

The HERLAND VOICE

June, 1996

HELP WANTED

Herland needs you! As a community of women, Herland can only be the sum of its parts -- the women who come to Herland, to check out books, to buy books and music, and just to hang out and meet others; the women who perform at coffeehouses; the women who participate in retreats; the women and men who attend Herland events; the women who volunteer, keeping Herland open on the weekend, improving the grounds and the building, writing for the newsletter, serving on the Board, and doing the myriad of tasks necessary to keep Herland operating; and the women and men who contribute financially.

If you have four or more weekend hours a month available, you can help staff Herland and make sure the library and bookstore are available. If you have a skill-- just about any skill -- Herland can use your help. We particularly need volunteers with skills in carpentry, plumbing, electricity or other areas related to building maintenance and accounting. Volunteers are always needed to help with the newsletter mailing, to write for the Voice and to help with the library.

If you have eight or more hours a month, Herland always needs committed Board members. All are invited to attend the monthly meeting (4:30 PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month) where the business of planning and keeping Herland open is discussed.

If you can't make a regular volunteer commitment, watch the Voice for announcements of special Herland work days. The work days are always a good opportunity to make new friends. Check it out with the June 15 work day.

And, as always, Herland needs your financial support. Herland depends on contributors to meet the regular monthly expenses of the building and publishing the newsletter and the expenses for events.

Building maintenance and improvement is a major cost. Currently, we need to replace our old gas space heater which has developed a leak and our broken-down window air conditioner. Our dream is that some wonderful person (or persons) will donate enough to have central heat and air installed. Another immediate need is for contributions for folding chairs so there will be enough seats for everyone who comes to a Herland coffeehouse.

This community, Herland, won't be the same without you. Give us a call at 521-9696 or come to the work day and/or newsletter folding. Remember, if it takes a while for your call to be returned or if you come to Herland and it's not open, we are all volunteers. That unreturned message or unopened door is just more evidence of how much your volunteer help is needed. Keep trying -- Herland needs you. □

CELEBRATE PRIDE WITH HERLAND

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
CONCERT AND COOKOUT
7 P.M. AT HERLAND
FEATURING

FREEFALL

We'll have hot dogs (& tofu dogs) on the grill. Bring something to share and come join the fun. With any luck, Freefall's new CD will be available.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23
PRIDE PARADE

Come join the Herland Contingent. Pre-parade activities start in Memorial Park at N.W. 36 and Classen at about 1 P.M with the Parade stepping off at 4 P.M. (see inside for a complete schedule). If you can't join the parade, you can watch as the parade moves along N.W. 39th from Classen to Barnes.

ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

Our Oklahoma Senate passed a bill recently that establishes fines and penalties for bear wrestling and, in an oddly placed but nevertheless welcome amendment, strengthens previously passed laws against spousal abuse. (And if your spouse just happens to be a bear, look out.) Not unexpectedly, the wife-beaters' lobby found a spokesman, in the person of Senator Dave Herbert, D-Midwest City, who was against the bill because "there are women who incite their husbands to beat them because the husbands later are 'completely apologetic.'"¹ Do you care to comment on this, Sybil? Thanks.

Your old pal and buddy,
Ima Bea Wilderd

Dear Ima Bea,

Senator Herbert gives brand new meaning to the dynamics of "kiss and make up", but what I wonder is how battered wives can understand the apologies that must be delivered in Cro Magnan?

Unfortunately, the Senator is not up for reelection for another two years. At that time why don't you make posters with his smug visage and the above remark, and plaster them all over Midwest City, garden suburb of the State Capital? In the meantime, letters of condolence to his poor wife Marilyn at 5922 S.E. 15th Street, Midwest City, OK 73110, would surely not be out of order.

The main thing is, Ima, don't forget this incident, and don't let him run for office again without it being brought up, loudly and repeatedly. The skinny is that he is ambitious, and you know he's got just the kind of smug spoiled good looks that make men aspire to higher office. What happens is, they look in the mirror and admire themselves, going "Yes indeed, I am a good looking cuss, aren't I? Bland, boring features, white, anglo saxon; every mother's dream - my gosh, hey; I guess I'd make a good president, wouldn't I! Wow, is life good or what? Look out country, here I come!"

Don't let that happen with this guy, Ima. No one who is able to stir a saint to want to smack him a good one deserves to be elected to any office. I know, I

know. I won't smack him because I don't believe in violence, but if I did forget myself and toss a thunderbolt or two down his jeans I would probably be very apologetic; I wonder if he would incite me again? Cigarette anyone?

Yours in saintly and sisterly disdain,
Sybil

Dear Sybil,

You notice I do not call you "Saint." I am so disappointed in you, I am going to have to take to my bed. In your answer above you did three things I was sure I could always count on you of all people never to do. First of all, you were looksist as all get out - you can't hold it against these guys just because they are good looking, you know. Secondly, you exhibited a desire to violence that was shocking; and thirdly, and worst of all, you used "going" as a synonym for "saying". What were you thinking of?

Yours,

Miss Tretid N. Distrest

Dear Miss,

I do sometime forget where I am on the grand continuum of time when I address the Herland Voice, and it is true that the use of "go" for "say" will not be academically acceptable until the year 2037. Sorry. About your other problems, oh well.

Yours,

Saint Sybil

¹. The Daily Oklahoman, 5-2-96.

**SPRUCE UP
HERLAND**

June 15, 10 - 4

Potluck Lunch at Noon

BUT WHAT IF THEY MEAN IT???

By Margaret Cox

Reverence for all who live, even Republicans, is my motto. It is a hard one to live by, but I try.

The good news in the Oklahoma Republican Platform is that they reject the portion of their Tulsa County Platform which reads: "Juries or judges should have the option to sentence convicted defendants to death in cases of rape or sodomy." Yes indeed, death for sodomy, that's what it says.

The bad news is that they too have an unhealthy fixation on gays and lesbians, dedicating nearly two full pages to a "Sexual Perversion" plank, (thank you very much) as well of course as sprinkling negative referrals throughout the rest of the platform. In the SP plank, they call homosexuality an "abominable sin", "a factor in the demise of societies from Sodom and Gomorrah to the Empires of Ottoman, Greece and Rome"; and they "oppose the ominous political powers being given to homosexuals in the United States." That's right, "ominous". I find that pretty ominous, myself, and scary as all get out, especially as coupled with their declaration that they believe that "legislation condoning homosexuality would confer public acceptability of this activity *and would lead inexorably to the destruction of our nation.*" That makes it sound almost treasonous to be gay, doesn't it? It makes me nervous, I'll admit it.

They go on with thirty-one specific points, opposing the "homosexual agenda" - Lordy, how they love that phrase; supporting the retention and enforcement of sodomy laws in Oklahoma; urging "vigorous arrest and prosecution of all those violating laws regarding the *promotion* of homosexual behavior" - what on earth does that mean: goodbye Herland, goodbye OGLPC, goodbye Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Association?

They oppose the establishment of gay studies, oppose allowing homosexuals to work as teachers, waiters, doctors, nurses, dentists, soldiers, or in any other "sensitive and responsible position" - Goodbye my job, goodbye your job, close the restaurants? They oppose the adoption or foster parenthood of children by homosexuals; oppose same-sex marriages, and in a particularly despicable section lump homosexuality with pedophilia, necrophilia and bestiality. Hello, does anyone out there in Republican land understand the concept of consent?

Elsewhere these darling folk call for quarantine of those known to be infected with HIV and practicing high-risk behavior, which to them is anything except abstinence; they oppose ratification of the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of the Child and the United Nations Treaty on Women. They support a legal ban on all forms of advertisement, such as television, radio, newspaper, *yellow pages*, etc. which promote abortion or abortion clinics - goodbye any public face of Planned Parenthood. They support the right of local school boards to divide girls and boys into separate classes - but equal, no doubt.... They support the teaching of Creationism in the public schools and oppose "political correctness" including "Environmental Awareness". That's right, down with environmental awareness, up with ignorance. They're for spanking in schools, - but probably not in the bedroom.

They oppose any attempt to make child day-care a mandatory employee benefit. They oppose women serving in anything but non-combatant roles in the military, - goodbye high rank, prestige, pay; they oppose multi-culturalism and affirmative action in all its guises. They urge abolishment of: the U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, Energy, HUD, Environment, Commerce and Agriculture, OSHA, EPA, ATF, Office of Surgeon General and government-paid volunteers.

The National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for Humanities, the Corporations for Public Broadcasting and Public Radio are of course all dead meat and unfunded if the Republicans have their way. They are for "Right-to-Work" and favor abolishment of the Federal minimum wage.

It is just such a mean-spirited, narrow-minded, block-headed, ignorant document that I feel soiled reading it and hate to burden others with it; but really, dear reader, you need to know about it. I have looked in this document in vain for phrases and ideologies that leap to the eye when browsing the 1992 Democratic platform: Fairness; Empowering the Poor; Civil and Equal Rights; Responsibility; Labor-Management Responsibilities; Restoring Community; National Service; Workers Rights.

Now we all know that your average Republican is not as bad as their platform and the average Democrat is not as good as theirs, and personally I can find a lot to like in the Socialist and the Libertarian and other political parties - heck, even anarchy hath its charms. I've belonged to the Republican - oops, I've outed myself - the Democratic and the Peace and Freedom parties; and I am not trying to tell anyone how to register or vote. I just cannot for the life of me understand how any woman, straight or lesbian; any person of color, man or woman; any gay or lesbian person, of whatever color, or any thoughtful decent human being, can stand on, or for, or anywhere in the vicinity of, the platform outlined above. □

NANCY SCOTT:

HEARTPRINTS IN CLAY

Reviewed by Jill Garner

This latest release by Nancy Scott has taken a few listenings to really draw me in but the more I listen to the words and get into the songs, the more I like it. Scott's voice is not what initially draws me in, but it's her talent at reaching my heart with her songs exploring love, friendship and other fun things, with some of her humor subtly thrown in.

The album starts off with "Poco", a song which explores the passing of time and losing touch with friends and places along the way. "So Poco when we look behind we find the treasures of the past, supposedly aren't in the stars to last, But I defy that fate and I can't wait to see you all and know, The heart's capacity for love just grows." And I love the funky beat of "Everybody". Emily Kaitz and her upright bass on "Worn Out Getting Wise" gives the song a bluesy sound and the words, "Don't come looking for no new flame, This one burned out long ago from playing that ole game, Better find a woman with some stars left in her eyes, who hasn't got worn out getting wise" are certainly sad enough. Fortunately later on the album, "Right Past Dawn" restores my spirit and faith in love and desire. "Right past dawn, now babe don't get me wrong, My love for you is strong the whole day through, Something 'bout the way the blue lights up your face, no moment can replace right past dawn."

"Old Flings" is the highlight of the album. Its jazz sound is helped along by Millie Marlow on guitars, Ruth Haber on piano, drums by Teri Lord, Emily Kaitz and her bass, and Mary Reynolds playing saxophone. I think the song is a good one for Scott's voice and the lyrics make the song a great one. "Because old flings don't die they just fade away, leaving their heartprints in clay, and when it dries it just seems to say, hey look what those people had themselves that day."

I've had the pleasure of hearing Nancy Scott sing at Herland retreats in the past. She's nice, funny, tender, and a talented musician. What a package. *Heartprints in Clay* is available at Herland.

Dallas Happenings: If you're a Joan Armatrading fan, don't miss her in Dallas June 16 at Deep Ellum live. Ani DeFranco will perform at Trees June 7. Tracy Chapman will be at the Bronco Bowl August 17. □

BIBLIOBITS

With the Gay Pride Parade on June 23, political and community history may be a topic for reading this month. HERLAND'S LENDING LIBRARY has many books and materials on lesbian and gay history in the non-fiction section (east wall). Please come in, browse and check out books that are of interest.

In the month of June, HERLAND'S LENDING LIBRARY will have a collection display of materials for and about Native Americans, in recognition of Oklahoma City's Red Earth Festival and Native Americans in our community.

Another HSR work day will be on June 15, and volunteers will be needed. Even with the cold windy weather for the last work day, several tasks were accomplished inside (woodwork, paint preparation, and book processing) and outside (flower bed planting). If interested in easy tasks and a chance to visit with other women, there is plenty of sorting, verifying, and marking of books with the on-going library inventory. Either an hour or so or the whole day of helping will be appreciated. A potluck is also planned. For more information, contact the library clerk at 521-9696 by leaving a message or visit with a volunteer on the weekend. □

Thanks, Diane, for all you've done to organize the library and make it more accessible

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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.

Subscriptions to *The Voice* are free upon request; however, a \$12 annual donation is encouraged to help meet the costs of publication and distribution.

The Voice is printed on recycled paper.

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

In the October 1995 issue of this newsletter we told you about the availability of emergency contraception which is well-known in medical circles but little shared with the women who need it. Now Katha Pollitt, writing in *The Nation*, has published a 1-800 number which women can use to locate a doctor in her vicinity who will prescribe the "morning after" pill or other emergency contraception. The pills are not RU482, but tried and proven combinations of drugs which are effective as a contraception when taken in the first several days after unprotected heterosexual intercourse. The number is **1-800-584-9911**.

Anyone who wants to help protect women's reproductive freedom should call their personal physicians and ask them to register with the Emergency Contraception Hotline, P. O. Box 33218, Decatur Georgia 30033.

Pollitt, a wonderful feminist columnist reviewed in these pages in March of this year, offers us another 1-800 number on a horrific subject of commanding interest to us all: female genital mutilation (F.G.M.) As Pollitt describes it, F.G.M. is "sometime euphemized as "female circumcision", although the operation - in which the clitoris, the labia and sometimes the entire vulva are sliced off and the vaginal opening sewn up - is a medically disastrous, sometimes even fatal, procedure with grave consequences: excruciating pain, recurring infections, the destruction of sexual pleasure and lifelong difficulties with urination, menstruation, intercourse and childbirth."

A nineteen year old woman, Fauziya Kasinga of Togo, is currently seeking asylum in the United States as a refuge from F.G.M. Thus far she has been denied asylum, and for more than a year was held in detention (read: prison) in New Jersey. She was recently released "on parole". Fauziya fled her homeland at the age of 17, requesting political asylum in the United States. Her case is being appealed with the help of Equality Now, a coalition of Human Rights groups.

For further information you may call **1-800-253-9539**; and if you would like to express your opinion on this matter you can fax Attorney General Janet Reno at **1-202-514-4371**. □

PLANNING SURVEY

In April, Herland began a planning process to look at what our immediate priorities and long-term priorities should be. Those who participated in that initial meeting decided that we needed more information and input from Herland volunteers and supporters and others in our community.

A survey was designed to gather information. The first surveys were distributed at the Spring Retreat. Surveys are also being distributed through the Voice and will be distributed at the Pride Parade.

Please take the opportunity to complete the survey and contribute your opinions to the planning process. □

PRIDE CELEBRATION

JUNE 23, 1996

MEMORIAL PARK

N.W. 36TH AND CLASSEN, OKC

- 1:00 Begin Gathering & Opening
- 1:30 Ecumenical Service with Holy Trinity Ecumenical Catholic Church and Lighthouse MCC Church
- 2:00 The Banned, Oklahoma's Gay and Lesbian Marching Band
- 2:15 Metro Men's Chorus
- 2:30 Introductions of dignitaries
- 2:45 Senator Bernest Cain presents Proclamation for Pride Day
- 2:50 Presentation of the Helen Tyson award
- 3:00 Keynote address by Donna Redwing, National Spokesperson for GLAAD
- After Donna's speech, music by Peggy Johnson and Parade line-up
- 4:00 Parade steps off!

BULLETIN BOARD

Counseling for Lesbians: Call for a Wednesday evening appointment. Jo L. Soske MEd/MHR/CADC/LPC 879-2226.

Call for Submissions: Women's Words, a new magazine dedicated to publishing women's short stories, is now accepting submissions of never before published short stories for publication. Send your submission to Women's Words, P.O. Box 103, Maynard, MA 01754. Stories will not be returned. Include a SASE for notification if your story is selected for publication.

Thanks Natasha for all your work coordinating the landscaping for Herland and all the hours you've spent making Herland more beautiful!

OUR SUPPORTERS

Red Rock Gay and Lesbian **OUTreach**

Free Seminars & Workshops • Substance Abuse Prevention
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Activities (Dances, Arts & Crafts Classes, Sports, etc.)
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June 1996

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Full Moon
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Last Quarter
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 New Moon 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Herland Work Day 9:00 PM Peggy Johnson at Diversity Coffeehouse, 2300 N.W. 17, OKC
16 Father's Day 4:30 PM . Herland Board Meeting	17	18	19	20 Summer begins	21	22 7:00 PM Freefall Concert and Cookout at HSR
23 1st Quarter 1:00 PM Pride Celebration and Parade, Memorial Park	24	25	26	27 <i>6:30 P.M. Newsletter folding</i>	28	29
30 Full Moon						

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