

# Herland

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## VOICE

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May, 2001

### ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

So, the United States is getting ready to slip a "hot shot" to Tim McVeigh, and I say, Thank God, it's about time. I don't know about the death penalty in all cases, but in this one I'm all for it.. Surely, even you can't find fault with killing that monster – the mastermind behind the 1995 bombing that left 168 Oklahomans dead and over 500 wounded – and countless thousands grieving. You can't, can you?

Shirley Knott

Dear Shirley,

Monster? He thinks he is a patriot, you know. He is a very wrongheaded young man who did a very terrible thing. And yes, I object very much to executing him.. I think killing Timothy McVeigh is wrong for a great many reasons, some practical ones, more moral ones.

• One reason: Tim McVeigh *wants* to be executed. If we hate him so much (I don't, but perhaps you do) why should we want to give him what he wants? Walk outside on this beautiful spring day and tell me that spending your entire life in a tiny jail cell isn't a dreadful enough punishment for anyone. And if we don't hate him, why should we be complicit in his assisted suicide?

• Another: McVeigh has a ton of knowledge about people who may well engage in more terrorist violence in the future. This is knowledge he might one day reveal, if he's alive. He might also one day wish to share information about those who helped him with the Oklahoma City bombing.

• Another: Executing McVeigh makes him, in the eyes of many dangerous people, a martyr. You know, Shirley, at his request the government has agreed not to perform an autopsy after his death. Can't you just picture how this will make it easy for his fellow "patriots" to believe that he has not really died? There will be "sightings" of McVeigh for time immemorial, and he will become a folk hero to more people than we like to think... This is so not a good thing. It is hard for me to understand how it can be hard for anyone else to understand this.

• Another: Redemption. McVeigh might, over time, repent and find redemption. Now you might say you don't want that to happen, you want him to rot in hell – but people who feel that way need to look to their own souls. Timothy McVeigh should die in God's good time, not in ours.

• Another: Our nation's soul is being badly corrupted by this pending execution. It is bad enough when a handful of vengeful yahoos supporting the death penalty gather at McAlester for executions, cheering, frying bacon on portable barbecues. This time we have a sickening cottage industry springing up around the country. People are using their great gifts of intelligence and imagination to design and sell dreadful things, terrible t-shirts and other souvenir items, base, ugly and degrading. As I write this there are scores of people on Ebay bidding on these hateful items. Shirley, we should not cater to people's baser instincts, unless, that is, we want to live amongst debased and degenerate people.

• Finally, Shirley, let me ask you: is violence wrong? Is it only wrong when it is directed against "us", the "good" people? Or isn't it inherently wrong, no matter where it originates; no matter whom it's against; a sin against humanity and god, the goddess and all creation? Violence is wrong, sinful, and totally counterproductive. Further, state-sponsored violence, of whatever kind, is just as wrong as any other kind. If we are ever going to bring peace and an end to violence on this beautiful, fragile earth, it must be begun unilaterally, by those who know better, by those who can reason past their emotions; by us.

And when you weep for the victims, weep also for Timothy's father and sister. □

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*Herland bike rides are starting again. We are planning several rides per month, including weekends and evenings. Ride lengths and paces will vary from beginner to intermediate. If you are interested in participating, call Judy at 721-6578 for upcoming rides.*



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*Beginning in May, Herland will be open only on Saturdays from 1 - 5 PM and for scheduled events.*

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# IN REVIEW

by Jill Garner

Coming in a close second to my passion for music is my love of women's sports. Just off an exciting women's college basketball season, I'm now watching the softball standings and gearing up for the WNBA season beginning at the end of May.

The WNBA draft will have happened by the time you read this and they're saying the college players graduating this year constitute the most talented pool of players for the draft so far in the history of the WNBA. Players like Svetlana Abrosimova from Connecticut, Katie Douglas from Purdue, Ruth Riley from Notre Dame, Jackie Stiles, the scoring machine from SW Missouri State, Tamika Catchings and Ace Clement from Tennessee, and twins Kelly and Coco Miller from Georgia are just a few of the players entering the WNBA this year. It's going to be an exciting season! One interesting change is the selection of Cynthia Cooper, one of the "Big Three" from the Houston team before retiring last year, as the coach of the Phoenix Mercury team after Cheryl Miller resigned. I will definitely miss the emotional intensity of Cheryl Miller. She was a fun coach to watch and is one of the greatest female basketball players ever!

What a tournament the NCAA college women had this year! Tennessee, picked on the opposite side of the bracket from Connecticut so they could meet in the finals, lost early to Xavier! Georgia, a number two seed with their best chance ever of making it to the final, lost in the second round to Missouri! And Connecticut getting beat in the semifinals to send Notre Dame to meet Purdue for the championship! The OU women made it to the Sweet 16 for the second year in a row but lost to Washington with quite a lackluster performance. But it was an exciting tournament and it was nice to see Notre Dame win it all with an exciting game against Purdue that came down to the final seconds.

For those of you who missed it, Norman was able to host the first and second round games of the NCAA tournament for OU's bracket. Fans packed Lloyd Noble to watch the OU women play Oral Roberts and then Stanford. It was truly inspiring to see that kind of crowd for women's basketball, with over 11,000 fans! It would be great if half that many people went on a regular basis to see the OU women play during the season! But with most of the players returning next year, the team should continue to be exciting and with one of the top players in the country on the team, Stacy Dales, I think the number of fans will continue to grow. Plus several games last season were televised, so that definitely helps their exposure!

The OU softball team continues to do well this year after winning the national championship in 2000! They're second in the Big 12 and ranked number 6 in the nation! With nearly

the whole team back from last year, I hope to see them back in the Women's College World Series this year, which, by the way, is right here in OKC. Three of the players have also been selected to participate in the USA Softball Women's National Team Camp! I haven't made it to any games yet but I have watched a couple on TV. Yes, I said TV! I never would have thought I'd be watching OU softball on TV but there are some benefits to being national champs!

One more exciting development is the start of the women's professional soccer league, the WUSA! They began on April 14<sup>th</sup> and TNT will televise weekly games until June, when CNN/Sports Illustrated takes over until August, when TNT takes over again. So watch for Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain, Briana Scurry, and Kristen Lilly, among other players from the World Cup Champion team, as well as the Chinese powerhouse Sun Wen, on TV over the next few months.

I hope many of you will be able to watch some of these sports and help support them, whether watching them on TV or going to a game. So many of these athletes are phenomenal at what they do, and it's wonderful that many women are able to stay in their sports even after college. I was reading an article the other day in *Women's Sports Illustrated* about a 14-year basketball player who colleges are already trying to woo, and her goal is to be a big star in the WNBA one day! Isn't it awesome that 14 year old girls can dream of becoming professional basketball players? It gives me goose bumps just thinking about it.

See you at the ballpark! □

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**DATE**

June 10, 2001

**TIME**

3:00 to  
7:00 pm

**PLACE**

Greenwood  
Cultural  
Center

322 N. Greenwood  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



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[www.PyramidProject.org](http://www.PyramidProject.org)

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