

# Herland

---

## VOICE

August, 1999

## WOMEN IN SPORTS

By MOC

It's nearly midnight on the Monday following the Women's World Cup Soccer Match last Saturday, and I've just done six hours of non-stop after-work house cleaning and yard work, still high from that wonderful game.. Housecleaning in celebration of a soccer match, does this seem ironic? (And oh yes, I *ironed* some shorts and shirts too; I mean, I tore into this old house, the dogs running for cover, Mary Reynolds blaring on the hi-fi - I hung pictures, I stored stuff away, I tidied, I ironed, I vacuumed, I dusted, I swept, I washed, I felled trees (ok, three feet tall is a little tree, but it needed to come out of the flower bed and I cut it. Move over Paul Bunyan) I was way too hyped to sit still, and my house and yard got the benefit - a lucky thing, no doubt: this cleaning frenzy may keep me that all-important one step ahead of the Board of Health for another month.

But that's not what I'm here to talk about. I'm here to marvel and brag on Scurry and Lilly and Chastain and Hamm and all the other wonderful women, and eat a little crow about Title IX while I'm at it.

Were they not wonderful! That great save Lilly made - I thought we were sunk for sure and then Pow! There she is out of nowhere and she knocks that ball half way to the Olympic Games with her head! And Scurry - those gutsy Chinese women were wearing me out keeping the ball around our goal; how exhausting must it have been for her? Then those torturous penalty kicks - the tension almost finished me. (And is it true that she, Scurry, vowed to run naked through the streets of Atlanta if the Americans won the 1996 Olympics, and she kept her word? And where was I at the time?)

Well, as much as I would have liked to have been in Atlanta in 1996, I really didn't deserve to be: I've been known to sneer at Title IX; right here in Oklahoma City at a television debate on feminism and the ERA in 1983, for instance. I did not exactly cover myself in glory that day.

A friend of mine did. While I waved my hand in vain to raise a Serious and Important Question (I have no idea today what it was) Sue got up and spoke on the importance of Title IX and the outrage that this Act, a Federal law, voted by Congress and approved by the President, was not being implemented. (continued page 2)

## OUT FOR A CHANGE: ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VIDEO!

Stop by Herland Saturday afternoon, August 21, for a rootbeer float or other ice cream delight and see a fine documentary from Woman Vision. We will have showings at 2pm and again at 3ish.

The 28-minute video, *Out for a Change: Addressing Homophobia in Women's Sports*, is "a look at the devastating emotional impact of homophobia on *all* women athletes - and indeed, on all women.. *Out for a Change* makes the case that homophobia, like sexism and racism, is a wedge issue used to inhibit equal access for women." Betty Hicks, Sanya Tyler, Zina Garrison, Martina Navrotilova and Helen Carroll (whose rich Georgia drawl makes our own Peggy Johnson sound like a Yankee) are among those featured in the video.

If the audience is in the mood for a video "dessert" to go with their ice cream confection, we will have on hand the 7-minute video marvel by Kay Walker, *One Fine Day*. Guaranteed to raise your spirits without adding calories. Come on by! □



Wishing Chair, the duo of singer-songwriters Kiya Heartwood and Miriam Davidson will bring their alternative acoustic rock to Herland on August 27 at 6:30 PM.

If you can't make the Herland performance of Wishing Chair, you can also see them on August 21 in Ford's Alley in Tahlequah, OK.

## *WOMEN IN SPORTS (continued from page 1)*

Luckily for me, I muttered my sour opinion only to myself: "well, la de dah, poor baby, her little girl can't play softball - neither could I when I was young, and anyway, let's talk about the important things, equal pay, violence against women, the ERA!" Oh, my disdain, my contempt, my error, my idiocy!

Of course, I have known for a long time now that, as important as direct work on various women's issues always will be, Title IX is the best two-edged sword feminism has wielded to date. As girls and women are training and playing and taking themselves seriously and being treated with respect by the establishment, they have become good enough and flashy enough to develop a growing cadre of fans who feed the women's self-esteem and encourage them to further effort which brings them more fans; a wonderful spiral of success. One of the many wonderful things about the World Cup Team is that they seem very aware of their place on the historical continuum, linking the bad old days and the better ones still to come; and of their importance as role models for the children who admire and adore them.

It was not that many years ago that a disappointed Oklahoma woman, yea, a staunch feminist even, was heard to sigh after a local college women's basketball game, "Why can't the women play as well as the men?" Well, maybe it was because they had played half-court basketball for their first eighteen years; and because they had had none of the advantages of time, money, and dedication the boys were indulged with. Today, a generation after the implementation of Title IX, John Wooden, one of the finest coaches of men's college basketball in history, has said, "If you want to see the best basketball today, watch the women".

I doubt there was a man alive who, after watching the Women's World Cup Soccer match, didn't look at the women in his life with different eyes. I don't think there is a woman alive who watched that game who didn't go to bed that night with a feeling of heightened pride and validation, a bit of exhilaration..

The World Cup is over, but there is plenty of opportunity to watch women's sports (if you are not, even better, out participating in it.) Women's professional basketball is televised a couple of times a week this summer, displaying the power and grace of its beautiful talented players to a growing number of admiring fans.

Women's college basketball is wonderful too. Here in Oklahoma we don't have the powerhouses like Old Dominion, Providence, or Virginia. What our teams lack is not skill or flash, however - they are maybe half a step slower and a little smaller, is all. The team whose games I go to whenever they're in town is the Crimson Storm at Southern Nazarene. They are consistently ranked number one or two in the

NAIA. They are a marvelous team with great pride and history and they just keep getting better. I am almost to the point now where I don't tear up too noticeably at the great reception these young women get from their dedicated fans.

I don't know about you, dear reader, but for me happiness is pretty much a passive thing most of the time - a vague awareness that life is good and at the moment has a bearable level of pain and stress, grief and worry. At women's sporting events, however, it is an active, present emotion that swells my heart and puts a very silly grin on my face, from the moment I walk in the field house until I'm drifting off to sleep that night. Pride, joy and validation; a heady mix. I recommend it highly.

The Herland Voice will be publishing game schedules of the local college teams this fall. If you want to do yourself and your heart good, make a commitment to attend a few games, and see if you don't just love it.

And now lets raise a cheer for the World Cup team: here's to Michelle Akers, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett, Julie Foudy, Danielle Fotopoulos, Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly, Tiffeny Milbrett, Shannon MacMillan, Carla Overbeck, Cindy Parlow, Christie Pearce, Brianna Scurry, Kate Sobrero, Tisha Venturini and Sara Whalen. That'll do, Team. ☐

*Creedy*

*September 1982 - July 7, 1999*

*Constant companion*

*Faithful friend*

*So long old pal*

...I've known her over sixteen years

The animal

Her hair is black but I swear it used to be brown

Her love has forced me to release some fears

I trusted her when no one was around

Oh she's my Creedy

She's my sweetie

Creedy sweet as candy

Creedy she's my sweetie

Oh Cree Cree Cre...

# **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

## **AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER:**

8<sup>th</sup> - The Sunday Twilight Concert Series features Miss Brown To You from 6:30 to 8:30pm, at Mount St. Mary's Campus at SW 28<sup>th</sup> and Shartel. Bring chairs or a blanket and food/beverages for a great evening. No glass or pets this year. Call Joanna at 842-0052 if you are interested in coordinating a picnic.

10<sup>th</sup> - The Oklahoma Progressive Alliance meets at 6:00 pm. in Stroud City Hall's Old Counsel Room. Bring a sack dinner & beverage for yourself. For information call: in Tulsa -- Barbara Santee, (918) 494-9985 and in OKC - Anita Fream, (405) 528-0021.

14<sup>th</sup> - The Supper Club meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. It's a great way to have fun and meet people.

15<sup>th</sup> - Dance Class with Tex and Judy starts at 3:00p.m. Another great way to have fun and meet people!

21<sup>st</sup> - Ice Cream Social and showing of "Out for a Change" video. Showings at 2:00p.m. and 3:00p.m.

22<sup>nd</sup> - Second Dance Class begins at 3:00 p.m.

27<sup>th</sup> - August Social, featuring the group Wishing Chair at 6:30 p.m. (They are friends of the Therapy Sisters, and one member is from Tahlequah. They chose Herland for this concert.)

28<sup>th</sup> - Diversity, Mary Catherine Reynolds splits the bill at the Diversity Coffeeshop with the duo Enough Rope. 9ish to midnight. 524-PERK, in the strip mall on the northeast corner of NW 16th and Indiana.

29<sup>th</sup> - Third Dance Class 3:00 p.m. We may try our new skills in the clubs!

## **FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER:**

September 18<sup>th</sup> - Mary Catherine Reynolds will be performing at Herland for the September Social. Come at 6:30 p.m..

October 1-3 - The Herland Fall Retreat at Lake Murray.

(If you have an event you'd like to share with readers of the Herland Voice, send a notice to Herland ATTN: Newsletter, 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK 73112 or email [preaves@telepath.com](mailto:preaves@telepath.com) by the 20th of the preceeding month.)

**The Voice is published by:** Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

*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 although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.*

