

The HERLAND VOICE

March, 1997

OPERATIONAL CHANGES

The board of directors of Herland began soliciting input from the community last summer about changes that would make Herland a better organization. After much discussion over the past eight months, the board has decided to switch to a new arrangement for the administration of Herland. The traditional leadership positions within the organization were called Sister One, Sister Two, and Sister Three and included a rotation of positions every six months. Some of the input that was received about this arrangement suggested that it was unclear as to what the duties of these positions included and that the rotation process was not liked by many individuals. Under the new plan, officer positions of president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer will be created and serve for a term of one year. These elections will be held at the board meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 16th at 4:30 p.m. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

We are currently seeking two to six interested individuals to serve on the board of directors. Debbie Teal was installed as the newest board member at the last meeting. Other members of the board are Jill Burroughs, Margy Dillon, Ginger McGovern, Pat Reaves, Natasha Rice, Tina Stiefmiller, and Diane Trout-Harwood. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please contact one of the above members or call Herland at 521-9696.

Committees are being formed to better utilize Herland volunteers. The committees are Library committee, Public Relations committee, Social Activities committee, Building & Grounds committee, and an Executive committee.

The Library committee will oversee the operations of the bookstore, including acquiring new books, book filing systems, and organization.

The Public Relations committee will involve publishing the newsletter, writing articles for various newspapers, creating and distributing posters for Herland events, and taking photos.

The Social Activities committee will plan retreats, coffee houses, potluck dinners, seminars, and other types of activities that are both educational and enjoyable.

The Building & Grounds committee will see to the overall maintenance of Herland property and will include planting flowers, mowing and trimming the lawn, painting, and general small repair work.

The Executive committee will serve to assist the board of directors with budgeting and special functions that may be needed from time to time.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please attend the General Committee Meeting on Sunday, March 16th at 2:30 p.m. or contact Herland at 521-9696. □



HOW ABOUT DINNER AND A MOVIE?

You can't say no to a girl like me, can 'ya? So I'll see you at Herland on around 7 P.M. on Saturday, March 22. For a mere \$4.00 you can have all the lasagna (vegetarian or meat) and salad you can eat. I'm not sure what the movie will be yet --I hear the possibles include *Oranges Aren't the Only Fruit*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *The Birdcage* or maybe something else-- it'll be good -- I promise!. I am sure the company will be the best in town. See you there! □

CATIE CURTIS - *TRUTH FROM LIES*

by Jill Garner

Catie Curtis will be performing at the City Arts Center on March 20th! I've had Curtis' CD *Truth From Lies* for several months now and I'm excited about the chance to see her perform, and I don't even have to go to Dallas for this one! Yes, she'll be right here in Oklahoma City so don't miss this chance. Curtis is talented, and openly lesbian, and lord knows that combination in an entertainer does not get them a forum to play in Oklahoma very often.

A couple of months ago I read that Curtis won the award for Best Song at a gay and lesbian music awards ceremony for her song "Radical." She sings in the chorus "But I'm not being radical, when I kiss you, And I don't love you to make a point, It's the hollow of my heart, that cries when I miss you, And it keeps me alive when we're apart." She said in an interview that people sometimes think it's about an interracial relationship, which is fine with her. It could certainly be said about any relationship still considered to be socially unacceptable. I love the song and I always feel empowered by it. It's not a preachy song but just a song about wanting to love someone without having to make a political statement.

Several of the songs on the album are full of electric guitars and drums, and are full, lively songs. Others are more acoustic and mellow. It's a nice mix of folksy with a funky sound thrown in and some rock as well. I also think Curtis has a talent for saying what's been said a million times in a slightly different way.

In "Everybody Was Dancing," Curtis explores a woman's decision to leave a marriage after 30 years, even though she doesn't understand the reasons. "She feels the terror most when she looks down, She drops a penny and doesn't hear a sound, And yet the silence in her own home, Begs the question 'Why not be alone?' Why not alone." (continued on page 2)

CRUISING THE LESBO-WEB

by Nancy Nesser

Finally, I have joined the techno revolution and I can surf the Web! I have found so many fun sites in the past month that I wanted to share them with the like-minded women who read the *Voice*. This month, I want to tell you about sites of general lesbian interest.

One of the first sites I visited was www.Gayly.com, the web page of *The Gayly Oklahoman*. It is one way to get the local news if you live out of town or if you don't get out much. Another local news site is www.OKCNEW.com, the home page of the *Oklahoma City Community News*.

WWW.ADVOCATE.COM is a great place to start your trek across the lesbo-web. When you go to the *Advocate* homepage, you can get daily news updates, read articles from the latest issue, join a

discussion forum, or click on "Gay Links" to get a list of related websites. The list is divided into categories of interest. Under "Lesbian Interests" you will find [Amazon Online](#). This links you to a zillion women-oriented sites. If you click on [Magazines](#), and then on [Girlfriends](#), you will find an absolutely fabulous picture of k d lang on the cover of their current issue.

After you see k d's picture, go back to the list of magazines, then page down to the category called "Women's Resources." Now click on [Women on the Net](#) for a long list of interesting websites.

One other site of general interest is www.planetout.com. They have a list you can join for updates and information. They also have movie reviews, magazines, chat rooms, and merchandising areas.

Next time: how to keep up with your favorite performers.

Anyone who is interested in being a part of a local Email network for Herland updates and local musician performance dates can send an Email to NJNESSER@JUNO.COM. If you have a modem, but do not have internet access, I can get you a copy of the Juno Email software. Juno is 100% free. Send your name and address to Nancy Nesser at the Herland address and I will have a copy of the software mailed to you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

HERLAND SPRING RETREAT

Friday, May 16 -- Sunday May 18
Roman Nose State Park

Details in the April *Voice*

CATIE CURTIS (continued from page 1)

"Slave to My Belly" is a funny look at an artist's poverty and I love the lines, "And I'm a slave to my two feet 'cause they want to come home, They want to come upstairs and rest their little bones, 'We love the floor that we walk on. We love this house that you own.' And I don't have the heart to tell them that I don't."

"Crocodile Tear" has a funky sound to it and is a humorous tale of manipulative love, with a happy ending of course. "Dad's Yard" is a heartwarming song about all the stuff you can find in her dad's yard, and all the love you can find in her dad's heart.

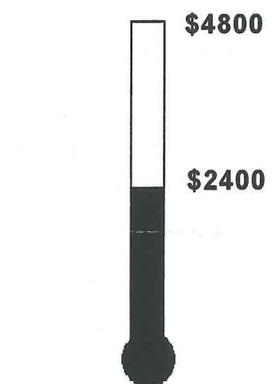
"The Wolf," co-written by Curtis and Jennifer Robohm deals with domestic violence from a child's perspective, and the simple words convey so much. "My mother tells me we are a family, But I don't want to be, I have a plan, Yes I'm waiting for the day when I am stronger, And I will step in the way, I'll make him sorry."

I could go on and on about this album, and tell you more about the great songs and all the great lines, but I hope you'll go hear her on March 20 for yourself. Tickets are only \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. She starts at 8 pm. Call 843-5789 to find out where advance tickets will be sold.

Heat and Air Angels

We're just over half-way to paying off Herland's new central heat and air. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. Our goal is to have it completely paid for by the time to air conditioning is needed. In Oklahoma that's not likely to be very far away but there's still time to add your name to the list of contributors with a contribution of \$50 or more.

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In Honor of DHS Field Operations Staff
In Honor of Finding Myself
In Honor of Jingles
In Honor of the Holy Spirit in Each of Us
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Margaret Cox
and Wanda Chapman
Natasha Rice
Pat Colognesi
Pat Reaves
Renee McBride
Sherry Murphy
Susan Eaton

Please let us know if your name or memorial is not on this list. We want to be sure to have an accurate list for the plaque!

Herland Sister Resources -- March 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Wende Allyn at Border's Books, NW Expway, OKC	8 International Women's Day
9 7:30 PM FreeFall at Medina's	10	11	12	13	14 9:00 PM Wende Allyn at Medina's	15
16 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Committee Mtgs 4:30 Board Mtg	17 St. Patrick's	18	19 <i>Deadline for VOICE</i>	20 Spring begins 8:00 PM Cate Curtis at City Arts Center	21 8:00 PM Circle of Friends at Granny Had One, Guthrie, OK	22 7:00 PM Dinner & a Movie at Herland
23 12:00 PM Potluck lunch and Work Day at Herland	24	25	26	27 <i>Newsletter Party 6:30</i>	28	29 9:00 PM Circle of Friends at Medina's, OKC
30 Easter	31					

Have an event of interest to Voice readers? Let us know by the Voice deadline and we'll put it on the calendar.

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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.

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

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____ other: _____ is enclosed.

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Return to HSR, 2312 N.W. 39, OKC, OK 73112

LETTERS

Editor,

I'm a huge fan of PBS but this year I'm not donating money during Festival 1997 because of the station's censorship of shows with gay and lesbian themes. Last week OETA declined to air the Masterpiece Theatre production of "Breaking the Code" starring award winning actor Derrick Jacobi. OETA Overnight on cable did air the show at midnight.

This is not the first time that OETA has declined to air gay themed shows. A few years back the station adamantly refused to air the award winning documentary "Tongues Untied" because they considered it obscene. That documentary about African-American male gay life aired all over the country but the moral police of OETA had to protect us from it.

I spoke to three people at OETA about this — Bob Allen, the Executive Director; Bill Thrash, the programming director; and an unidentified woman. Allen feigned ignorance on the whole matter and said the Masterpiece Theatre "Breaking the Code" might resurface in the fall. Bill Thrash got really huffy about the whole matter and said it was a scheduling conflict not censorship though he admitted that the program director before him refused to show "Tongues Untied" because it was pornographic and that he supported the decision. The unnamed woman said she didn't know why "Breaking the Code" was not shown but it wasn't because of gay content. She said she and the other staff had lots of gay friends and that gay people were nice and never told lies. She said OETA had no problems with shows featuring gays because they broadcast "Are You Being Served" on Sunday nights and that Mr. Humphries was gay. She really irked me something awful.

As I said earlier, I cannot give money to a station that censors materials of gay interest. The OETA woman's "Are You Being Served" - Mr. Humphries remark was either stupid or highly bigoted.

I plan to donate to a worthy charity like Amnesty International or the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation instead of OETA.

Terry, A pissed-off former OETA fan

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