

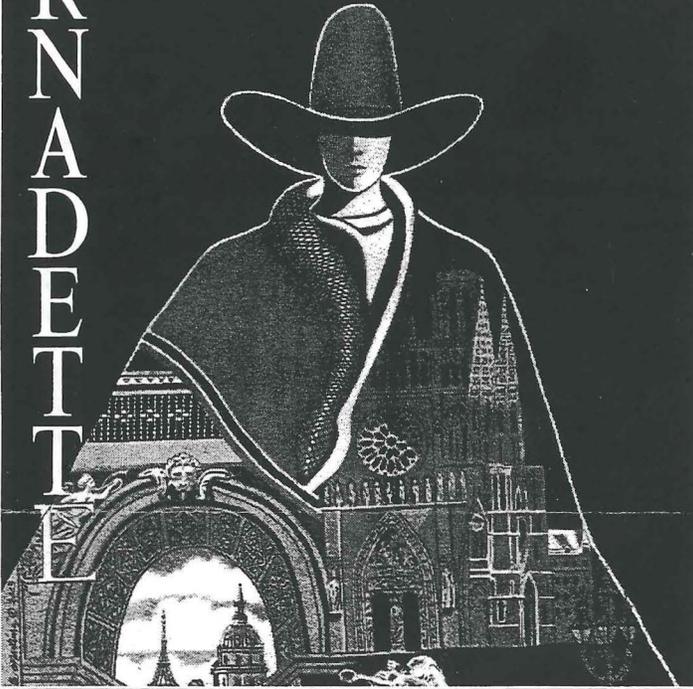
the HERLAND VOICE

december 2003

volume 21, number 12

BERNADETTE

OLD TRINITY GALLERY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2003
2:00-6:00 PM



Herland Winter Solstice and Holiday Potluck Dinner

Sunday, December 21, 6 pm
(followed by Herland board meeting at 7 pm)

Join us as we celebrate the solstice and a joyful holiday season at Herland. Bring your favorite entrée, salad, or dessert dish and we'll provide a variety of beverages and lots of holiday cheer!

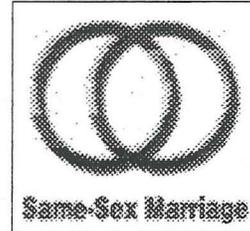
Herland is also collecting holiday gifts for the womyn and children at the YWCA Passageway Women's Shelter for all who care to donate. Gifts can be brought to the potluck and Herland will deliver them to Passageway. (Please see list of needed items on page 4.)

After the potluck is our last board meeting of the year where we will be planning our events for next year. Everyone is welcome to stay, you don't need to be a board member to give your input!

Gay Marriage Poised to Become "Wedge" Issue in 2004 Elections

The stakes are getting higher as same-sex marriage becomes the hot political topic for 2004. In the most recent development, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in November that same-sex couples are legally entitled to wed under the state constitution, but stopped short of allowing marriage licenses to be issued to gay and lesbian couples. Instead, the high court ordered the legislature to come up with a solution within 180 days.

Connie Mackey
Research Council
ruling, saying it
case of the courts
majority opinion of
Elizabeth Birch,
Human Rights
tered that the
obliged to support



of the Family
criticized the
was "a clear
overruling the
the people."
director of the
Campaign, coun-
courts are not
a majority of the

people. "If not for courts, African-Americans would not have had the right to vote, women would not have the right to vote," she said. "The purpose of a constitution is to protect a minority group from the wrath of the majority."

The U.S. House is now considering a federal constitutional amendment, the Federal Marriage Amendment, that would ban same-sex marriage and effectively trump the Massachusetts court ruling. President Bush waded into the debate with a statement criticizing the ruling. "Marriage is a sacred institution between a man and a woman," he said. "Today's decision ... violates this important principle. I will work with congressional leaders and others to do what is legally necessary to defend the sanctity of marriage." Last month, Bush declared October 12-18 as "Marriage Protection Week." Bush has also opposed nondiscrimination and hate crimes legislation, same-sex partner recognition, gay adoption, and lifting the ban on openly gay service members.

The Federal Marriage Amendment is being heavily promoted in an unprecedented campaign by the religious right and the political right. A prime goal of this effort is to permanently define marriage in this country as being between one man and one woman and to prohibit any court from interpreting any law or state constitution to extend any bene

(continued on page 5)



World AIDS Day
December 1, 2003

Saint Sybil

Dear Saint Sybil,

People are talking about Jessica Lynch as if she didn't belong in the Army. A columnist for the Oklahoman - a woman, no less - said that she was a "little girl", not a "soldier". What do you make of all this, Syb? Personally, I'm feeling attacked!

You see, I thought I was a Soldier too.

Dear Soldier,

Poor Jessica Lynch. Columnists and commentators are having such a holiday "proving" that women don't belong in combat, all because Jessica Lynch is a small woman - "a slip of a girl" - who, understandably after all her wounds and trials, appears frail and fragile, and wouldn't we all like to protect her? Much is made of how terrified she says she was during the firefight and rescue. But what is truly impressive is her naive and refreshing honesty. Does anyone really believe that any of the men involved were not terrified also? They just know better than to say so, even if anyone thought to ask.

No one dares openly blame Jessica for her rifle jamming, but there is an innuendo in most of these articles indicating that the rifle jammed because - she just wasn't very good with a gun and she shouldn't have been there in the first place. Well, in the first place, Jessica graduated from basic training and was neither frail, fragile, nor inept with a rifle. The fact is, we are supplying our at-risk soldiers with junk for weapons. Here is an excerpt from the Daily Oklahoman 11/23/03 about the weapon being used in this war: "...the [too bulky] M-16, which also is prone to jamming in Iraq's dusty environment"... Jessica's was not the only American's rifle to jam in Iraq.

These attacks upon Jessica are all the more damaging, disheartening, and infuriating because to a man (or honorary man, in Kathleen Parker's case) they ooze sympathy and sentimentality toward her, all the while implying she ought never to have been in the military to begin with, and all the while giving no instance of what she did wrong, or what she did unsoldierly, of why she didn't belong there.

Now, I'll be happy to tell you why she didn't belong there: no Americans belonged there, America never should have attacked Iraq in the first place. But if young men can find their way out of poverty and Podunk by joining the military, so too should young women be able to.

And why is the military the only way out for so many youth? Perhaps if some of the hundreds of billions of dollars going to the Iraq war had gone to domestic programs, Jessica and her brothers and sisters in arms would not have had to place themselves in harm's way. But that, my dear, is a story for another day. So of course you're a soldier and so is Jessica Lynch, and you must pay no attention to what the troglodytes say.

Some people complain that Jessica was rescued only because she was a woman. That may or may not be true, it may or may not be true that the administration was looking for a feel-good story during those early days and was not above manufacturing one. Certainly they were not above falsifying the facts in the case, and it is to Jessica's amazing and eternal credit that she has refuted the falsely glorified story and refused to be lionized as a hero. As for the rescue, there are all manner of reasons for rescue attempts. In 1945, George Patton sent a team of 300 men to rescue American prisoners of war inside Germany. Most of the rescue team was killed or captured. The original American prisoners, including Patton's very nice son-in-law Johnnie Waters, remained imprisoned until the war's end. That rescue attempt wasn't Johnnie's fault, and this rescue wasn't Jessica's fault.

Pray for peace,

Sybil

Thanks to the Artists!

Herland's Silent Art Auction, held in conjunction with our Anniversary Open House and Tret Fure concert, was a marvelous event. Our patrons - oops, matrons - oops - friends - opened their hearts and pocketbooks and brought some wonderful art into their homes. We want to extend one more time our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the wonderful artists whose generous donations made this possible: Cathy Bowman, Kathy Buttry, Sue Clancy, Michele Dillehay, Diana Faulkner, Gail Garloch, Anthea Maton, Bernadette Martinez, Deidre Murray, Connie Seabourn, Judy Sullens, Tommy Thomas, Dana Tiger, and Hanke Vanderwel. We also want to give special thanks to Anthea Maton for setting up her awesome art installation in our new-books room.



Herland Anniversary Pins and Booklets for Sale

If you missed the Herland 20th Anniversary Celebration but would like a commemorative pin and/or booklet, they are available!

The Herland anniversary pin is a 3/4" photo-etched 2-color lapel pin with the design shown above. The booklet is a 40+ page her-story of Herland with a month by month listing of people and events for the last twenty years. Also, in the back is a list of past board members by year. Pins and booklets are available at the bookstore for only \$5 each.



Happy 20th Anniversary, Sisters!

(The following note arrived with an enormous bouquet of flowers on the Saturday morning of our 20th anniversary celebration.)

To Herland Sister Resources,
HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY, SISTERS! YOU HAVE CREATED A MAJOR MIRACLE IN OKLAHOMA CITY!

To the founders and current supporters of Herland Sister Resources: Your work may go mainly unheralded, but believe me, it has saved a life or two, more than you know, no doubt. For readers, and writers, and friends, and lovers, and lost souls who just need to see some friendly faces, you have been there. In this time, when more and more feminist bookstores are going under, and fewer and fewer services for feminist and lesbian sisters prevail, you are there. **KEEP ON KEEPIN' ON, AND KNOW THAT YOUR EFFORTS COUNT SO VERY MUCH EVERY SINGLE DAY IN THE LIFE OF WOMYN IN OKLAHOMA.**

Love to one and all, from your ardent sister feminists in Denver, Colorado.

Vicki P. McConnell, Peg Lehr, and the estate of Nancy Sue White

Herland Book Club

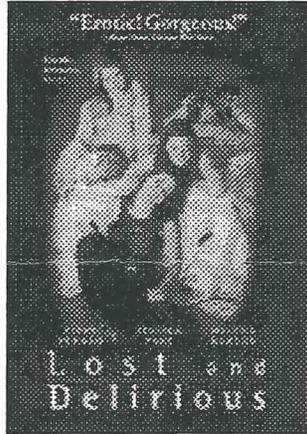
The Herland Book club will meet at 7 pm on Monday, December 1st to discuss *The Passion of Artemisia*, by Susan Vreeland.

Our January book will be *Sisters of the Earth, an Anthology of Women's Prose and Poetry* edited by Lorraine Anderson. There are three copies in the Oklahoma Metropolitan Library System, and at least one copy available at Herland. The book is also available from Amazon for \$10.50 plus shipping and Barnes & Noble for a list price of \$15. Among the writers in this provocative book are Joy Harjo, Susan Griffin, Marjorie Rawlings, China Gal-land, Willa Cather, Alice Walker, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Rachel Carson, Marge Piercy, Barbara Deming, Paula Gunn Allen, and Ursula Le Guin. Wonderful thinkers, writers, and reading. See you next year!

Herland Supper Club & Movie Night

Herland Supper Club will meet at 6 pm on Saturday, December 13th, at Herland for a Pizza and Movie Night. We will order vegetarian and meat pizzas and any other items that folks want.

The movie shown will be *Lost and Delirious*, a 2000 release about three adolescent girls discovering first loves and sexual passion. After the romance of Paula and Tory is discovered, their love for each other and their close friendship with roommate Mary are tested by parental opposition and social condemnation. This is a tale of love's blooming, its innocent ecstasy and its ultimate obses- sions.



We also will be accepting holiday gifts for the YWCA Passageway Women's Shelter for those who wish to bring an item (see list page 4). For more info, call Ginger at 942-1535.

Herland Hiking

The Herland Hiking Group will have its regular monthly outing to Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, at 10 am on Saturday, December 13th. There is also an optional coffee gathering beforehand at Panera's, corner of Memorial & Meridian, at 9:30 am.

Womyn of Color

Womyn of Color group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please email womynofcolor@gay.com or call (405) 842-3464 or (405) 947-7691 for more information.

Native American Women

OKC Two-Spirit Society is having meetings for lesbian and bi-sexual women of Native American descent. Please call the OKC Two-Spirit Hotline number at (405) 317-7283 for information about the next meeting.

HERLAND EVENTS CALENDAR

December

- Monday, December 1: Herland Book Club, 7 pm
- Sunday, December 7: Bernadette Martinez art opening, Old Trinity Gallery, 3000 N. Lee, 2-6 pm
- Monday, December 9: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7 pm
- Saturday, December 13: Herland Supper Club and Movie Night at Herland, 6 pm
- Saturday, December 13: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am
- Sunday, December 14: Womyn of Color Meeting, call 842-3464 for details
- Sunday, December 14: Sisters of Swing Christmas Shows, Epiphany Church, 7336 W. Britton (west of Rockwell), 2 pm & 7 pm, \$5
- Thursday, December 18: YGLA Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show Fundraiser, Church of the Open Arms, 6 pm
- Sunday, December 21: Herland Potluck at 6 pm followed by Board Meeting, 7-ish, everyone welcome for one or both
- Friday, December 26: Peggy Johnson after Christmas Con- cert, Church of the Open Arms, 3131 N. Penn, 8 pm

January

- Monday, January 5: Herland Book Club, 7 pm
- Monday, January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Parade

Website of the Month

Freedom to Marry Coalition
www.ftmmass.org

Don't Forget to Support the Voice!

Your contribution is important! Just \$12 a year will help us pay for the \$300+ it costs every month to print and mail the newsletter.

Enclosed is a contribution for \$ _____

Please add me to the mailing list for The Voice.

Please change my address (new address below).

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

YWCA Passageway Shelter's Wish List for Children and Moms

This holiday season, Herland is again collecting items for donation to the YWCA Passageway Shelter. The YWCA Passageway Shelter is the only shelter in Oklahoma City exclusively serving women and children who are the victims of domestic violence. Passageway is an emergency shelter, providing help in obtaining legal services, transportation, housing information, medical care, child care and advocacy services for up to two months. Clients attend domestic violence education and support groups during their stay. Child advocates offer education and support to help children avoid further victimization, verbalize feelings, learn appropriate ways to express emotions, and understand what is occurring in their families.

Please bring items to the Herland Supper Club/Movie Night, the Herland Solstice Holiday Potluck Dinner or drop off at Herland on any Saturday before December 21st. Items should not be wrapped and please label boxes or sacks with "YWCA". At this time no personal hygiene items (although bath gifts are okay) or stuffed animals are needed. Monetary donations may be made to the YES! Transitional Housing Program. Contact Susan Stewart, (405)948-1770 for more information.

Children's Wish List

Board games (for all ages)
Learning/developmental toys (for all ages)
Children's reading books (for all ages)
Baby Dolls
Tonka cars and trucks
Basketballs and footballs
Children's pajamas/slippers (for all ages)
Model airplanes and cars (kits for assembling)
Infant toys and rattles
Building blocks (for all ages)
Puzzles (for all ages)
Play Dough (preferably name brand)
Accessories for making Play Dough creations
Coloring books/Crayons - 16 count boxes
No stuffed animals needed at this time

Wish List for Moms

Robes, House Shoes
Planners/Notebooks/Journals
Wall Calendars
Tote Bags
Craft Items
Heating pads
Hair dryers
Curling Irons
Gloves
Board games (ages 12 & up)
Lamps, Clock Radios
Umbrellas
Hats/Scarves
Insulated mugs
Manicure Sets
Coats

Women and Friendship

We have always known at Herland how important friendships between women are, and now there are scientific studies to prove it. In five decades of study of stress, mostly on men, scientists have come to believe that stress triggers hormones that gear the body to either "fight or flee", an ancient survival reaction helpful around sabre-toothed tigers. Recent studies on women, however, suggest that our chemical response to stress releases brain chemicals that cause us to make and maintain friendships with other women.

According to Dr. L.C. Klein of Penn State, it seems that when the hormone oxytocin is released as part of the stress response in a woman, it buffers the "fight or flight" response and encourages her to tend children and gather with other women instead. When she actually engages in this tending or befriending, studies suggest that more oxytocin is released, which further counters stress and produces a calming effect. This calming response does not occur in men, says Dr. Klein, because testosterone—which men produce in high levels when they're under stress—seems to reduce the effects of oxytocin. Estrogen, she adds, seems to enhance it.

Dr. Klein believes that the "tend and befriend" mechanism may explain why women consistently outlive men. Social interaction is proven to reduce our risk of disease by lowering blood pressure, heart rate, and cholesterol.

There's no doubt, says Dr. Klein, that friends are helping us live longer. Friends are also helping us live better. The famed Nurses' Health Study from Harvard Medical School found that the more friends women had, the less likely they were to develop physical impairments as they aged, and the more likely they were to be leading a joyful life.

PROUDLY ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF MY LAW OFFICE

A. TERRY COCON

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**CALL ME FOR ALL YOUR LEGAL NEEDS
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The Voice is published by Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 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.

(continued from page 1)

fits associated with marriage to same-sex couples. Jerry Falwell recently claimed that the coordinated efforts had resulted in one million signatures on petitions in support of the constitutional amendment. (At last count, the amendment had 96 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. The proposed amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the House and the Senate and then ratified by three-fourths of the states.)

Vermont is the only state in the United States that allows same-sex couples the rights and benefits of marriage. Vermont calls them civil unions, rather than marriage. Oklahoma has a 1997 law that was enacted to prevent the state from being forced to recognize gay marriages from other states. However, the state legislature is already considering an amendment to the state constitution that would legally define a marriage as a union between one man and one woman. An editorial in *The Daily Oklahoman*, not surprisingly, encouraged state legislators to do just that, and quickly. And, meeting in November, Oklahoma Southern Baptists reaffirmed their opposition to gay marriages, and said they will continue to oppose all efforts to validate or legalize same sex marriage or other equivalent unions.

Political pollsters and pundits are fast recognizing same-sex marriage as a "wedge" issue in the upcoming presidential election with Republicans hoping to capture more conservative Democrat voters over the divisiveness of the issue. Many of the Democratic presidential candidates have stopped short of endorsing gay marriages but most support giving domestic benefits such as inheritance and hospital visitation rights to gay couples. Kucinich is the only candidate to openly support gay marriages thus far.

Gays and lesbians have been cheered by a series of advances this year, including the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* striking down anti-sodomy laws, the ordination of an openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church, and a Canadian appeals court ruling that it was unconstitutional to deny gay couples the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples.

Womyn's College Basketball Season

by Jill Garner

Besides music, women's sports is one of my other passions. The college basketball season is gearing up and I'm already looking for scores every day to see who won and lost even though most of the games right now are geared to be warm-ups for the best teams.

This year the Big XII is looking mighty good in the Top 25 poll. While it's way too early to say how they'll end up, the poll is based on their performance last year and who they have returning.

Right now as I'm writing this, the Texas women moved from the number 3 ranking to 2 after beating Duke in the Women's Tip-Off Classic Tournament. It's been a while since Texas has been ranked so high but with Jamie Carey, Stacy Stephens and Heather Schreiber all returning, their chances look very good this year. I'm very excited about seeing them play. They'll be playing at least two games in Oklahoma this season. They play at OSU in February and at OU in March. Watch for them on TV this season as well.

Texas Tech is ranked number 5 right now, and the two most recognizable reasons why are Jia Perkins and Natalie Ritchie, but like any good teams, they have a number of players that can hurt you. Kansas State is also ranked quite high (#9) and have Nichole Olde, Kendra Wecker and Laurie Koehn all back this year. While they don't play OU at home, they do play OSU in Stillwater in January and weather permitting, I plan to go see them play.

The fourth Big XII team ranked right now in the top 25 is OU at number 22. While they do have some potent weapons with Caton Hill, Maria Villarroel and Dionnah Jackson, their up-and-coming star Chelsi Welch tore her ACL the first week. The bad news is she'll be out the rest of the season, but the good news is she'll be redshirted for the year and won't lose a year of playing. But, I like OU's chances less than I did before Chelsi got hurt.

Put December 21st on your calendar. That's when number 4 Tennessee will be playing OU in Norman. I hope to see Lloyd Noble Center packed to the rafters for that game. Sherri Coale knows her teams only get better playing the top teams in the country, and Tennessee is consistently one of the best teams year after year after year.

Another exciting time this year will be in March when Lloyd Noble Center will be hosting the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight rounds of the NCAA tournament. The last two or three years they've hosted the first and second rounds. And while that is exciting, the quality of the teams that make it to those next rounds is very high and we stand a good chance of seeing a few of the top teams in the country play in Norman.

And if you can't make it to Norman or Stillwater to watch OU or OSU, we have the top two NAIA teams right here in Oklahoma City at SNU and OCU. There's no reason not to support top-notch women's basketball in Oklahoma right now. There will also be a lot of televised games this season so be sure and watch for those as well. Let's let the TV stations know that there's a market for women's basketball.

THE YOUNG GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE AND DIVERSITY HOUSE
present

A Night of Dinner and Entertainment

A Benefit Spaghetti Dinner with Talent Show Provided by YGLA

All Proceeds Will Go Towards a GLBT Youth Homeless Shelter

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2003

CHURCH OF OPEN ARMS

\$10.00 at the Door (All Types of Donations Welcomed)

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m., Dinner Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Talent Show by YGLA begins at 7:00 p.m.

*Early Donations and Contributions can be made c/o Youth Shelter, Red Rock North, 2401 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405) 524-6500

Herland Sister Resources

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