

the HERLAND VOICE

MARCH 1991

MARCH: HERSTORY MONTH

by Deborah Fox

Without women there would be no civilization. Without women Bush would have no military to call upon, corporations could not prosper, the human race would not exist.

Society was born of the mother/child bond, the first societies being the clans of women and their children.

From the science of archaeology we know that our first societies formed some 30,000 or more years ago. These societies respected the sacred power of women and her ability to give, sustain, and nurture life. They deified their concept of this awesome phenomena into the Goddess, who birthed, sustained, and nurtured the universe and All life within it. Thus the first religion, an earth religion was born.

Throughout ancient Europe, Africa, China, Siberia, and Indonesia the Goddess was worshipped and the clans were matrifocal and matrilineal. Advanced archaeological studies prove that the worship of the Goddess was not a mere "fertility cult" nor was it a mere expression of male eroticism, as some scholars have proclaimed. Goddess worship was a full blown religion whose reaches were far and wide across the globe. This first and oldest earth religion of the Goddess flourished throughout the paleolithic, neolithic, chalcolithic, and Old Testament periods, and even though disguised or underground; continues to do so today.

It is also evident that most of these civilizations were peaceful and egalitarian -- Matriarchy does NOT mean female dominance like Patriarchy means male dominance.

Around 2400 B.C., a sword-wielding, nomadic tribespeople from Northern

Russia began invading the peaceful, Goddess-loving cultures, and set about to establish male dominance, female oppression, and hierarchy. After several of these invasions over a two thousand years, Patriarchy was well under way and continued to fight and destroy the loyal cultures of the Goddess. The Old Testament period was wrought with the desecration of Her sacred groves, Asherah poles, hilltop altars, and the practice in each home of burning incense to the Queen of Heaven, as recorded in the Bible (see: Jeremiah 44:15-19, II Kings 18:4, Acts 19:23-34, I Kings 11:3-5). These misogynist acts continued into the 13-17th. centuries with burnings, right up to today's oppression of women.

Patriarchy could never fully demolish the Old Religion and the Goddess as attested to by the pagans all over the world, Virgin Mary "cults", and women who continue to fight against Patriarchy's oppression of women and other minorities.

As we celebrate rebirth and renewal in Spring, let's burn incense to all the Goddesses, our female ancestors, courageous women in history, and all women of all the world. Let's burn a purple candle for inspiration and affirm woman's power and valiance that herstory shows us so well.

Here are some suggestions for celebrations from Z. Budapest's book, The Grandmother of Time:

March 1 - Matronella (Roman), the celebration of women and power.

March 2 - First Festival of Vesta (Roman)

March 4 - Mothering Day (English)

March 5 - Celebration of Isis (North African)

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 9 - Celebration of Aphrodite and Her Lover Adonis (Neareastern Greek)

March 10 - Hypatia's Day (Alexandrian)

March 15 - Holiday of Cybele (Anatolian, Later Roman)

March 17 - Liberalia: Celebration of Freedom (Roman)

March 19 - Quintaria: Feast of Athena (Greek)

March 20 - Spring Festival

March 21 - Spring Equinox

March 25 - Hilaria: Laughing Day (Roman)

March 30 - Feast of Eostara (German)

March 31 - Feast of the Moon Goddess (Roman)

###

JOY HARJO PRESENTS ANGIE DEBO LECTURE AT OSU

Joy Harjo, noted Creek poet, will present the Angie Debo Native American Lecture, Monday, March 25 at 8 P.M. in the Student Union Theater at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. A reception will follow.

Ms. Harjo is widely known for her works of poetry including She Has Some Horses, In Mad Love and War, and Secrets from the Center of the World. She is a professor of English at New Mexico State University and a screen writer.

The Angie Debo Lecture is sponsored by the Oklahoma State University NOW chapter and the Native American Student Association.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

Health care costs are skyrocketing -- up from \$906 per capita in 1980 to \$4,867 in the year 2000 for every man, woman and child in Oklahoma. In spite of these increasing costs, the quality of health care suffers.

Approximately a fourth of Oklahomans have no health insurance. Studies have shown that persons without health insurance are 50% less likely to receive physician care and 90% less likely to receive needed hospital care than those with insurance. A recent study at Georgetown University found that uninsured hospital patients are 1.2 to 3 times more likely to die while hospitalized than insured patients.

The health care crisis is faced on a personal level by each of us. Accounts of how the health care crisis affects individuals and families regularly come to the Oklahoma Health Care Project. The stories include such cases as the working mother who must choose between health insurance and food and clothing for her children; the young couple in rural Oklahoma expecting a child who cannot afford the fee for pre-natal care; and the family driven to bankruptcy with the expenses of a catastrophic illness.

Oklahomans have the opportunity to stop this spend-more-get-less spiral. Representative Angela Monson has introduced the Universal Health Care Act (HB 1578). This bill provides for the establishment of a single health insurance plan for all Oklahomans. Through this plan, any Oklahoman needing health care could go to the health care provider of their choice, receive care, and the provider would receive payment through the Universal Health Care Plan.

HB 1578 establishes the Universal Health Care Board and charges them with the responsibility of developing an insurance plan covering hospital, physician, and other licensed health professional's services, prescription drugs, mental health and substance abuse treatment and health education and

prevention services.

The Universal Health Care Act eliminates the administrative waste of the insurance industry. By implementing the single-payer plan, administrative costs would be reduced from the current average of 18% to approximately 3% (the administrative costs of Medicare). This measure alone would save more than \$431 million.

Cost controls are an integral part of the Universal Health Care Act. Through a system of rate controls and practice guidelines, medical costs would be controlled. Reducing the rate of medical inflation to a rate only 2% less than the current rates would save Oklahomans \$2.4 billion in the year 2000.

It's time we recognized that health care is a fundamental human right. The Universal Health Care Act (HB 1578) begins the process of guaranteeing that right for all Oklahomans.

###

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN

The BPW Foundation awards scholarships to women 30 and older who are seeking the education necessary for entry into, re-entry or advancement within the workplace. The BPW Career Advancement Scholarship is awarded to women seeking education for a career in computer science, education, science or as a paralegal. The Carol Scholarship is for women returning to school to achieve career goals. The NY Life Foundation Scholarship for Women in the Health Professions is awarded to women seeking education in a health care field. The BPW Foundation also operates loan programs for women seeking graduate business degrees and engineering degrees. For information write: BPW Foundation, Education and Training Department, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND SEEKS INTERNS

The Human Rights Campaign fund, the largest national lesbian and gay and AIDS advocacy organization, is looking for interns for its office in Washington, DC. Internships are available in the Campaign Fund's Legislative Department (lobbying); Political Department (campaign work); Field Department (grassroots activities); and in the Lesbian Issues and Outreach Department.

"This is a great opportunity for someone interested in lesbian and gay issues, or just in learning how government and politics work," said Anne Theisen, who coordinates the intern program. "Interns have an opportunity to make a contribution to the lesbian and gay movement as they work on issues in congress."

Interns must work at least 20 hours per week for three months. Each works under the direction of a staff member and receives a stipend from the Campaign fund.

Those interested in applying for an internship at the Campaign Fund should contact Ms. Theisen at (202) 628-4160 or write to her at the Human Rights Campaign Fund, 1012 - 14th Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20005. Applications should include: a letter discussing why the applicant wishes to work at the Campaign Fund; a resume; and a writing sample.

The deadline for applications for Summer interns is April 15, 1991. Final decisions and offers will be made by the Campaign fund on May 1, 1991. Applications also will be accepted from intern candidates who are interested in Fall and Winter internships.



ENCODINGS -- A REVIEW

"Encodings" is a biannual literary magazine, published by Liaud: A Women's Press. The first two volumes include mostly poetry, but also photography and an essay; the cover of Volume One, Number One, is graced with a beautiful pen & ink drawing.

The poetry ranges freely through women's issues, universal issues; and is first rate throughout. The love and erotic poetry, both homo-and hetero-erotic, reads true and moving, as in Marie Catherine's "Whispers Alone in the Darkness", or M. Laurita Fike's poems. Fike moves from love and erotica in much of her poetry to harsh brilliant anger in "She Wanted Him" (She wanted him Dead), which deals with incest. Other poetry contains lines such as these:

Jacqueline Shawh: "even a whale is small in the palm of loneliness"; Cathy Stern's "Exhibits" begin "Christ! Did you take that too - the ink from my pen? My marrow's not enough? Insatiable man!" All of Carol Snyder's poetry is just wonderful.

Copies of "Encodings" are available for in-store reading and enjoyment at Herland. Subscriptions are available for \$9.00 per year from Liaud: A women's Press, P. O. Box 6793, Houston, TX 77265-6793; or \$4.50 per volume. If you would like to be considered for publication in Encodings, send a self-addressed stamped envelope for submission guidelines.

###

BOOKS - BOOKS - BOOKS

New additions to the lending library include two biographies and one autobiography of fascinating women. Mary Leakey, in particular, lived a life which, while not without its share of pain and sorrow, must be one of the fullest and most fulfilling lives ever.

1. Alice James, The Life of the Brilliant Younger Sister of William and Henry James; a biography by Jean Strouse.

2. Margaret Mead - A Life; a biography by Jan Howard.

3. Mary Leakey: Disclosing The Past; an autobiography.

LINDA WATERFALL



Flying Fish Recording Artist Linda Waterfall in concert Saturday, March 16th, 8:30 pm \$8.00 City Arts Center, 3000 Pershing Blvd. Call 528-0020 for info. Also appearing: Louise Dick, Elyse Angelo & Mary Reynolds. This concert sponsored by the Benedictine Peace House.

ST. SYBIL

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

Dear St. Sybil,

What's all this garbage about protesting the war and not supporting our troops?

**Angrily,
Purdy D'end Hostell**

Dear Purdy:

Let's back up a minute, and look at one of the tenets of philosophers, theologians and sundry intellectuals: That the unexamined life is not worth living. Now it is true that many a wag as asked if the examined life is worth living (it does cut way back on spontaneous action and reaction, and consequently on lots of fun); but certainly it is appropriate for a person to examine her/his habits, life, lifestyle, goals, and the means s/he is willing to use to achieve those goals. And just as this is important on a personal level, it is immensely more important that a country do it on a national level; especially when war is involved. Personally, it seems to me to be criminally idiotic to mindlessly accept and support a war without examining every aspect of its purpose, means and goals in minute detail. And having made such a thorough examination, a person should support the war if they find it to be supportable and necessary; and should vigorously protest the war if they believe it to be waged for unacceptable purposes. don't forget, every American soldier, every Iraqi soldier, every Iraqi civilian, and by extension every Israeli citizen, every Saudi, every person, every dog, cat and camel, who has died in this war, has done so in your name, at the bidding of your elected president. If you thin the president is wrong, it is your duty to

speak out and ask him to stop; it is your duty to pressure your congressperson and ask her/him to pressure the president to stop.

So, look at this war yourself. This means that you must do more than listen to the President and his spokespeople on television, and must read more than the editorials of OPUBCO or any one newspaper. You must read enough to know that General Electric, one of the country's largest weapons manufacturers, owns NBC; so that you will take everything you hear on NBC (and the rest of television) with a grain of salt. You must not only read, but think about what you read. For instance, what on earth is on President Bush's mind or agenda when he can say, as he was quoted in the Daily Oklahoman on February 2nd: "When we win - and we will - we will have taught a dangerous dictator and any tyrant tempted to follow in his footsteps that the U.S. has a new credibility, and that what we say goes. "What we say goes"?? Who is being the tyrant here, the dictator? Who elected the U.S. king of the world or father of the family earth, or bully of the playground? It is not a role that I consider proper for the United States or for any country. Especially it is not one appropriate for the U.S., which has done a pretty poor job of protecting the environment, conserving the earth's resources, living in racial and class harmony, redefining and elevating women's lives and roles, and freeing women from the fear of violence and poverty. Well. I do run on, don't I? I assure you that any hostility you may have noticed there at the end was directed at pompous pious politicians, and not at you. If, after studying and pondering all the variables, you feel this war is righteous and its terrible effects bearable, I support your right to your opinion; but no way, however, do I support this war.

Sorrowfully,
Sybil

War Prayer

For the innocent sky which is
singd and poisoned --

and all air creatures who
must fly and breathe.

For the innocent fire of
youth spirit and energy --

which is methodically
exploited and abused.

For our innocent Mother ocean
which is besmeared, violated-

and all swimming, floating
creatures who live in Her
flow.

For the innocent living
desert which lies gouged,
mutilated --

and all precious sand
creatures who are murdered
without regard

For the countless innocent
children whose screams may go
unheard --

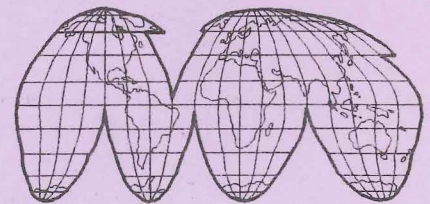
For all non-consenting
participants in this war of
intent.

We remember you. We honor
you.

We pray for your release.

Darkstar

January, 1991



RADAGRAM: How it works: P Z P L D A P
= SISTERS

One letter represents another throughout the puzzle; in the example, P stands for S, Z for I, etc. Solve the puzzle below for an inspiring message.

G J D P B N X S I R U N C Q X L D M F G U X Q G B P Y
L Q P B B M I X H G F G M N G F I U P H U N F C G F
H S X Q G D M N X G F L X P X G L I U H S P H S
L X P X G I M P O O I D N X I R L G K .



**GARAGE
SALE**

**Big Fundraiser for
HERLAND
March 30th
at the Fairgrounds..**

**Bring Us All of Your
!!! GREAT STUFF !!!
by March 29th
or CALL US at 521-9696
And We Will Pick It Up!!!**

**APPLIANCES - SPORTING GOODS -
TOYS - GAMES - BRIC-A-BRAC**

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Heather Has Two Mommies, by Lesléa Newman and charmingly illustrated by Diana Souza, is the story of the daughter of lesbian parents. When Heather begins pre-school she discovers that not everyone is blessed with two mommies; but that there are different kinds of families. Many different ones are described by the pre-school children, and their art drawings of their own families are nicely drawn by an actual 5 year old.

Heather Has Two Mommies is available now at Herland for \$7.95. Available by special order from Herland is Daddy's Roommate by Michael Willhoite, for children of gay men. Daddy's Roommate is hardbound and sells for \$15.00, and is recommended for children 2 - 5.

FORMAT CHANGE

Due to technical problems faced by our usual volunteer typesetter, this month's VOICE comes to you in a somewhat different format. We hope to be back to normal with the next edition.

###

PUBLISHED BY:

Herland Sister Resources
2312 N.W. 39
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Margaret Cox
Deborah Fox
Pat Reaves

CIRCULATION: 750

GENERAL INFORMATION:

(405)521-9696 (leave message)

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Herland Voice are free upon request.

OKLAHOMA REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM UPDATE

Sanity and good sense seem to be carrying the day and the legislature in Oklahoma in 1991, at least so far as reproductive rights are concerned: "parental notification" and "parental consent" bills have happily died in committee in both the House and the Senate. In the House committee, a parental notification bill failed by a voice vote. A call to poll the committee was refused by Committee Chair Jeff Hamilton of Midwest City. Observers say that the voice vote clearly indicated a majority vote against the bill; by denying a recorded vote, Rep. Hamilton protected both the integrity of the vote and the anonymity of the votes of the committee members. In the Senate, Committee Chair Bernest Cain of Oklahoma City refused to bring the bill to a vote of the committee.

A word on "parental notification" and "parental consent", which like the term "pro-life" sound good on their face but are really ploys of the anti-woman/anti-choice crowd. Of course it sounds good for a pregnant teenager to go to her parents for love and guidance; and there is of course absolutely nothing in the law to prohibit her from doing that, and over 50% of young women in this situation do. But what of the others? Many young women and girls "in trouble" come from dysfunctional families; imagine them going to alcoholic or drug-using, incestuous or just generally abusive parents with such news. And then many other young women feel they would rather die than go to their loving parents with the news of the pregnancy; and some of them do just that also. Becky Bell of Indiana was a 17 year-old girl who had a good relationship with kind, loving parents; she felt that she could not bear the thought of hurting them. When she sought an abortion through Planned Parenthood, they had to tell her that by law she needed either

her parent's permission or a judge's approval - a process known as "judicial bypass". The word on the streets and in the schools, and a pretty accurate word and reflection of reality, was that less than 1% of all attempts at judicial bypass in Indiana were successful. And so in 1988, fifteen years after the Roe v. Wade decision, Becky Bell, who would prefer to die than hurt her parents, and with no means of travelling out of state, felt forced to search out a back alley abortion. And she did die. And to the end, even in the ambulance taking her on her last ride, Becky Bell refused to tell her parents why she was dying.

Thanks to Bernest Cain and Jeff Hamilton, and to Ed Crocker of Norman and Sid Hudson of Lawton, two courageous representatives who argued forcefully and publicly against the bills, parental notification and consent bills will not be coming up for a vote this year; at least not as bills of their own. It is always possible for amendments to be added to other bills; and in addition to thanking the men listed above (write to them at the State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK 73105), we might want also to write Senator Bob Cullison, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Glen Johnson, Speaker of the House, and ask them to fight against any abortion-related amendments to other bills.

###



(PREGNANT) WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A judge in Muskegon, Michigan, has dismissed a charge against a woman accused of passing cocaine to her newborn baby by ingesting the drug while pregnant; the law, he said, was not intended to be used that way. The judge also said that the case violated the woman's right to privacy and due process. The prosecutor evidently intends to appeal. Let us hope that a) the myth that a little cocaine eases labor is dispelled; b) drug treatment programs begin to grant access to pregnant women; c) the nightmare of addiction is eradicated; and d) the appeals court comes down on the side of privacy, due process, and reason; and not on the side of the Pregnancy Police.

ACT-UP ACTS UP FOR CHOICE

Pro-choice counter demonstrators at the January 20th anti-abortion, so-called "pro-life" rally at the Capitol were delighted by the sight of a dozen ACT-UP members winding their way through the crowd shouting slogans such as "Born Again Bigots, Go Away! Racist, Sexist, Anti-Gay!", "Act UP, We're Here! We're Loud, We're Rude, Pro-Choice and Queer!" and "Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our right to Decide". A couple of the Act-Up folk were dressed as scuzzy doctors, in filthy "scrubs", carrying "blood"-stained, straightened coat-hangers and signs proclaiming "Repeal Roe vs. Wade, I want my job back"! Very shocking, very effective, very courageous. Kudos to you, ACT-UP, and thank you!

Chatterbox

Are you a wommin artist longing for somewhere to display your work? Herland is looking for you! We need a mural painted on the front of the building and are interested in your ideas. We have no money but we can give you recognition. Please submit proposals to Herland, attn. Sally N. or leave a message for Sally at 521-9696.

Check line 55 on your Oklahoma Income Tax Return to make a contribution to provide health care for the poor. Contributions to the Indigent Care Fund go to community clinics providing health care to the most needy in our communities.

Women Ought to Know: The Monthly Female Fact Sheet, a compendium of brief facts of interest to women, is available by subscription. Receive 12 issues for \$9 plus choice of postage method (\$3 for bulk mail, \$4 for 1st Class). Write Women to Women Communications, P.O. Box 161775, Cupertino, CA 95016.

The "Gathering of Young Lesbian Separatists and Radical Feminist Lesbians in Our Teens and Twenties", meeting March 23 & 24, 1991, in Chicago, is requesting submissions of Art, Poetry, Papers, Writings of all Kinds, to be published by the Gathering. Send submissions to Claudine O'Leary, 2825 North Laramie, Apt. 2N, Chicago, IL 60641-5028.

Molly and Don Martin, sister and brother, are soliciting submissions for an anthology about gay siblings. They are accepting manuscripts in the form of narratives or interviews, telling significant, humorous, tragic or poignant stories of lesbians and gay men with their gay siblings. They want to explore:

- > Particular family experiences we share as gay sisters and brothers
- > Our interactions and relationships with our siblings as children and adults
- > What it is about our families and childhoods that allows us to embrace our homosexuality
- > Whether the experiences of lesbian sisters are very different from those of gay brothers
- > How families, institutions, and social movements contribute to our relationships
- > How our family experiences influence our behavior in the gay community.

Mail manuscripts and queries to Molly and Don Martin, 1016 SE 7th Avenue, Olympia, WA 98501. The deadline for manuscripts is July 1, 1991.

The Women's Committee of United Automobile Workers Local 1999 will host their first annual Women of Achievement Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 9, 1991. The banquet will be held at the Metro-Tech Conference Center, 1900 Springlake Drive, Oklahoma City, at 6 p.m. The cost, \$25 per person or \$200 for a table for 10, includes dinner, entertainment and an eventful evening. A posthumous award will be presented to the family of Barbara Lane, Past Chairperson of the committee and a true labor unionist, political activist and a strong feminist. Achievement awards will also be presented to women from the medical/mental health, education, political and community service fields. Call 732-7330 regarding reservations.

Deborah Glick, New York's first openly lesbian legislator, began her term as assemblywoman with another break in tradition. Instead of taking her oath of office with her hand on a bible, she took it with her hand on a copy of Robin Morgan's 1970 feminist anthology Sisterhood Is Powerful.info from oob, feb/1991

There is a Lesbian open 12-step meeting Monday nights, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., at the Women's Resource Center, 226 E. Gray, in Norman.

Therapy group for Lesbians only. Work on co-dependency, living sober, incest, compulsive eating and dieting, or internalized homophobia. The group will begin in April on Wednesday evenings. It will be facilitated by Jo L.Soske, M. Ed./CAC. Call Drug Recovery Inc. for appointment, 843-5319. Sliding scale fees are available.

Edwina V. Johnson, D.D.S.

*"Catering to Cowards needing Tender Care"
in Comprehensive Dentistry*

5009 North Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 103
(405) 840-5410

Night & Sunday practice by appt. only
Emergencies welcome

VISA


Insurance accepted

MC

Kay Killgore, M.Ed.

Woman to Woman Counseling

1010 N.W. 45th
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118
(405) 524-1062

 usie

Southwell, M. Ed.

COUNSELOR

2912 N. Classen, Suite 102
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
Telephone: (405) 556-4105

*...helping
people
grow*

366-0923

HELEN HOLGATE

Certified Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Counselor

Sam L. Nicolosi, D.V.M.

NICOLOSI ANIMAL HOSPITAL

4015 N.W. 23rd
Oklahoma City

by Appointment
Phone (405) 947-5545

Seraphs

Lowest Prices On
Unique Crystal Jewelry,
Books and Prints

1011 N.W. 43rd St.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73118



(405) 557-0903

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE "TOUCH OF GOLD."
Treat your special someone, too, for \$10 off her Massage!

Touch of Gold

HEALTHFUL • STRESS RELIEVING MASSAGE

Special
discounts
available
to all
Herland
readers!

by
Melanie J. McKiddy
MASSAGE THERAPIST

360-6945

"Portable"
massage
table
available
for your
convenience.

sh

848-5429

SHIRLEY M. HUNTER, M.Ed.

LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR

Emphasis on the problems of gay people.

PENN PARK OFFICE COMPLEX • SUITE 102
5009 N. PENNSYLVANIA • OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112