

# The HERLAND VOICE

November, 1993

## LET'S FILL THE HALL!

Last month, we gave our faithful *Herland Voice* readers advance notice about the "Event of the Year" -- the Cris Williamson and Tret Fure concert coming to the Civic Center Little Theater on Thursday, November 18 at 8 p.m. We told you about the two special performers and their magical music just in case you have never had the joy of hearing their 17 sparkling albums. Hopefully, we gave you enough information so you know what a wonderful treat this unique concert will be.

Now we want to go a little further and tell you why it is so important to fill the concert hall's 390 seats for this special event benefitting the Herland Legal Defense Fund. Here are some reasons:

1. The concert will raise money for the legal costs of lesbian mothers who are fighting the system so that one day we need not worry about our parental rights being taken away because of our sexual orientation.

2. In one case alone, the costs are at around \$15,000. Each ticket sold will help defray costs.

3. Even though you might not be a parent or partner to one now, one day you might be. Helping these mothers might directly benefit you in the future.

4. It might also help friends or relatives of yours who are afraid of losing their children to a heterosexual ex-husband or ex-wife.

5. It will also help the children of lesbian and gay parents to live with less fear of forced legal separation.

6. Winning these rights helps us win other rights across the state. Eventually, if enough legal battles are won, we will finally achieve our basic human rights.

7. We need to support those who are fighting for our rights and keep our community strong, vital, and united.

8. We need to support potential victories. These are often won at great personal, emotional, and financial expense, but they are won for all of us.

9. Many of us can't afford to "come out" and fight major legal battles, but we can help by attending concerts and events and by bringing others with us.



***Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will be in concert November 18, 8:00 P.M. at the Civic Center Little Theater. Tickets are \$15 and \$25 in advance and may be purchased at Herland.***

10. We are creating our own herstory. Stories told in our future will reflect our commitment to human rights. Our Oklahoma community is making a difference, and each effort we make, each ticket we sell, matters.

11. The price of tickets (\$15 and \$25) may seem high, but so is the loss children suffer when they are torn from loving homes. If we cannot support the fight for ourselves, perhaps we can do it for the children who are so powerless against the system.

We hope each *Herland Voice* reader will support this cause 100%. Please call Herland today (405-521-9696) and reserve your tickets or come by Herland to purchase tickets. □

# ST. SYBIL

Dear St.Sybil,

I just read in the magazine *In These Times* that a Mr. Thomas Huckfeldt of Trenton, New Jersey, is being required by the Courts to pay attorney's fees for his two teenage sons, as the family is too well off to qualify for a public defender. This sounds reasonable, except that Mr. Huckfeldt's sons are charged with trying to hire a hit man to kill him.....

Sybil, our justice system has gone all kerflooy, and I'm wondering if you can help us figure out what to do about it.

Sincerely,  
Earnest Lee Sicking

Dear Earnest Lee,

Well, I know. Who isn't flabbergasted, for instance, by the widely-heralded tale of the prospective burglar who, while crawling along a roof looking for a way inside, fell through a skylight, - and sued for and received big buckets of money in damages from the prospective-victim homeowner.

But let's consider what's going on here, and wherein lies the fault. First, of course, (and assuming you don't want to start with the society who bred the burglar, and the people who created the society, and the philosophers who influenced the people who created the society, etc.), it lies with the burglar. Secondly, with the lawyer who agreed to bring the lawsuit; thirdly and quite likely most importantly in this particular case, with the insurance company who decided to settle out of court rather than to fight such an obviously spurious case. The kind view of that decision was that it would be cheaper and easier just to settle, but let me assure you that the financial consideration had no bearing whatsoever in the decision. The deciding factor for the company was not the money involved, but rather the opportunity they perceived to infuriate people and to influence the whole litigation debate. And in that they succeeded beautifully.

What you might want to do, Earnest Lee, (yes, you; if not you, who?) is to work for a Court of the Common Person, to screen suits of this sort and toss out the ones that are patently absurd or without merit. A five-person court, perhaps, convened from the voting rolls like a jury, to serve for two weeks separating the wheat from the chaff, the creditable and credible from the ridiculous, the valuable from the worthless, - or, actually, just the good lawyers from the bad. Because if all the CCP had to look at was a charge and an answer in a suit, that is all it would come down to: who writes the best brief. If justice delayed is justice denied, so is "justice" too swiftly imposed. The legal system is involved and complicated and killingly time-consuming, and reading "legalese" is almost as much fun as trying to separate plastic wrap from itself - but it's not that hard, honey; and every word is there to make its meaning more precise. The fact is that a Court of the Common Person would be as prone to error and injustice as the US Supreme Court was when it ruled in 1883 that Native Americans are "Aliens". Really.

The legal system is tough, it's frustrating, it's imperfect - but what're you gonna do, so's life. So keep the faith, Earnest. It will all be ok in the end.

Yours,  
Sybil

Dear Sybil,

I have been thinking of volunteering at Herland, but I'm not sure if I'm going to or not. Can you give me any reasons why I should?

Thanks,  
Janey

Dear Janey,

There are as many reasons to volunteer at Herland as dinosaurs in Wyoming -whoops, wrong millennium - as many as strobe lights at a go-go club; here are some of them:

Top ten reasons to volunteer at Herland:

10. Unlimited access to all of those great books
9. Makes your friends & family proud
8. First step on the road to fame & fortune
7. THE happening place to be on Saturdays & Sundays
6. Great place to meet babes
5. Herland's so cool
4. Looks good on your resumé
3. Find out why they call it the gay nineties
2. Buttafuco, Buttafuco, Buttafuco

and the number one reason to volunteer at Herland:

1. Why not?

Have fun,

Love,  
Sybil

□

## OK ACLU SODOMY PROJECT

The OK ACLU Sodomy Project is making preparations to challenge Oklahoma's sodomy law. Current plans are for five lesbians and five gay men to participate as plaintiffs in the suit. The next meeting of the Sodomy Project will discuss the expectations and requirements placed on plaintiffs. The meeting will be held at Triangle Association, 2136 N.W. 39th St., Oklahoma City at 7 P.M. on Thursday, November 11. □

Office Hours by Appointment

*Debra K. Browning, R.Ph. D.D.S.*

*Dental Care for the Entire Family  
Safe Dentistry for Incest Survivors*

*Suite 302  
Meridian Medical Tower  
13321 North Meridian*

# RACE MATTERS

by Vivien Ng

Back in June 1982, when I had just moved to Norman from Honolulu, I came face to face with raw racial hatred. It wasn't the first time I faced racism, of course. By the time I got to Oklahoma, I was already a veteran of countless skirmishes with bigots, from being told flat-out lies such as, "the room has just been rented," to being called a "gook" to my face. But that summer day in 1982 was different.

I was at the Sooner Fashion Mall, enjoying an ice cream cone and just minding my own business, when a little girl of about 4 walked right up to me, stared for a moment, and slapped my face. I had never seen such hatred in a child's eyes before in my life. Her parents hurried over, but instead of apologizing for their child's behavior, just simply carried her away.

That wound never healed. The scab was peeled off again the other day when I was affronted by a column called "Racism is your fault" in OU's student newspaper. At first, I willed myself to believe that it was only a tongue-in-cheek piece, but no amount of generosity in my heart could alter the reality: the author, a merit scholar, is a self-identified racist and proud of it.

That evening, in my Women's Studies class, I read the column to my students. We tried to make sense of it, of statements such as, "I'm a racist. But I'll let you in on a little secret: It's your fault," and, "I can honestly say that had I never encountered people like you, I would never have had a problem with 'your people,'" and, "As a female, I can tell you that considering the fact that you are not only female, but also black, there is no better place for you on this earth than this 'racist, sexist and elitist country' that I love and you so vehemently despise," and, "Yes, I believe racism exists, but I can also say that it is partly your fault. It is your fault because you expect to be compensated for something that didn't happen to you by people who didn't do it." (The "you" was an African American student who had written an earlier column about minority scholarships.)

After I finished reading, I looked at my students, at the sea of white, anguished faces. To their credit (and mine), those who spoke out against the column--and many did--did so with passion and conviction. I dared to move on to the scheduled topic for discussion that evening, identity politics, to prepare my students for a meaningful discussion of Gloria Anzaldua's *BORDERLANDS* in the coming weeks.

I showed the class one overhead transparency after another, each filled with choice quotes from "classic" feminist works, in order to guide them through the journey to the past, to a naive time when gender could be analyzed in the absence of race and class. Like Moses, I led them forward to the edge of the promised land, and ended the lecture with "A Black Feminist Statement" by the Combahee River Collective. I felt great!

Just as I was about to leave the room, a student came up to me and asked, "Why do we always have to deal with such depressing topics?" My immediate response was, "It's the nature of the beast. In Women's Studies, we have to talk about patriarchal oppression, pornography, violence against women, sexual harassment and the like." Later, as I was driving home, it dawned on me that we had not always dealt with depressing topics. Just the week before, we had spent three hours celebrating female eroticism!

It is my insistence on interlocking sexism, racism, classism, and heterosexism that has made my Women's Studies class so depressing for some of my students. Unfortunately for them, the next 8 weeks will be even worse! □

## PARTIAL VICTORY IN CUSTODY CASE

On September 28, 1993, a year and a half after a lesbian mother lost her two children to her ex-husband in a fiercely fought legal battle, the Oklahoma Court of Appeals reversed a major part of the trial court's decision. The appeal efforts are being supported by the Herland Legal Defense Fund.

Despite testimony that the mother was a wonderful parent and that the children were well adjusted and happy, the judge ruled the mother was "unfit" because of her sexual orientation was seen to create an "immoral environment" and ordered an immediate change of custody to the children's father.

The mother immediately appealed the "unfitness" ruling and the change of custody to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. That court passed it down to a lower Court of Appeals, which finally made the decision last month.

The Court of Appeals found that the ruling of unfitness was unsupported by the evidence. Like an earlier case (MJP, 1982), it did not find that lesbianism in and of itself was grounds for an unfitness ruling. This portion of the ruling, removing "unfitness" from the arsenal that can be used against lesbian and gay parents, is a great victory for the gay and lesbian community.

However, the Appeals Court did not give the children back to the mother. Instead, it sought to protect the children from "possible future harm" ("trauma" and taunting from society or church members) and left them with their father. This portion of the ruling is now the focus of the mother's petition for a rehearing at the Court of Appeals.

The Herland Legal Defense Fund will continue to provide support for the ongoing appeal. This case has already had a positive impact on lesbian rights and a full victory is possible. □

2109 S. Air Depot  
Midwest City, OK 73110

(405)737-0496

### Air Depot Animal Hospital

Call for Appointment

JOY HUSKA, D.V.M.

# OKC CITY COUNCIL REJECTS HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE

The Oklahoma City City Council refused to implement a proposed human rights ordinance by striking it from the council agenda on October 12. According to Mayor Norick, over 50 citizens asked to speak to the Council on the proposed ordinance. According to observers, supporters appeared to outnumber those opposed to the ordinance. The mayor refused to allow all to speak and limited debate allowing equal numbers of supporters and opponents to speak. On the request of Representative Bill Graves of Bethany, who spoke in opposition to the ordinance, Mayor Norick allowed additional speakers in opposition.

The proposed ordinance, a comprehensive rewrite of the city's human rights ordinance, was developed by the Oklahoma City Human Rights Commission. It would have extended the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission to include discrimination in public accommodations and employment based on sexual orientation, age, familial status and disability in addition to race, religion, and other groups included in the present ordinance. Under the proposed ordinance, the Human Rights Commission could investigate alleged discrimination and if no mediated resolution could be reached, the Commission would be able to refer the case to the District Attorney for prosecution. Acts of discrimination under the ordinance would be punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

---

***"When should we stop? We shouldn't stop until each and every Oklahoma citizen is protected."***

---

Councilperson Willa Johnson spoke eloquently in favor of the proposed ordinance. Saying "I want to go on record saying I am opposed to discrimination whenever it occurs." "When should we stop? We shouldn't stop until each and every Oklahoma citizen is protected." Councilperson Johnson (Ward 7), Jackie Carey (Ward 8), and Mark Schwartz (Ward 2) voted to retain the ordinance on the agenda. Voting in opposition were Beverly Hodges (Ward 6), Jack Cornett (Ward 3), Frosty Peak (Ward 1), Frances Lowery (Ward 4), and Jerry Foshee (Ward 5).

Citizens of Ward 6 have responded to Beverly Hodges "no" vote by initiating a recall petition drive. Over two hundred residents of Ward 6 signed the initial petition to initiate the recall effort. Approximately 13,000 signatures will be required to force a new election in Ward 6. The Oklahoma City chapter of Simply Equal has endorsed the recall petition drive. The Oklahoma Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus has indicated that they may actively oppose the proposed one-cent sales tax for the MAPS project.

The Human Rights Commission has formed an ad-hoc committee to make suggestions for a second attempt to pass an inclusive human rights ordinance. The committee will present their recommendation at the Commission's November meeting. □

**Rebecca R. Cohn, Ph.D.**  
**Clinical Psychology**

Norman, OK  
321-2148

Couples,  
Individuals, &  
Family Therapy

## OPEN LETTER TO BEVERLY HODGES

....This [proposed OKC human rights ordinance] is simply a matter of conscience for us, Beverly. Many of us are older folks who would like to leave the road a little less rocky for those who will come behind us. Some of us have children of our own, or nieces and nephews who are gay or lesbian and we would like to see them grow up with dignity and fairness. Some of us are challenged by HIV and want our voices and stories to be heard before they are inevitably stilled. And I think all of us believe simply that "what's right is right" and that no group of Americans should be able to use their particular interpretation of the Bible as a means of restricting the liberty of other Americans.

We want nothing special. We simply want to be allowed to live our lives in the peace and freedom other people take for granted.

You have been saying that you think such issues are best left to the Federal and State governments. That's a rather odd position to hold in an age where it is increasingly obvious that all of our problems are going to have to find their root solutions at the local level. Even if the Federal and State governments did afford equal protection for lesbian and gay Americans, which they do not, it would only make sense to bring Oklahoma City in line with those standards.

Historically, gay folks have left their small towns and migrated to the cities where they could live their lives with some sense of community and safety. Now we are finding that the religious right is not even willing to acknowledge our urban sanctuaries. We are increasingly cornered and harassed. The anti-discrimination ordinances of Denver, Aspen and Boulder have been overturned. We are witnessing similar tactics here.

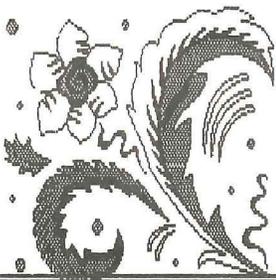
We came to Oklahoma City from Guymon and Bartlesville, McCloud, Bug Tussle and Pink. And many of us settled in Ward 6. Please consider this: How will you be harmed by standing with us for equal protection? How, in conscience, can we turn away while our basic liberties are eroded? Should we silently sit by while battles fought and won in 1989 are forgotten and even rescinded?

....There are many courses open to you. Lead, Beverly. Seek out some course of conscience for yourself. There's no reason to be afraid of us. We are not violent and we do not condone violence. But if you will not listen, not take our calls, not meet us in our neighborhoods, nor lend your skills to the finding of a solution, nor acknowledge the courage and bravery of Schwartz, Carey, and Johnson with your own courage and bravery, then we will work with the energy and diligence that conscience brings to recall you from office.

--Mark Houston

## INTERNATIONAL MARCH SET FOR 1994

The Stonewall 25 organizing committee officially announced on October 7, plans for a massive march and rally in New York City on June 24, 1994, that will affirm the human rights of lesbians and gay men worldwide. The events also will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. March organizers expect it to be the largest human rights demonstration ever. The activities include a march on the United Nations and will conclude with a massive rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park that will highlight the diversity and talent of the lesbian and gay community worldwide. □



# NOVEMBER 1993



Don't miss the Cris Williamson/Tret Fure benefit concert November 18! What a deal! You get to hear internationally-acclaimed artists, and benefit the Herland Legal Defense Fund at the same time.

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

Doc Herland says:  
Make a turkey  
thankful; Eat a  
tofu burger for  
Thanksgiving;  
both your bodies  
will be healthier.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	SIMPLY EQUAL 7 pm Triangle Associates			The Roger Lienke Band (w/ MBTY's Elyse, Louise & Terry at VZD's. 9:30pm * CoDA, 7 pm	
7	8	9	10	11	12
 Marie Curie, 1867 - 1934	Dorothy Day, 1897 - 1980 * Legal Defense Fund Meeting, 6:30, Herland	Simply Equal 7 pm Herland			 Elizabeth Cady Stanton 1815 - 1902
14	15	16	17	18	19
	Legal Defense Fund Meeting 6:30 Herland	Simply Equal 7 pm at Herland * OKC NOW 6:30 pm at the YWCA, 2460 NW39		CRIS WILLIAMSON & TRET FURE 8 PM OKC Civic Center Little Theatre	CoDA, 7 pm
21	22	23	24	25	26
 Board Meeting 4:30pm	 Billie Jean King born 1943	Simply Equal 7 pm Herland		THANKSGIVING DAY Thanks for: (You fill in the blanks) ----- ----- -----	CoDA, 7 pm
28	29	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>THE HERLAND GIFT SHOP The Place to Shop Jewelry, Pottery, T-shirts, Stationery, Bird Houses &amp; Feeders, Buttons, Postcards, Toys &amp; More! And of course and as usual, we're the place for great books and music. Beat the holiday rush, come in now!</p> </div>		
 Rita Mae Brown		Shirley Chislm Born 1924 * Simply Equal 7 pm Herland			

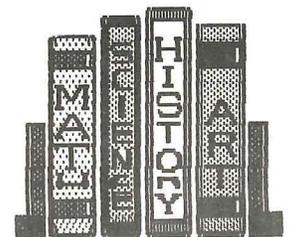
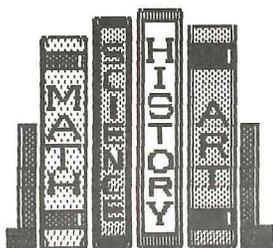
HERLAND SISTER RESOURCES, INC.

2312 N.W. 39th Street

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

(405) 521-9696

Hours: Saturdays 10 - 6; Sundays 1 - 6



# GLAAD NOTES

**Fear and hate at school...** *Hostile Hallways* is the name for the nationwide survey on sexual harassment in America's schools conducted by the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The survey documents that the form of harassment children and teens fear most is being called faggot, sissy or other anti-gay epithets. A copy of *Hostile Hallways* may be obtained by writing: AAUW, Survey on Sexual Harassment in America's Schools, P.O. Box 251, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0251; (800) 255-9998.

**Custody Coverage...** The Sharon Bottoms child custody case created a spate of TV talk shows on lesbian moms and gay dads as well as intensive press coverage. In denying Ms. Bottoms custody of her son on the sole grounds that she is a lesbian, Judge Buford Parsons of Virginia's Henrico County Circuit Court demonstrated his ignorance about gays and lesbians as he moved away from rational jurisprudence and acted upon his own homophobia.

"Geraldo" presented "Lesbian Moms" and it was an unmitigated disaster. As invited guests, Geraldo had Paul Cameron, a professional homophobe who has been disbarred from the American Psychological Association, the prosecutors in the Bottoms case, Richard Ryder and Paul Morrissey of the Morality Action Committee, pitted against a panel of lesbian mothers. This show was proof that Geraldo only wants "ratings" based on polarization and stupidity. "Sally," on the other hand, had Sharon Bottoms' mother and Richard Ryder, but handled it with such class and dignity that a homophobic panel member walked off the show in a huff.

Your comments may be sent to: "Sally Jesse Raphael," 267 Broadway, New York 10007. Send your comments along with suggestions that Geraldo include guests such as the openly gay Reverend Mel White, former ghost writer for Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Billy Graham, on his show to: "Geraldo," Mr. Marty Berman, Executive Producer, 524 W. 57th Street, New York 10019.

**Real World II...** MTV's hip documentary series *Real World II* tracks the lives of several young adults living together in Los Angeles. In the September 10 episode, a new roommate, Beth Stolarczyk, arrives on the scene. Wearing an "I'm not gay but my girlfriend is" t-shirt, Beth is definitely an out lesbian. Reactions from others in the household demonstrated their own prejudices and curiosities, providing a clear comparison to the intelligent and upfront Beth. The October 7 episode featured the roommates playing a get-to-know-you game where each answered questions about themselves. Beth was eloquent in pointing out that questions to her were about her sexuality only and that was only a part of who she was. This was a very positive presentation. Your comments to MTV about inclusion of gays and lesbians in the "real world" can be directed to: Office of the President, MTV Networks, Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York 10036.

**How to Break into the Movies...** Home Girl Productions, a group of women filmmakers, is compiling scenes from both amateur and professional filmmakers depicting the daily lives of lesbians. A feature length film will be made to show "women in their real life..." Submissions are being solicited and must include a SASE in order to be returned. Contact: Home Girl Productions, 6662 N. Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069; (310) 859-9013. (Reprinted from *GLAAD/LA Newsletter*.) □

# NEW AT HERLAND

New musical items include:

*Best of Meg Christian*  
Melissa Etheridge *Yes I Am*  
The Therapy Sisters *Mood Swings*  
Sweet Honey in the Rock *Still on the Journey: 20th Anniversary*  
Ferron *Not a Still Life*  
*Best of Cris Williamson*  
k.d. lang *Ingenué*  
Indigo Girls *Rites of Passage*  
*Claire of the Moon Soundtrack*  
Venus Envy *I'll Be a Homo for Christmas*

Look for these new books:

*A Room Full of Women* Elisabeth Nonas  
*Under My Skin* Jaye Maiman  
*Superstars: Twelve Lesbians Who Changed the World*  
k.d. lang: *Carrying the Torch* William Robertson  
*Black Lesbian in White America* Anita Cornwell  
*Faces of Love* Sharon Gilligan  
*Solitary Twist* Elizabeth Pincus  
*Locked Down: A Lesbian's Life in Prison* Idella Serna  
*Strangers in the Senate* Barbara Boxer  
*The Lesbian Survival Manual* Rhonda Dickson  
*Coming Out! More Lesbian Fun and Games*  
*Woman Plus Woman* Dolores Klaich  
*Can't Keep a Straight Face: A Lesbian Looks and Laughs at Life*  
Ellen Orleans  
*Final Rest* Mary Morell  
*And Then I Met This Woman* Barbee Cassingham & Sally O'Neil  
*Venus Envy* Rita Mae Brown  
*The Lesbian Body*  
*Lesbian (Out)Law* Ruthann Robson

# FIGHT THE RIGHT CONFERENCE

Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, lesbian, gay and bisexual activists gathered at Triangle Association in Oklahoma City to hear from three specialists in the area of grassroots organizing and fighting the right wing. The central theme of the weekend was that the right wing is here and they are organized, and that it is not too early to organize for the fights ahead.

Workshops on Saturday were led by Suzanne Pharr of the Women's Project, Scot Nakagawa, NGLTF's Fight the Right Director, and Robert Bray NGLTF's Fight the Right Media Director. Creating space for people within our community is of prime importance: Space to come out; Space to dream and; Space in which to be empowered. This space must be designed for the long term, and created in such a way that it provides bridges of outreach both within the Lesbian, Gay and Bi community, and outside of our community.

During lunch conference participants watched the right wing video "The Gay Agenda" and an answer to it "Sex, Lies, and Video Tape". These two videos gave participants a sobering look at the opposition's message. Simply Equal Chapters and TOHR all have copies of these video tapes and tapes of the individual workshops for loan.

On Sunday morning, workshop participants came together to answer the question: "What's next Oklahoma?" The obvious need to the group was the development of a network within the gay, lesbian, and bi community in Oklahoma. A "Gay Summit" was suggested where lesbian, gay and bisexual persons come together to discuss their purposes individually; and to mesh into a coalition united to fight the Right.

Shadow Sister  
 stone child -  
 you have support - I support you -  
 and the intelligence  
 to make leaps and bounds.  
 I know you fear the fire  
 your crazy-eyed fears  
 those rages from the past, in the dark  
 I know those ghosts -  
 but know the fire  
 that alchemy of gold -  
 Brace the storm, surrender  
 be brave sister, take sword  
 face the phantoms  
 and the gallows furnace -  
 I promise you won't die.  
 No longer caged, you will fly  
 fly hawksister, fly.

By Deborah Fox

## LESBIAN HUMORIST LOOKS AND LAUGHS AT LIFE

What's so funny about being a lesbian?

Find out when humorist and social commentator Ellen Orleans discusses lesbian life in an upbeat and gay-affirming talk: *The Joy of Lesbian Culture*. Combining animated readings from her new book, *Can't Keep a Straight Face*, with personal observations, Ellen discusses the richness of lesbian culture -- from dating, softball and politics to jobs, cats, therapy and relationships. Following the talk, the author will answer questions.



*The Joy of Lesbian Culture* will be held at Meachem Auditorium, University of Oklahoma Memorial Union, on Thursday December 2, at 7:30 P.M..

Ellen will be at Herland on Saturday, December 4 at 3 P.M., for a book signing and more informal reading.

Speaking about her work, Ellen comments, "Humor has a way of sneaking in and making a point that blunt observation often can't match. It's an effective tool for social change."

Ellen writes a bi-monthly humor column for Denver's *Out Front* magazine. Her work has appeared in *Women's Glib: A Collection of Women's Humor* and *Women's Glibber: State of the Art Women's Humor*, as well as *The Washington Post*, *The Providence Journal*, *The Funny Times*, *Hysteria*, *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives*, *Girl Jock*, and *Deneuve* among others.

For information about the reading scheduled for Oklahoma University, contact the University of Oklahoma Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance at 325-4452. □

## OK CONGRESSMEN SUPPORT DISCRIMINATION

(October 21, 1993) -- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) today demanded that three Oklahoma congressmen recant their public statements in support of employment discrimination against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. NGLTF also called on House Minority Whip Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-GA) to end his defense of such discrimination. NGLTF Executive Director Peri Jude Radecic sent letters to the congressmen, denouncing their bigotry and urging them instead to serve as leaders in ending discrimination.

As reported in Roll Call newspaper on Oct. 18, Oklahoma Reps. Jim Inhofe (R), Bill Brewster (D) and Ernest Istook (R) said they would not hire openly gay staffers for their Congressional offices. Inhofe said that having an openly gay person on his staff would be "disruptive in terms of unit cohesion. I do admit to some prejudice against the lifestyle." Istook said "I don't think it would work very well," while Brewster said, "I have a problem with the gay lifestyle to start with. I just don't think it is normal behavior." Following a speech Oct. 19 by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) denouncing the Oklahoma Congressmen's support of discrimination, Rep. Newt Gingrich defended such discrimination in *The Washington Times*. Gingrich said, "How can Barney Frank suggest that we impose on a member of Congress a standard which that member of Congress may regard as against his religion?" Frank and 15 other Members of the House today sent a letter to Gingrich expressing disappointment with his use of religious beliefs as a defense of discrimination.

In letters to the three Oklahoma Congressmen and Rep. Newt Gingrich, NGLTF's Radecic said their comments "reflect bigotry in its purest form and is inexcusable from any employer, especially one that holds public office and sets an example for others to follow."

"In addition to the obvious repugnance of proudly stating that you would discriminate against a fellow American based on an aspect of their life irrelevant to job performance, your public statement feeds the hatred that causes gay bashing and torments gay and lesbian young people, often ending in suicide," Radecic said in the letters. "I strongly urge you to publicly recant your statement, and immediately cease discriminating against your employees based on their sexual orientation. America deserves better." □

**Published by:** Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

**Newsletter Committee:** Margaret Cox, Deborah Fox, Vivien Ng, Pat Reaves

**Circulation:** 1200

**Advertising Rates:** Business card \$15; 1/4 page \$35; 1/2 page \$60; full page \$100

*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.

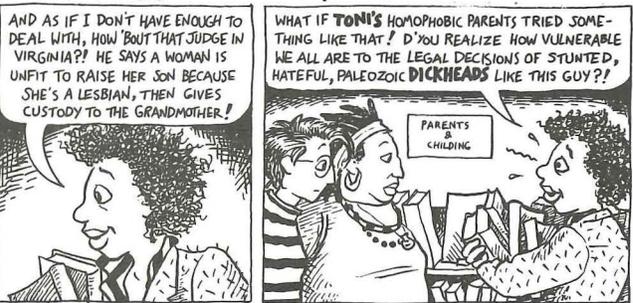
*The Voice* is printed on recycled paper.

# Dykes to Watch Out For

revelations

© 1993 BY ALISON BECHDEL

ONE RAINY MORNING AT MADWIMMIN BOOKS...



## BULLETIN BOARD

**Fall Peace Festival 1993;** Saturday, November 20, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Civic Center "Hall of Mirrors," 200 Channing Square in Downtown OKC. There will be 50 booths of organizations working for justice, peace, human rights, environment; 15 tables with local craftspeople supporting the Peace Festival; Children's Corner with Discovery Toys, arts and crafts, and adult supervision; face painting and chair massage. Other highlights include side workshops presented by participating organizations on timely topics and local talent and entertainers. Be sure to look for and stop by Herland's booth, and say hi.

**Lesbian only counseling group,** Wednesday evenings. Call Jo L. Soske M.Ed./MHR/WCADC/NCC/LPC at 364-5708.

**Teachers Get-Together:** All lesbian & gay teachers - child care, public school, college, etc., are invited to attend a get-together at Herland on Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. Some people want a safe place to talk; some may desire political action in the future, others may want to ease the isolation or just talk shop without keeping their guard up. Please join us! If you are interested but can't come, drop a note to Susan at OK Teachers, P.O. Box 98, Norman Ok 73070, saying what you'd like from such a group, or better times to meet - whatever comments you have. These can be anonymous and will be shared with the group.

**An eating disorder support group** is being established in the OKC area. If you suffer from anorexia, bulimia, or compulsive overeating, there is help. The group will meet once a week at no charge. Meeting time and place to be arranged. For more information call 405/752-7357.

**ACADEMIC DYKES:** Since our first potluck in Stillwater was such a success, we're having another one at 7 p.m. on November 20 in Oklahoma City. All lesbian faculty and staff working in Oklahoma universities and colleges are invited. Call Vivien at (405)364-2693 for details.

**OUGBLA:** Renee McBride will be speaking to the Univ. of OK Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance on Thurs., Nov. 11 at 7:30 PM in OMU, Rm. 161 about Herland and the various lesbian and gay activities and organizations in OKC.

## HERLAND NEEDS YOU!

Yes, I'll help keep Herland healthy and growing.

\_\_\_\_ Please call me about Herland volunteer opportunities.

\_\_\_\_ Here's my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73118. Herland is a 501c(3) organization and all contributions are tax deductible.



2312 N. W. 39th Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NonProfit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Permit No. 861