

Herland

VOICE

August, 2000

A HISTORY FOR HERLAND

Imagine the year 2050. It will be a truly technological age, when we are all just a push button away. How did we get to this place? What does it mean for our growth as a community?

The Herland Oral History Project will be a way to find out where we're going by looking at where we've been. Over the next year we will be interviewing people in our community to learn their accounts of our past and thoughts about our future. We would like your input as we proceed.

The Herland Oral History Project will seek women in our community who (1) remember a time in the Oklahoma City area before Herland; and (2) have been involved with Herland over the years. Participants need to be willing to be interviewed on audio tape and/or interviewer notes. If possible, we'd like to take your photograph too.

All interviews will be processed so they may be a resource for people interested in Herland's history. We would also like to deposit the histories with the Lesbian Herstory Archive in New York city.

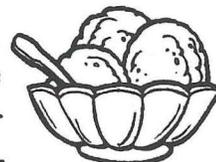
For those of you who would like to be interviewed, but would like to remain anonymous, be assured that your privacy will be respected. All you have to do is tell us: we'll respect your wishes.

Dr. Jan Rosenberg will be conducting the interviews. She has been doing this kind of work for over 20 years. If you would like to talk with Jan about the project, feel free to call her at 945-0831 or e-mail, herjer@ix.netcom.com.

Our history is as important as our future. Please consider being a part of this valuable project. □

ICE CREAM SOCIAL/JAM SESSION

Meet at Herland on August 12 for an Ice Cream Social and Jam Session that's happening at 7:00 P.M. Louise Goldberg will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. A \$5.00 donation is requested, unless you're jammin' ("pay or play").



We will have several freezers of homemade ice cream with cookies and toppings. Come join us—it will be a (cool) blast!



Bring your instruments and your taste for fun and the cool stuff. Your Board of Directors and your friends look forward to seeing you on the 12th! Be there or be square.

Upcoming Herland Events

August 12 — *The Supper Club will meet at 5:00 at Chelino's at SW 59th and Western.*

August 12, 7:00 PM — *Ice Cream Social at Herland. See details above*

August 20, 8:00 AM — *Bike Ride. Meet at N.E. 36th and Coltrane for a 10 mile ride through the Spencer area. Park at the school.*

August 20, 4:30 *Herland Board Meeting. Open to all interested in being more involved in Herland.*

October 13 - 15 *Herland Fall Retreat, Osage Hills State Park. A limited number of complimentary retreat registrations are available for workshop presentors. If you have a workshop you'd like to present, please send a brief description to Herland, 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK 73112*

SAINT SYBIL

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

Dear Saint Sybil,

A great many of my lesbian friends were molested or sexually abused as children. I hate to think that our sexual orientation is a negative reaction (disliking of men), rather than a positive action (adoring women), but one has to wonder. I know I adore women, but I also remember that I was abused. Do you have any "wise woman" advice for me?

Yours,

Jess Gottawonder

Dear Jess,

... So you think maybe women become lesbians because they were molested, and I guess men become gay because their mothers were smothering.... mass murderers become vicious killers because someone spared the rod, you love chocolate because someone forced them demmed vanilla wafers on you when you were young, and Pat Buchanan and Dr. Laura became mean blithering idiots because people were too kind and loving and gentle with them as kids...

Nope, Jessie, not true. What is true is that while quite a few lesbians were sexually abused as children, so also were about ten times as many straight women. Being molested no more turns women into lesbians than it turns straight women into heterosexuals. Okaydoke?

You know, many cultures celebrate homosexuality as a gift from the Great Spirit; and so it's curious how the dangerous canard that sex is only for opposites gained credence in Western culture. One assumes it must have come from big-city dwellers, people who lived their whole benighted lives deprived of the joy of the outdoors. I mean, don't farm animals and housepets and chimpanzees and whole colonies of "lesbian" seagulls tell us anything?

Actually, fear of homosexuality is propagated by just a few - those in power, committed to maintaining privilege for themselves and dominance over the many. All "isms" serve those in power - racism, classism, ageism, anti-Semitism, queerism (ok, homophobia), and the grandmother of all isms, sexism. I commend to you, dear Jessie, a wonderful book by Suzanne Pharr, *Homophobia, A Weapon of Sexism*.

Oops, lecturing again, sorry. Now I will leave you with one short story about amorous attraction and the futility of trying to confine it in some artificial puritanical straightjacket: A friend of mine I channel with from time to time has a chihuahua/doxie mix who was spayed before her first heat. That funny-looking little dog has never had the chance to generate one sexual hormone; she's totally immune to even the strongest pheromone - Rin Tin Tin, leave that little dog alone, she doesn't want you - you either, Lassie, whatever gender you are - There is no sexual spark in this little dog at all, none, - except, that is, when my friend settles in for the night and puts on her adorable pink fuzzy bunny slippers - Goodness, hide your eyes, children, and bar the door! That little poodle is determined that those slippers will be the mother of her puppies. What a spectacle, I blush to think of it.

So, my dear, love whom you want, make love with whom you will (always, of course, leaving those puppies and fuzzy slippers alone), and rejoice always in your life and your love.

Peace (& Love), Sybil

Individual, couples or family counseling. Accessible rates. Call for a Wednesday evening appointment. Jo L. Soske, Phd, LPC, CADC 879-2226

www.herlandsisters.org

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IN REVIEW

by Jill Garner

Well, I never am the first one on the block to have the latest technology, but I'm usually not the last either! My girlfriend and I just made the move to digital cable (mainly so we could get more women's sports on ESPN2) and now I may never watch TV again (except for that women's sports thing)! I've discovered a couple of music channels and so far I haven't watched a single TV show. I now have a good radio station, and commercial free at that, so what do I need with TV?

So far my favorite station is called Post Country. Yeah, I agree, what the &*%\$ does post country mean? It's kind of like a good Americana station and I've heard people like Iris Dement, Neko Case, Roseanne Cash, Slaid Cleaves, Dave Alvin, Kelly Willis, Bruce Robison, Steve Forbert, and Ray Price. Yes, that's right, Ray Price. The man who sings true country music at its best is considered post country. Whatever. There's also another station that plays bluegrass at certain times of the day that I have stumbled upon, and it's great. I've already heard a number of musicians I've only been able to read about so far. So if you have digital cable, check out some of the music stations! Now I just need it in my car and I'll be all set! Actually one of the car companies, maybe GM, is planning to install some sort of satellite system in their cars where you can get commercial free radio of the format you choose, and it will be available to install in other makes of cars, for the right price of course, in the not too distant future. I'm saving my money now!

Speaking of radio, I just read that KSPI, The Spy, in Stillwater, has changed formats from alternative rock to the same bland pop that everyone else is playing. According to their research, that's what people, and more importantly, advertisers, want. The people who listen to alternative rock don't make quite enough money to make advertisers happy. The Spy was the only station playing Dar Williams when her last CD was released, and I think they're to thank for the large attendance at her concert when she played in OKC. The lack of radio means a lot of bands will never play this market because they can't sell enough tickets. I'm quite sad to hear the company made that choice, and I still don't understand why so many people are happy hearing the same thing on every station. A lot of students will be in for a big surprise when they come back in the fall!

I hope a lot of you made it to Sooner Theater on July 15th to hear comedienne Vickie Shaw. She was very funny and I hope to pick up her CDs sometime and hopefully get to see her again! Her whole bit about parents who grew up in the 70s and the "When I was your age" stories they have to come up with was priceless. "When I was your age, I had to study by a lava lamp.....stoned!" She definitely had some good stuff.

The opening band Iris was great, too. The theater was approaching full that night, and hot, hot, hot! But Iris rocked the place, which was good because in that kind of heat, I don't think people could have tolerated anything less. I'd never heard the band before but I'd heard three of the members either by themselves or with other bands before. Wanda, Kathy and Crystal (I apologize for any misspelled names) are all good singers and each has their own strengths. Wanda can growl the blues, although I learned that night that Kathy can too! Crystal can belt and I always look forward to songs where she can let loose. Charlene on the harmonica and bass and Marilyn (forgive me if I'm wrong about her name) on the drums were great additions. When the band's set ended with Wipeout, and Charlene dancing around the stage, the band left the crowd on their feet screaming for more! That was definitely a fun night and Iris is definitely a band I'd like to hear again. □

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