

The

# HERLAND VOICE

May, 1996



## HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

The trees have leaves, the OKC Festival of the Arts has come and gone, semester's almost over, and Memorial Day is coming up fast -- the Herland Spring Retreat must be nearly here!

Herland Sister Resources presents its 1996 Spring Retreat for women at Roman Nose State Park (near Watonga,

OK), May 17-19. Registration begins at 6 PM on Friday, May 17. Activities will wind up Sunday morning with check-out time at noon.

The featured entertainer is Erica Wheeler. Erica is a nationally touring singer/songwriter. She has appeared with a number of noted musicians including the Indigo Girls, the Story, Shawn Colvin and Iris Dement.

Retreat activities will include a games festival. The plans aren't yet final but we're told events will be for both the athletically able and athletically challenged.

Also new at this retreat is an opportunity to show off your favorite cat -- or at least her picture. See inside this issue of *The Voice* for more information about the Fabulous Feline event.

As always there will be the opportunity for scheduling discussions and workshops. There'll be a big Workshop Schedule Board in the main hall where you can announce the workshop or discussion and invite participation.

Don't forget to bring your musical instrument and songs, your poetry or other entertainment so you can be a part of the open mike on Saturday afternoon. There will also be campfires on Friday night and Saturday evening after the concert.

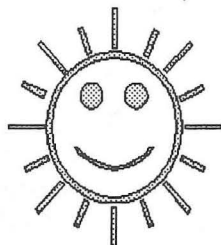
The registration fee for the retreat is on a sliding scale from \$15-\$60; on-site registration is \$65. Limited scholarships are available and must be requested in advance. Registration includes lodging in group camp, Friday evening cookout, Saturday and Sunday brunch, and concert.

Bring your favorite covered dish for the Saturday night potluck. If you bring pets, they must be on a leash. Tent camping and RV parking (no hookups) are available in the group camp.

For more information, come by Herland or leave a message at Herland (405) 521-9696.



or

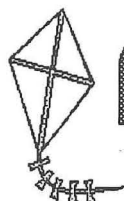


Roman Nose State Park  
Is the place to be

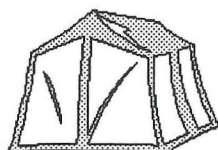
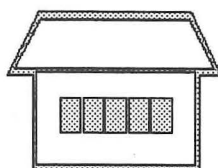
MAY 17-19



Herland  
Spring  
Retreat



ENTERTAINMENT  
By  
ERICA WHEELER





# AROUND TOWN

by Jill Garner

If you're a softball fan, May is the month for you. The Big 12 college tournament will be at the Softball Hall of Fame stadium May 10 - 12.

Although Oklahoma City is not hosting the Women's College World Series this year, the Softball Hall of Fame stadium also will be the place to catch US Olympic softball May 18 and 19th. The games are at 6 pm and 8 pm on Saturday, May 18th and at noon and 3 pm on Sunday. Even if you are going to the retreat, you can still make it Sunday to watch some of the best softball players in the country battle it out.

For those of you going to the retreat, you're in for a wonderful night of music with Erica Wheeler. Erica is a terrific songwriter as well as a wonderful singer. I've been fortunate enough to hear her twice. Don't miss her if you don't have to! We're lucky that she's travelling around sharing her music with anyone who wants to listen, and a retreat is the perfect place to really get lost in her music.

I recently received the newsletter from Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse in Dallas. Uncle Calvin's is located in a church off Central Expressway and is a wonderful listening room for music. They serve coffee, tea, juice and desserts, and great acoustic music. What more do you need? Although you may not get this in time to go, Carrie Newcomer will be performing May 3. Newcomer is one of my favorite singers, with a very rich, deep voice that I'm in awe of, and a wonderful way with words. Calvin's will also be hosting the Women in the Round show May 15, a show which was a big hit last year. Linda Lowe, Carolyn Hester, Crow Johnson, Emily Kaitz and Ann Armstrong will all be performing this year for a mere \$8.

If you have the time to travel, don't miss the Kerrville Folk Festival beginning near the end of May. I've heard nothing but great things about the quality of music at this festival. Then on June 28, Emilie Aronson, a very popular singer/songwriter in Dallas, as well as the Kerrville Folk Festival's main stage, will be performing at Calvin's.

For all you bayou boogie blues fans, Marcia Ball will be at the Bricktown Brewery May 16. I've seen Marcia's show a couple of times and this woman can sing with an energy that's fun to watch and that's quite contagious.

Check the Gazette regularly for what's happening in live music in Oklahoma City. The Blue Door has several new shows scheduled and Medina's regularly hosts good shows, if you can stand the smoke. I guess that just adds to the atmosphere, trying to see the band through the smoky haze. They don't need to pay for special effects that way.

Seriously, there are a lot of talented women who are playing more often at various places and events around Oklahoma City. Check them out and give them your support. Take a chance and go hear someone you've never heard before. You may discover a new favorite. I do all the time.

## NGLTF BLASTS "ENGLISH ONLY" LAW

Saying it promotes divisiveness and will feed fear and hostility, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has joined in coalition with other civil rights groups to oppose S 356, the "Official English Bill" now before the U.S. Senate.

The bill sponsored by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Alabama), seeks to make English the "official language" of the U.S. Government. NGLTF has joined with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and other groups, in calling for rejection of the bill.

According to the LCCR, the negative impacts of the law are severe. If passed, the "English only" legislation would disenfranchise non-English speakers by prohibiting the availability of bilingual ballots; deprive language minority litigants of due process by denying them the right to have court interpreters; and prohibit the availability of emergency services in languages other than English, among other affects.

"Since the bill itself does nothing to further the learning of English by that small portion of the population that does not speak it well enough to conduct day-to-day business in English, its impact will instead be to promote discrimination against and isolationism by those individuals," said NGLTF in a letter to Senator Stevens. "This legislation plays into the fear and hatred that already exists against immigrants in this country by putting an official government stamp of approval on actions of those who belittle or resent individuals just because they speak another language."

For copies of the NGLTF publication, "The Costs of Scapegoating: Anti-Immigrant Backlash," contact the NGLTF publication order line at (202)332-6483, ext. 3327, or email [ngltf@ngltf.org](mailto:ngltf@ngltf.org).

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## NEW SURVEY FINDS SHARP DECLINE IN CLINIC VIOLENCE

ARLINGTON, VA - A newly released survey by the Feminist Majority Foundation finds that clinics reported a sharp decline in anti-abortion violence in 1995.

The number of clinics reporting incidents of anti-abortion violence — including death threats, stalking, bomb threats, bombings, chemical attacks, blockades, invasions, arson, and arson threats — dropped substantially from 51.9% in 1994 to 38.6% in 1995, according to the annual survey. For the first time, in every category of violence, more clinics in 1995 reported decreases than increases in incidents.

"The good news is that across the board clinics are reporting less violence. The bad news is that a significant proportion of clinics — over one-third — are still plagued by anti-abortion violence, and this violence is dangerously targeted at physicians and clinic staff," said Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, which conducts the annual clinic violence survey as a part of its National Clinic Defense Project.

Violence directed at individual physicians and clinic staff members continued at high levels, according to the report. Almost one in five clinics (17.1%) reported death threats in 1995; one in five (20.3%) reported home picketing; and one in ten (10.6%) said clinic staff had been stalked. The smallest net decreases in reported incidents of violence were in death threats and stalking.

The report shows violence directed at physicians and clinic staff continues to take its toll. Clinic staff resignations as a result of anti-abortion violence remained at 1994 levels, with almost one in ten (9%) of clinics having lost clinic staff for this reason.

The survey reveals that clinic violence levels correspond directly with law enforcement response. Only 11% of clinics reporting excellent local law enforcement experienced high levels of violence, compared with 33.3% of clinics who reported poor law enforcement response.

"The survey shows the more seriously law enforcement takes threats of violence, the less likely those threats are to turn into actual violence," said Smeal.

The survey, which covered violence committed during the first seven months of 1995, was completed by 310 clinics, including facilities in 44 states and American Samoa. Almost 95% of these clinics offer a full range of gynecological and other health services in addition to abortion.

Copies of the Feminist Majority Foundation's 1995 Clinic Violence Survey can be obtained by contacting Harriet Trudell at 703-522-2214.

## FABULOUS FELINES

Do you know a feline who you just know is the most special cat in the world?

Whether she is a registered Persian or that breed my vet kindly refers to as domestic shorthair, she (or he) can enter the Fabulous Feline contest at the Herland Spring Retreat.



Since most of our feline friends prefer to stay at home -- never straying too far from that special place in the sun, they can enter the competition by sending a photo. So bring your favorite cat pics to the Herland Retreat. There'll be an opportunity for all retreaters to vote for their favorite feline.

## LESBIAN TO LEAD WORKSHOP ON GOD'S GRACE

Noted lesbian Presbyterian minister Janie Spahr will be the featured speaker at a day-long workshop entitled "Claiming God's Grace" in Oklahoma City on Saturday, May 18, 1996. The Rev. Dr. Spahr heads a special ministry - That All May Freely Serve - which works toward greater inclusiveness of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the life of the church.

Spahr was called in 1991 to serve as co-pastor of the Downtown United Presbyterian Church of Rochester, NY. However, she was subsequently denied that calling by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) because she was openly lesbian. Following that ruling, Downtown United Presbyterian Church, in partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church of Tiburon, CA, set up the special ministry which takes Spahr around the country working on behalf of greater inclusiveness. Congregations in both of her sponsoring churches have voted to become More Light churches - meaning that they are open and affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people.

The workshop is being organized by Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns and is described as "a day of healing, learning, and community, one in which participants work toward wholeness in their lives as children of God." It will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 2712 N. W. 23rd Street in Oklahoma City. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. The workshop fee of \$15 per person includes lunch. Waivers are available for those who need them.

For additional information or to register by phone, call 405/840-4849 in Oklahoma City, 918/745-9922 in Tulsa, or 405/377-9174 in Stillwater.



# HUMAN RIGHTS NOW!

by Nathaniel Batchelder

Two incredible women are pressing the U.S. government to confess complicity in decades of horrific human rights abuses in Latin America, which came home to them in excruciatingly personal ways.

U.S. attorney, Jennifer Harbury's dissident Guatemalan husband, "Bamaca", disappeared in 1992, launching her quest for information about him. Rumors of his captivity and torture spurred her to a number of public fasts in Guatemala City, ultimately resulting in a member of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee admitting that the Committee had knowledge that Bamaca had died in captivity. Harbury pressed on, learning only recently that, just six days after Bamaca's capture, the CIA had briefed the State Department and White House on his capture.

Ursuline Catholic Sister Dianna Ortiz was herself abducted in Guatemala City in 1989, and was for two days burned, raped, and tortured, until a man she is certain, "was an American" came in and said, "Oh, shit!" and personally engineered her release from a car near the American Embassy in Guatemala City. Ortiz has done extensive recovery work with torture victims' groups, and now challenges the U.S. to confess any complicity or awareness of such abuses, all too common throughout the world.

The savagery of those who commit such atrocities was revealed by Guatemalan General Hector Gramajo when he was asked about the Ortiz case after she surfaced. He said it never happened, alleging that Ortiz "was involved in a sadomasochistic lesbian love tryst with other nuns." She was burned with cigarettes 111 times. Ortiz began a vigil at the White House gates on April 1st. She wants to know who "the American" was whom the others called Alejandro."

Ortiz and Harbury are demanding declassification of documents demonstrating U.S. complicity in human rights abuses in Guatemala, Latin America, and around the world. You can support their campaign by using their names in communications to Senators, Representatives, and the White House, demanding accountability for U.S. complicity in human rights abuse in Latin America. (Names/addresses are published in the monthly *Peace Strategy News*.)

## COL. CAMMERMEYER, RONNIE GILBERT TO APPEAR AT NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, the Chief Nurse of the Washington State National Guard who was reinstated to her job after challenging the military's policy on homosexuality, will be the keynote speaker at the national Women's Music Festival in June.

Appearing on the festival's mainstage will be Ronnie Gilbert, a former member of the influential folk group, the Weavers. Gilbert will perform musical and theatre segments from her one-woman show, "Mother Jones." Gilbert, who has also toured and recorded with Holly Near, continues to release solo albums.

Other artists appearing on the festival mainstage include Lea Delaria, Diane Davidson, Linda Tillery, Kathryn Warner with Sanda Ayala, Azucar Y Crema, Melanie DeMore, Ms. Fun, and Sawagi Taiko.

The National Women's Music Festival will be held June 6-9 on the Indiana University campus in Bloomington, Indiana. It is the longest-running celebration of women's music and culture held in the U.S.

Other guests of interest include Pat Califia, a writer who has been on the leading edge of women's erotica; Jewelle Gomez, author of *The Gilda Stories* (winner of two Lambda Literacy Awards); Luisah Teish, a ritual consultant who wrote, *Jambalaya: The Natural Women's Book of Personal Charms and Practical Rituals*; and Karla Jay, writer and editor and professor of English and Director of Women's Studies at Pace University.

Festival activities include a variety of workshops; a golf scramble; a bike ride through picturesque Brown County; fine arts exhibits; a 2k walk and 5k run; and artists/craftswomen area with goods from jewelry to sculpture, pottery to drums, gems to toys; and films and videos about the women's community, ranging from narratives to documentaries.

The festival is held in campus buildings with dorm housing and meals available. A four-day pass costs \$195 after April 30. One or three-day passes and individual concert tickets are also available. Festival brochures are available at Herland and other women's bookstores or by writing P.O. Box 1427-PR, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1427 or by calling (317)927-9355. Registration after May 15 must be done on-site at the festival.



# HSR SPRING RETREAT

MAY 17-19, ROMAN NOSE STATE PARK

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SUPPER

WOMEN!

## SPRING RETREAT PRE-REGISTRATION

Please choose the registration amount most appropriate for you. On-site registration will be \$65. Deadline for pre-registration is May 15 and registration is non-refundable after May 16.

Single Person's Annual Income	Pre-registration per person	Household Annual Income
under \$6,500	\$15	under \$13,300
\$6,500 - \$13,250	\$25	\$13,300 - \$18,000
\$13,250 - \$19,500	\$35	\$18,000 - \$26,000
\$19,500 - \$30,000	\$45	\$26,000 - \$50,000
over \$30,000	\$60	over \$50,000

Registration fee enclosed (payable to Herland): ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$45 ☐ \$60

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I need a scholarship to attend.

☐ I'm enclosing and 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 registration to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

# BULLETIN BOARD

Oklahoma's only Gay/Lesbian marching band wants you! For information about joining The Banned call Marilyn at 794-3035 or Roger at 525-3967.

The Third Annual Wildwoman Wildflower and Herb Festival on May 11 from 9 AM - 5 PM in Eufaula will include vendors, demonstrations, garden tours, wildflower field trips and musical entertainment.

Congratulations to Nancy Nesser and Peggy Johnson on passing the Oklahoma State Bar!

The 21st Michigan Womyn's Music Festival will be August 13-18. The program features performances by Dorothy Allison, Marga Gomez, Hattie Gossett, Tish Hinojosa, Phranc, 7 Year Bitch, and Jane Siberry. For information write to: WWTMC, P.O. Box 22 Walhalla, MI 49458 or call 616-757-4766.

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# Herland Sister Resources

*May 1996*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Full Moon	4 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Gay May Day, Habana Inn Park- ing Lot -- stop by the Herland table and say hi!
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9 Last Quarter	10	11 3rd Annual Wild- woman Wildflower and Herb Festival, Eufaula, OK
					<b>Big 12 Softball Tournament</b>	
12 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM HSR Board Meeting <b>Mother's Day</b> <b>Big 12 Softball Tourn.</b>	13	14	15	16	17 New Moon	18
					<b>Herland Spring Retreat</b>	
<b>Celebrate Feminist Bookstore Week with Herland or your local feminist bookstore!</b>						
19 <b>Retreat</b>	20	21	22	23	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 1st Quarter
26	27 Memorial Day (Observed)	28	29	30 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Newsletter Folding Party	31	

**Mark Your Calendar: June 14, 10 AM - 4 PM Cleanup/Fixup Day at Herland**

Herland Sister Resources  
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Oklahoma city, OK 73112

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