

Herland

VOICE

November, 2001

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for the past year and invite you to continue your involvement with Herland. Herland is a nonprofit volunteer organization whose purpose is to support women in their journey toward self-definition and self-determination. Herland was established in 1983 by a group of women activists concerned about the oppression of all women and lesbians in particular. Their mission, most simply stated, was to create a safe place for lesbians to meet and exchange ideas, feelings, hopes and fears and to learn about themselves and each other.

Herland works to educate individuals and expand community awareness about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (l/g/b/t) issues. We publish a monthly newsletter, operate a bookstore and lending library, and provide musical and cultural events for education and entertainment. Herland works in collaboration with and supports the efforts of other l/g/b/t and minority organizations to eliminate racism, ageism, sexism, and heterosexism. Your contribution will allow us to continue to serve the l/g/b/t community of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

The Women of Herland

NOVEMBER 2001 EVENTS

Herland Supper Club, 4:45 pm, Saturday, November 10th. Meet at Herland to carpool to Eischen's in Okarche for dinner (plan on being there at 5:30 p.m.). Women from the Enid group will meet us there for a multi-city Supper Club.

Peace Fest, 10 am - 4:00 pm, Saturday, November 17th, at the Myriad. Stop by Herland's booth for holiday cards and gift items.

Thanksgiving Day Potluck, 4:30 pm, Thursday, November 22nd, at Herland. Bring your favorite dish (!!) to Herland for a potluck and games

Herland is open every Saturday from 1 -5 PM

.....
Yes! I want to support Herland's efforts in my community.

Donation categories: *

_____ \$10 *Beebo Brinker*
_____ \$20 *Rubyfruit Jungle*
_____ \$30 *Lesbian/Woman*
_____ \$50 *Sappho Was a Right-on Woman!*
_____ \$100 *Sisterhood is Powerful!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

Email Address _____

__ Check here if you would like to receive the newsletter by email.

Please mail with your contribution to: Herland, 2312 NW 39, OKC, OK . Contributions are tax-deductible

* Don't recognize these titles? You can check them out in the Herland Library.

MEMORIES OF THE 2001 HERLAND FALL RETREAT

I am not a big fan of camping or outside sleeping so I figured this would be a piece of cake. A bed to sleep in and solid roof over my head. I was set for my first retreat. My partner, Cindy, failed to inform me of the huge insects that planned to spend the weekend with us. Huge-gigantic-enormous spiders crawling on my bunk, on the floor, on the toilet paper rolls, and even dangling from the only mirror that was usable. I didn't hang around having conversations with these bugs. I persuaded them with the end of a broom to find a new residence but they had a different agenda. To scare the hell out of me!

Anyway, besides the spiders many memories come to mind. Kate from Tulsa and her exciting stories of the Michigan Womens Festival. Marty T, showing up at the retreat with her motorcycle leathers and of course fashionably late. Graceful Denise F, a newcomer from the panhandle and her dog "Happy". Thanks goes out to Laura C. and Pat R. for all the information on starting a community resource center in Enid. I am grateful for all the wonderful cooks that prepared meals and the recipes that engulfed my tastebuds. Also, Laura C. was humorous and very happy with homemade soap in her pocket.

It was reported by Cheryl P. that a couple was having sexual relations in camp during waking hours. She collaborated with many wellwishers to applaud as the couple returned to the lodge. This was the first time in my history I had so many women applaud me for an act of sex- Boy, was I smiling ear to ear.

I was invited by friends and partner to try fishing in the near by Watonga Lake. Fishing license in one hand and pole in the other I was set. My partner pulled out this awful smelling box of chicken livers and stink bait. Well-ladies this was almost as scary as the spiders in my bed. My partner placed this huge clump of fatty red liver on my hook and I "casted". That's fishing talk! Green to fishing lingo, I decided to try my hand at catching perch. Guess what? I caught 5 and those experienced Pro fishing nuts caught absolutely NOTHING! YES! Fems will overcome!! My new nickname became "Perch" for the rest of the retreat thanks to Mari.

Back at the lodge there was a rumor that someone got happy with a camera and started shooting photos of naked bodies in the shower. This was almost more than I could bare, I didn't shower the whole time I was at the retreat. My deepest apologies to my camping buddies.

Ladies, many different thoughts cross my mind when I began to write down these memories. This one detail really brings harmony. During the concert, Mary Catherine Reynolds and friends distinguished sound aroused the charms of many past and present lovers. It seemed she took us on an enchanted journey through emotion after emotion until we finally agreed

that this was a time of hope and peace. Everyone joined the singalong afterwards, some of us had definitely had a few to many intoxicating beverages, but we combined voice in addition some became aware of new talents- drumming, snapping, popping, different sounds of pitch! Can't say it was pretty but it was down right hillbilly style.

The weekend flew by and soon Sunday morning was here. A final breakfast together and the cleanup of the lodge and camp. We packed our belongings on the little red wagon and up the hill we went, stopping long enough for final photos together and to say goodbye to all our new friends. We packed the car and left Roman Nose. I must admit that I had my reservations about attending the retreat but I discovered a deep enlightenment that will serve as a step in my growth towards knowing myself.

In conclusion, thank you to all the dedicated supporters of Herland Sisters. Also, thank you to my partner Cindy for persuading me to attend. I will treasure the memories of my first retreat for a lifetime.

Sincerely,

Rhonda

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NOW MEETING

The National Organization for Women's newly reorganized Oklahoma City chapter will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, November 12, 2001, at the Hometown Buffet, 3900 NW 63rd , Oklahoma City. Everyone, women, men, transgendered, lesbian, gay, straight, black or white, all genders and ethnicities, who cares about the equality of women and the importance of "women's issues" is welcome to attend.

Please give a little thought as you drive to the meeting (or before!) as to what issues you would most like to see the Chapter address, and where you would like to put your talents and energies in the administration of the Chapter. Leadership positions to be filled include Coordinator, Co-coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, Data base maven, and Newsletter editor.

Issues discussed as possible priorities at the first two planning meetings included reproductive rights, legislative issues, fighting racism, fighting homophobia, education, global feminism, and fighting the radical right. There are of course many others -- So please come join us for good fellowship, supper, and an ongoing fight for justice. The Homeland Buffet is handicapped accessible. □

SAINT SYBIL

Dear Sybil,

I saw the worst, nastiest t-shirt today, and I was with my 12 year old niece at the time. We were at the county jail waiting to bail out her mother, who had been arrested in a civil disobedience action.

A young man who was there to pay off a traffic fine came in, looking pretty disreputable even without the ugly tee. He had long dish-water blond hair, and was just generally unkempt and not quite squeaky-clean looking. And then the shirt! The shirt had a crude drawing of an impossibly buxom woman, just barely contained by her own tee, perched on a loose stack of over-sized truck tires; and the message was: "If it's got tits or tires, it's gonna be trouble."

Now my question, Syb – what should my comment to my niece have been, bearing in mind that I don't want her to be a snob, socially or even intellectually, and I do strive as much as possible (especially when I'm trying to be a role model) to be as gentle and nonjudgmental as possible. I also don't want her to think that I hate all men. And was there possibly a really kick-ass comment to the room at large that would have chastised the young man without getting him arrested again for hurting me real bad?

Forever in turmoil,
Mags

Dear Mags,

I'm glad to know you are bringing your niece up right. Some off-the-cuff suggestions for the next time you run into a truly offensive t-shirt, which unfortunately, living as you do in early 21st century Oklahoma, won't be long in the offing. § If you didn't feel so sorry for him, you'd just want to smack him, wouldn't you?

§ Can you imagine any woman hating herself enough to go out with him?

§ His mother must be dead, or she would have ripped that shirt right off his scrawny body.

§ Isn't it sad to think how much time that young man is gong to spend in jail?

§ Life is tough, but it's much tougher if you're as dumb and hateful as he is.

§ I have a feeling *everything* is going to be trouble for that poor young man, don't you?"

And if you feel you have to say something to the room at large, you might try, "Gee, most *real* men I know like breasts".....

And then, of course, you could go up to him and offer him your apologies for any trouble you've given him, and when he looks confused, shyly murmur "tits, you know"...

But really, Mags, the less energy you give this type of display, the better. As long as you're working to change the kind of ignorance behind it, you should feel free to just roll your eyes and let it go.

Fondly,
Sybil

□

BOOK CLUB

Herland will be welcoming a book club beginning in January. The club will meet once a month, choose a book for the members to read, and meet the next month to talk about how they liked (or didn't like!) the book, and discuss the interesting points. The organizing meeting is set for the first Sunday in January, which is January 6, at 4:30. At that meeting, the new members will gather and choose the books to read for the first few months. Everyone is encouraged to bring one book idea.

You might learn about a great book from friends, from a newspaper or magazine review, from the Internet, or other sources. Bring a review of the book to share, if you can, to help everyone decide. The only stipulation to begin with might be to focus on women-positive and/or women-centered books. That can be changed if book club members want to do something different.

Book club members will be encouraged to take a few notes as they read and bring one or two questions each to the next meeting, to encourage a lively discussion. There are also Internet sites for book clubs which have discussion questions and topics for many books. If you are interested in being a member, please call Louise at 286-1401 to let her know you will be coming to the first meeting on January 6. Or, just show up on that day!

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www.herlandsisters.org

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