

The

HERLAND VOICE

April, 1996

Erica Wheeler to Headline Spring Retreat

Erica Wheeler, winner of the 1995 Rocky Mountain Folks Songwriter Contest, will be the featured performer at the Herland Spring Retreat scheduled for May 17-19 at Roman Nose State Park.

Erica is a nationally touring singer/songwriter who has appeared as a special guest with artists such as the Indigo Girls, The Story, Shawn Colvin and Iris Dement and as a headliner at prestigious folk clubs, coffeehouses and colleges across the country.

As a performer, Erica succeeds at taking people on a journey with her and themselves. "I heard music everywhere, I saw quarter-notes fly as blackbirds took off into the blue summer sky, she sings in "Beautiful Road." The Washington Post said of her music, "Insightful, imaginative songs...her imagery can nail down relationships in a single verse."

Her recordings include *From That Far*, a solo CD released in 1992 that won her spots on several "Best of 93" press and radio lists, and *Strong Heart*, a solo cassette released in 1989. Her work has also been included in several compilations including *Performing Songwriter's* "Top 12". ☆

Events

April 7th - Freefall - at Medina's in the Paseo, 8:00 p.m.

April 14th - Benefit for Animal Non-Profit Spay and Neuter Clinic at Medina's in the Paseo, 8:00 p.m. Featuring:

Freefall
Donna D
Peggy Johnson
Edgar Cruz

April 25th - Newsletter Folding Party at Herland, 6:30 p.m.

April 27th - Acadykes will meet at Shari and Carolyn's in OKC. Call 525-5773 for directions.

April 28th - Freefall at the OKC Arts Festival on the Green Stage at 4:00 p.m.



***Support your local artists
and enjoy extraordinary
talent!***

***Don't forget to register early
for the Spring Retreat!***

St. Sybil

Sybil Ludington, Matron Saint of the Forgotten Woman, is an occasional contributor to this space.

Dear St. Sybil,

Let me describe myself, flagrant lesbian that I am, living the dread HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE. I am a mother, a grandmother, a daughter, a sister, a good friend and a loving companion. I go to work, buy groceries, put gas in my car, walk my dogs, watch a little television, read a few books. I pay my taxes; I vote in every election, even schoolboard and millages, and I vote an informed ballot. I give a fair amount of \$\$\$ to charities, and I contribute a lot of time and energy to various civic and community undertakings and to political campaigns. I am a pretty typical lesbian, and about as good a citizen as we have in Oklahoma or the country - so why, a few days ago, did the Oklahoma House of Representatives pass, with one dissenting vote, a House Resolution (1045) that thoroughly degrades and demeans me? It is an ugly resolution, saying that homosexuality should not be taught as a natural lifestyle, and stating as a given, a WHEREAS, that "...those who engage in same-sex marriages should not be permitted to adopt or engage in foster care". It cynically scapegoats gays and lesbians at the expense of our state's children, who are abused and killed at a dreadful rate by, almost exclusively, heterosexual people - and all this for the purpose of pandering to the extreme right wing of a religious movement which follows lockstep in the ranks of the Inquisition, the Crusades, and myriad Jihads of other faiths. I am so angry I am about to twist off. Please help me deal with this. Thank you.

Yours,

Ima N. Raged

Dear Ima,

Of course you are angry, and so you should be. That resolution, non-binding as it is, is nasty and a basis for real legislation; for instance, for the amendment that the homophobic, sexist, bigoted, *ever-so-tiresome* Bill Graves has tried to tack on to the Ryan Luke child abuse bill. That amendment would deny gays and lesbians and bisexuals the right to be foster or adoptive parents - like it's not the straight daddies and granddaddies who are the perks most of the time.

About all I can advise you, Ima, is to take advantage of the energy of your anger and do something with it. Write your legislators, call them, and most importantly, if you can, if you dare, visit them and let them know *who you are*. There were a lot of offensive, facile self-serving comments at the Capitol recently by your - Goddess help you - "leaders" along the lines of "Personally I don't know any homosexuals." Well, first of all, that has nothing to do with anything; not knowing a group of people hardly excuses someone from writing and passing hate resolutions about them, does it? But anyway, of course they do know homosexuals, Oklahoma City has some fine gay lobbyists, quite open; and besides, most people are lucky enough to have

one or two queers in their own family. But it could be true that a lot of these people at the Capitol might not actually know that they know you; with the Christian Right on a rampage, and fainthearted politicians surrendering to them at every turn, it is no wonder that gays and lesbians feel comfortable in a closet; sort of like the comfort of bunting or swaddling clothes. Very cozy, completely restricting.

If you are able, Ima, why don't you organize a daily parade of gays to the Legislature and the City Council and your Senators and Congressmen; sit and visit with them; show them pictures of your families and your cats and dogs and admire theirs; talk about your rheumatism and the Final Four and How 'bout the Cowboys; make up "Gay of the Day" cards and give them out, for tangible witness that they know you; so that never again will any of them be able to pass this hateful kind of legislation or resolution without your honest, decent face front and center in their minds' eyes. Do not let them do this to you again without looking you in the eye and declaring themselves your enemy.

Lovingly,
Sybil



Your Letters

Dear Herland Voice Sisters,

Such a lovely surprise to find St. Sybil in "On The Issues." I'm glad her wisdom will be shared by a larger readership. You can always say, "We had her first." Incidentally, she isn't in your current issue. I hope she hasn't turned her celestial back on the little people.

Best Witches,
Jimmy

Dear Jimmy,

We do have a bit of parental pride that Sybil was first published in The Voice. Her channeler assures us that St. Sybil hasn't abandoned us - she just needed a little break from the pressure of publication deadlines. Thank goddess she's back this month!

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The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Articles reflect the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously. *The Voice* is printed on recycled paper.

Herland Beautification

In the Spring, we all get a little urge to plant something and to make things clean and bright. You can satisfy those primal urges by joining in Herland's Spring Spruce-Up on April 14 from 12 - 5 P.M. (Okay - maybe you won't be able to satisfy all those primal urges awakened in the spring, but you never know what might happen.)

We'll have a potluck lunch at noon to get us started and then we'll do gardening and landscape work outside and clean-up/fix-up work inside until about 5 P.M. Our resident horticulturist will be on hand to provide expert guidance for the gardening work.

Donations of plants (annuals and perennials), mulch, and soil are needed. You can call Natasha at 447-5111 or 366-2856 for more information about specific needs.

Bring something to share for lunch, a few plants and your gardening tools and help make Herland even more beautiful. You're bound to have a good time. ☆

Recommended Reading

by Pat Reaves

The Progressive Populist is a new monthly paper that promises to provide a voice that is missing in the mainstream media. "Please consider us your hometown paper for progressive populists and your monthly antidote to the daily news," says the editor, Jim Cullen, in the premiere issue.

Cullen says, "There are a few people in the heartland of America, armed with the First Amendment, a printing press and a newspaper with a mission: to tell the stories of working people and how they can regain control of the United States."

"*The Progressive Populist*, edited in Austin, Texas and published in Storm Lake, Iowa, thinks people are looking for populist voices with progressive values. We plan to provide those voices and tell people how they can make a difference."

In the second issue, Vol. 2, Issue 1, Cullen further defines the mission of the paper. "We are here to serve as a forum for those people who find themselves increasingly left out of national political and economic discussion: the farmers, the workers and progressive small business people."

To meet these lofty goals, *The Progressive Populist* includes the writing of the Jim Hightower, Molly Ivins, Jesse Jackson, Jeff Cohen, Eugene McCarthy and others unlikely to ever be seen in that daily paper published in Oklahoma City. One of my favorites is Carol Countryman's "Tales from East Texas" column. I was hooked with the headline from her first column, "White Trash, Liberal and Proud."

Somehow, the first two issues found their way to my mailbox without an invitation. I eagerly extend an invitation to future issues and my subscription check is in the mail. A 12 month subscription is only \$18. To order yours, write: The Progressive Populist, PO Box 487, Storm Lake, Iowa 40488 or call 1-800-732-4992. ☆



BIBLIO BITS

With spring now here, it is a good time to read about plants, health, and the environment. HERLAND'S LENDING LIBRARY will display a collection of non-fiction books related to earth and human care. Please come in and browse. The library also will get some extra cleaning on April 14, HSR Work Day; bring cleaning supplies, some stiff brushes, vacuum cleaners, trash bags, brooms, mops, etc.

The library collection is currently being inventoried and numbered with new materials added almost every month. The card catalog (at this point, title cards in green box) is in process but usable; the cards are being reconciled to titles on the shelves to accurately reflect our collection. Several previous library volunteers have worked very hard at developing a system and processing books which deserves many thanks. Donations of time and money are always welcome. Library supplies now needed are to aid in the inventory project: book pockets, library paste, book mending tape, black and pink ink pens, book ends, ten empty VHS video boxes, small table, red permanent marker, another card catalog box (for author cards).

An extra effort is being made to get all overdue books returned. It is appreciated when books are returned promptly in two weeks; however, please bring books back that are extremely overdue and the fines will be waived. This month reminders by phone and mail will be made to borrowers with the hope of making it easy to return all books that are checked out. Contact the library clerk at 521-9696 by leaving a message or visit with a volunteer on the weekend.

Patriot Underground Strikes in '95

Editor's note: The article reprinted below from KlanWatch, a publication by the Southern Poverty Law Center places the bombing of the Murrah building in the context of other terrorist activities of the far-right militia and makes a strong case that the events are part of a campaign of violence. KlanWatch will release False Patriots, a special report based on information collected by its Militia Task Force, in April. Requests for copies can be faxed to 334-264-8891.

The year that will be most remembered for the Oklahoma City bombing was full of planned terrorist attacks by antigovernment Patriots.

"Underground Patriots have been doing their homework over the past few years and in 1995 we began to see the results," said Militia Task Force Director Joe Roy. "They've formed secret cells, they've read the bomb manuals and they've sighted their targets. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what comes next. We can expect to see more acts of sabotage like the Amtrak derailment, more explosions like Oklahoma City, and, unfortunately, more deaths."

The Tri-States Militia, a national organization comprised of militias from at least 30 states, was linked to at least five would-be terrorists whose bomb plots were thwarted by federal and state law enforcement. Oklahoma militia leaders and Identity "prophets" Ray Lampley and Larry Crow had been involved with Tri-States since April, 1995. The two, along with Lampley's wife Cecilia and J.D. Baird, were arrested in November, 1995 on federal explosives charges. The four were allegedly part of a terrorist cell that planned to blow up the Southern Poverty Law Center; the Houston, Texas office of the Anti-Defamation League; federal buildings; abortion clinics and sites in the gay community.

Charles Ray Polk, another self-styled Patriot with ties to the Tri-States Militia, was indicted by a Texas federal grand jury in June for possessing illegal weapons and explosives, and for plotting to blow up the regional offices of the IRS in Austin, Texas.

In late April, a terrorist attack was blocked in Washington state when federal investigators discovered that Darwin Michael Gray, a friend of Randy Weaver and nephew to Kevin Harris, had obtained the blueprints to the Spokane federal courthouse and had practiced with the same explosive mixture that was used in the Oklahoma City bombing.

In Nevada, bombs went off at a U.S. Forest Service office and at the home of one of its agents. Another bomb left at the Reno offices of the IRS failed to explode.

Ohio Aryan Nations member Larry W. Harris was arrested for illegally obtaining three vials of freeze-dried bubonic plague culture. In a search of Harris's house police found hand grenade triggers, explosive devices and detonating fuses.

Four members of the Minnesota Patriots Council -- LeRoy Wheeler, Douglas Baker, Dennis Henderson and Richard Oelrich -- were convicted in federal court for conspiracy to use ricin, a deadly toxin, to kill federal agents and law enforcement officers. The four would-be assassins had enough ricin to kill 1,400 people. They learned to manufacture the poison from a terrorist manual obtained from a mail-order house catering to the Christian Patriot movement.

Across the country, many militias and underground paramilitary units were arming themselves with illegal weapons and training in sniping and explosive techniques, guerrilla tactics and counterintelligence at a rapid pace in 1995.

In one Southern state, inexpensive and easily obtained rifles converted to machine guns and equipped with silencers were confiscated by authorities from militia extremists. Investigators report that at least 60 of these machine guns -- capable of firing 1,000 rounds per minute -- have disappeared into the extremist underground.

Stockpiles of illegal machine guns and explosives, along with assault rifles and thousands of armor-piercing bullets were confiscated from Patriot groups in California, Oklahoma and Michigan.

More than a ton of explosives was stolen last year in raids on commercial sites in California, Georgian, Indiana, Idaho and Oklahoma. Dynamite, C-4 plastic explosive, ANFO (ammonium nitrate/fuel oil), raw ammonium nitrate, detonation cord, electric blasting caps and fuses are now suspected to be somewhere in the Patriot extremist underground.

Law enforcement sources believe that somewhere in the Smoky Mountains there is a hidden cache of Stinger missiles, more than a dozen LAW rockets, hundreds of pounds of C-4, machine guns and thousands of rounds of military-grade ammunition waiting to be sold.

Two cases of fully automatic M-16 rifles that were stolen in the Great Lakes region last fall were tracked to rural Louisiana where they are suspected to have disappeared into the paramilitary underground.

Patriots practiced guerrilla tactics at clandestine training camps in Oklahoma, Texas Montana, Idaho, Florida, Arkansas and New Mexico. Some of the camps had sniping ranges and demolition grounds for bomb testing.

Automatic weapons, large caliber machine guns and 50-caliber sniper rifles were common. Explosives manufacture and demolition techniques were studied and practiced. professional instruction was provided by Vietnam and Gulf War veterans, mercenaries, active duty military and law enforcement personnel.

"When you put all of these elements together," said Militia Task Force director Roy, "You have a frightening picture of where these Patriot extremists are heading. The hard-core underground is arming itself and training for a campaign of violence and intimidation. They say their targets are the federal government, law enforcement and civil rights groups, but their victims are likely to be anyone -- including innocent men, women and children who happen to be in the way." ☆

BULLETIN BOARD

COUNSELING FOR LESBIANS - available Wednesday evenings. For more information contact Jo L. Soske M.E.D./M.H.R./C.A.D.C./L.P.C. at 321-0134 for an appointment.

HEAL YOUR LIFE - a support group for HIV positive and catastrophic illness will meet every Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at Unity Church of Practical Christianity, 5603 N.W. 41st in OKC starting March 7. This group will offer alternative healing methods for healing Body, Mind and Spirit. Please phone 789-2424 for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR CHILDREN OF LESBIAN AND GAY PARENTS - For the third year, the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) and Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) will be awarding scholarship money to further the education of deserving children of lesbian or gay parents. In 1996, the total scholarship pool will total at least \$1,000. Formerly known as the GLPCI-COLAGE Scholarship Fund, the Fund was recently renamed as the "Lee Dubin Memorial Scholarship Fund" in loving memory of a longtime member and former Treasurer of GLPCI, who died suddenly in 1995. Applicants must have at least one lesbian, gay or bisexual parent and be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary institution. The scholarship recipients will be announced on July 6th, 1996 at GLPCI's 17th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Applications for the 1996 Lee Dubin Memorial Scholarship are available now by writing to GLPCI at P.O. Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091; or fax (201) 783-6204. The deadline for applications is May 15, 1996.

MOONSISTERS DRUM CAMP for WOMYN COMES TO NEW MEXICO SEPTEMBER 13 -15 : 200+ Womyn Drummers will gather in the Sandia Mountains. UBAKA HILL & MABIBA BAEGNE are among the teachers. Classes, performances, circles, marketplace, jams. ALL LEVELS WELCOME! For brochure: SASE to, P.O. Box 20918, Oakland, CA 94620, (510) 547-8386. A Mother River Spirit event.

THE TEXAS LESBIAN CONFERENCE - is in Dallas this year and will be held May 3-5 @ the Dallas Grand Hotel. The theme of the conference, "Telling and Tracing our Past, Living and Loving our Present, and Charting & Challenging our Future," provides an abundance of opportunity to attend exciting workshops as well as keynote speakers and entertainment. TLC offers a wide diversity of workshop topics such as Health, Relationships, Spirituality, Leadership, Culture, Sexual, Skills Building, Political, and many more. Don't miss out on this exciting weekend in Dallas! Call or write now to register (Naomi Madrid, 214-520-8108, P.O. Box 191069, Dallas, Texas 75219).

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Herland Spring Retreat

What could be more fun than two days surrounded by wonderful women in the countryside of Oklahoma?

You give? How about this? Two days surrounded by wonderful women, a concert by Erika Wheeler, an open mic featuring some of the most talented women around, finger-licking good potluck supper, a feline photo contest, and a GamesFest for both the athletically challenged and the temporary athletically -abled.

Make your reservations now for the Herland Spring Retreat , May 17-19 at Roman Nose State Park. Registration includes a cabin bunk (or tent space), breakfast Saturday and Sunday, and the concert. Girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome.

RETREAT REGISTRATION GUIDE

Single Person's Annual Income	Pre-registration for each 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 - \$50,000
over \$30,000	\$60	over \$50,000

HSR SPRING RETREAT REGISTRATION

May 17-19, Roman Nose State Park

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65 with no

exceptions. Deadline for pre-registration is May 15. Registration is non-refundable after May 16.

Registration Fee enclosed (payable to Herland): ___\$15 ___\$25 ___\$35 ___\$45 ___\$60

Name: _____ Phone: _____

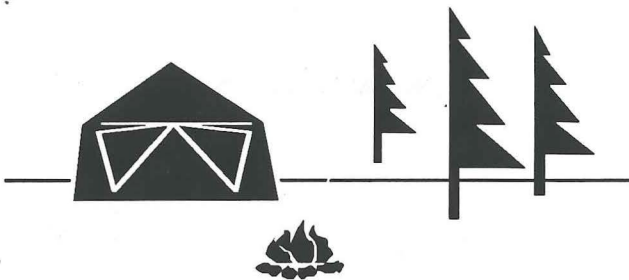
Address: _____ City _____ State _____

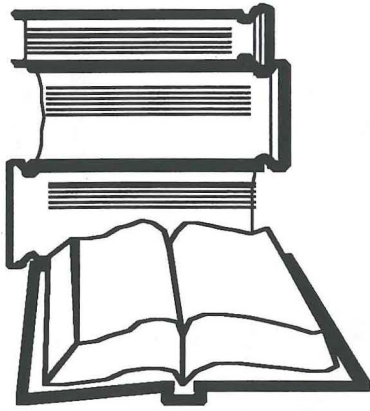
___ I need a scholarship to attend. ___ I'm enclosing an additional \$_____ to help provide scholarships.

___ I'm bringing ___ children (girls of all ages and boys under 10 are welcome).

___ I'm bringing ___ pets (Leashed and well-behaved).

Return to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112





BOOK REVIEW

by Jill Garner

Mama Makes Up Her Mind.....and Other Dangers of Southern Living - Bailey White

I've heard Bailey White's wonderful stories on National Public Radio for years, and I finally got

around to reading one of her books. All I can say is "what took me so long and how many more are there because I want to read them all." Bailey White is one of the funniest storytellers I've heard and the stories in this book will testify to that. The tales of her mother's escapades are some of the funniest, but Bailey's tales of her first grade students and life in the south provide her with plenty of material. I wondered during the book how much of her stories are real, and how much are made up, but that's the sign of a good storyteller to leave you wondering.

Reasonable Creatures: Essays on Women and Feminism Katha Pollit

As long as my dad has subscribed to *The Nation* for me, I've been a fan of Katha Pollit. Her essays on issues such as family values, violence against women, the debate over fetal rights, and surrogate mothering, just to name a few, are always concise, insightful, and witty. Many of her essays I've seen in *The Nation*, as well as more, are included in this wonderful collection. I used one of her essays, "Why I Hate Family Values" in an Introduction to Sociology class I taught at the community college, much to the disgust of many of my more conservative students. It was around the time of the last presidential elections when the term family values became the big political, read Republican, buzzword. In this essay, Pollit counters Dan Quayle's attack on Murphy Brown, and puzzles over the right and the left's idea of what constitutes family values. And she questions the belief that the best thing for society is for marriages to remain intact, and argues that maybe we need to change our ideas and expectations about families, sex education, and abortion. Admitting her own bias since she and her husband divorced, she offers this observation. "But I am still waiting for someone to explain why it would be better for my daughter to grow up in a joyless household than to live as she does now, with two reasonably cheerful parents living around the corner from each other, both committed to her support and cooperating, as they say on "Sesame Street," in her care. We may not love each other, but we both love her. maybe that's as much as parents can do for their children, and all that should be asked of them."

Pollit is bold in her ideas and observations, and she offers challenging ideas on the social issues of the day. She took the title of her book from a quote by Mary Wollstonecraft's book, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman. "I wish to see women neither heroines nor brutes, but reasonable creatures." As human beings in other words, which as Pollit will tell you, is what feminism is all about. Radical idea huh?

House Rules - Heather Lewis

Where do I start with this one? Let's see, horse riding, followed by lots of drugs, followed by graphic details of rough sex, a little horse back riding, drug use, drugged-out rough sex, horse back riding, and the gory story continues. I have no idea what the purpose was in writing this book. There was not much of a story other than a fifteen year old girl who rejoins the horse show circuit with its rampant drug and alcohol use, and rough sex with Tory, one of the other riders, and Linda, the wife of the team owner. The only reason I even finished the book was my compulsion to finish books I start. After descriptions of the riders' days without sleep, taking drugs that keep them going, mixed with lots of drinking, I was exhausted. One of the quotes on the back of the book was by Kerry Fried of *The Boston Review*, "...grueling, its view of humanity devastating. House Rules is brilliant and ugly, a nightmare for any reader." It sure was and I should have taken that as a warning to stay away. ☆



Got any bright ideas? Come share them with the Herland Board.

We meet every third Sunday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at Herland.

21ST MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 13-18, 1996

Come and join us as we begin our third decade of enjoying the woods, the music, the extravagant days and star-filled nights...the womyn and magic of Michigan.



For brochure & ticket info: WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla, MI 49458 (616) 757-4766



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