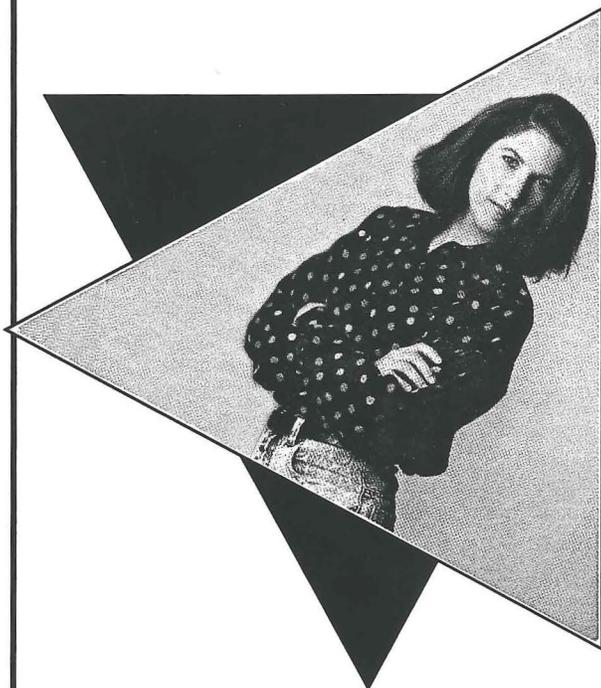
Tickets for this great show are available at Herland and at the door the evening of the show. See the enclosed flyer for more details!



COME OUT! COME OUT!

WHOEVER YOU ARE!!!

To Celebrate an evening of the most
out-spoken entertainment around!!!



The Out-Rageous Comedy of:

NANCY NORTON

Nancy is a Nationally touring
comedian who will take you on a
delightful and hilarious journey into
neurotic headquarters!

The Out-Standing Music of:

STACIE

This local singer has created one of
the freshest sounds in music today.

Saturday, November 12th, 8:00 pm

Advanced tickets available at Herland
2312 N.W. 39th

\$5

2805 NW 36

*Neon
Moon*

Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Support and Education Provided by Red Rock

Red Rock Mental Health Center in Oklahoma City is currently facilitating support and educational/social groups for gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth and adults. Support groups are held weekly at Red Rock (4400 N. Lincoln Boulevard). For more information on these groups, please call Betsy Murphy or Kim Johnson at Red Rock at 425-0399. The groups are free and open to the community, although some screening may be required to ensure compatibility of participants.

In addition, educational/social activities are facilitated weekly for both youth and adults. The youth group meets at OASIS Resource Center on Sunday evenings from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Upcoming activities include a candid discussion of how drugs and alcohol affect our goals in life on November 6, Joan Foreman, with RAIN, will address the issues of caring for people with AIDS and volunteerism on the 13th, Mormonism and being gay or lesbian will be discussed on the 20th, we will hold our own Thanksgiving Rainbow Potluck on the 23rd, and Simply Equal of Oklahoma City will join us on the 27th. Educational/social activities for the adults are facilitated on Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. at the Triangle Association. Upcoming activities include P-Flag discussing what parents really think when their kids tell them they are gay or lesbian on November 3, watching "And the Band Played On" on the 10th, and Terry Dennison from Planned Parenthood will continue his series on intimacy and friendships on the 17th. All activities are free and open to the public.

Red Rock Mental Health Center also offers HIV/AIDS prevention and education for the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community, free referrals for counseling and substance use treatment and individual and group therapy for individuals with HIV/AIDS and their loved ones. For more information, call Betsy or Kim at 425-0399. ☆

Thank You Pat!

Herland Sister Resources would like to express their warmest thanks and gratitude to Pat Reaves for her untiring efforts with *The Voice*. Pat has spent many hours over the past years editing and preparing the newsletter for print and is now stepping down from those duties.

Not to worry though! You can expect to continue receiving uninterrupted issues. The responsibilities of getting the newsletter fit to print has been passed along to another. You may notice a few changes with this issue, but please bear with us as we iron out the wrinkles.

Please note that while we try to accommodate everyone, it is sometimes impossible to make everything fit! In such an event, we will include items in which we have space available to print. ☆

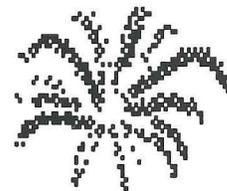
New Titles at Herland

Look for these and other great new titles at Herland Sister Resources:

I'll Be Leaving You Always
The Case of the Not So Nice Nurse
Girlfriend Number One
In Her I Am
Who Cares If It's A Choice

Herland Sister Resources is open every weekend, Saturday and Sunday only. When shopping for Christmas this year, keep us in mind. We have many titles to choose from! ☆

VICTORY in Colorado



Most of you know by now that Amendment 2 was ruled unconstitutional by the Colorado State Supreme Court late last month. However, the state Attorney General intends to file an appeal with the United States Supreme Court.

What you may not know is that this ruling by itself does not stop other states from putting similar initiatives on their ballots. There are two such initiatives nationally that are being voted on during the November 8 elections, Oregon and Idaho.

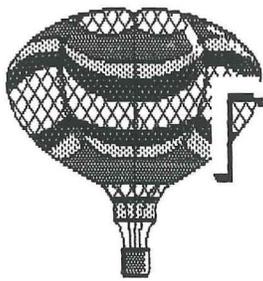
Keep a watch on the results of these two questions! ☆

Creating Change Conference Set for This Month

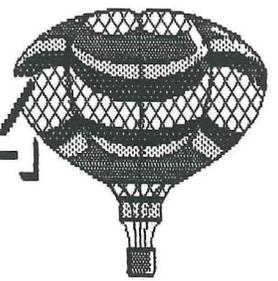
If you haven't already made your reservations to attend this skills-building conference in Dallas, Texas do so by calling the Southland Center Hotel for room reservations at 800-272-8007.

Hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the conference will feature numerous workshops designed to help us build stronger communities and overcome the obstacles we face.

For further information contact Sue Hyde at (617) 492-6393. ☆



November, 1994



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Doc Herland says: Make a gobbler grateful, eat a Tofu Burger for Thanksgiving. Both your bodies will be healthier. Or not. It's just a suggestion. Have a great Thanksgiving.

1	2	3	4	5
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6	7 The Sodomy Follies 8 pm at Gushers; a fundraiser for the ACLU	8 ELECTION DAY Your right to vote is hard won and valuable. Exercise it!	9	10	11 VETERAN'S DAY Creating Change Conference in Dallas (All Weekend)	12 The Nancy Norton Comedy Show 8 pm # (---Dallas Conference continues
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13 Creating Change Conference # Karen silkwood, RIP 1974	14 Herland Legal Defense Fund Meeting 6:30 Herland	15  Georgia O'Keefe 1887 - 1986	16	17	18	19 FALL PEACE FESTIVAL 10 - 5 at St. Luke's between 14th & 15th on Robinson
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20  Herland Board Meeting, 4:30	21  The 300th Birthday of Voltaire 1694 - 1778	22  Billie Jean King Born 1943	23	24  THANKSGIVING	25	26  Coffee House at Herland Call 521-9696 for details
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27 Harvey Milk assassinated, 1978	28  Happy Hannukah	29	30 Elizabeth Cady Stanton, U.S. Abolitionist and Campaigner for Women's Rights; Co-organizer of the 1848 Women's Rights convention in Seneca Falls. November 12, 1815 - 1902.
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HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.
2312 N.W. 39th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112
405/ 521-9696
Hours: Saturdays 10 - 6; Sundays 1 - 6





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