

# *The* HERLAND VOICE

February, 1994

## CAMP SISTER SPIRIT

Sarah D. Carrigan

There are a great many stories which need to be told about the women in Ovett, Mississippi: Brenda and Wanda Henson. Each has a life story of courage and inspiration, battling former husbands and family for their children, escaping abusive marriages, finding themselves and each other in Mississippi ten years ago, beginning a life together dedicated to helping any and all persons in need, battling for civil rights both at home and abroad. The list goes on. This is the story of my encounter with the Hensons.

Currently the Hensons are focused on getting Camp Sister Spirit, Inc. up and running. Seven months ago they bought 120 acres of Mississippi woodland outside Hattiesburg to found a retreat dedicated to providing safe space for women to come learn about themselves and each other. They intend the acreage to be used to battle all forms of oppression through education.

In November of 1993 some of the local people began a cruel campaign of terroristic threatening activity to remove the Hensons from the community. Why? Because the work they propose to do threatens the southern racist patriarchal way of life endemic to Mississippi and the rest of the South. The community folk claim that because the Hensons are a lesbian couple, the women and children of the community are not safe. But when faced with life altering change, aren't the lives and purity of women and children always held as precious justification for assault, murder and mayhem? After all, the weak women and children must be protected from any changes which might actually improve their lives. Upon learning of the activities going on, the armed "hunters" found trespassing on the Henson's land, the life-threatening phone calls, the bus loads of children driven by the property on their way to school and encouraged to jeer and taunt the hatreds of their elders, the numerous property signs torn down and destroyed, and other ugly acts and crimes, I felt compelled to do what I could to assist these women in this true life and death struggle.

January 3rd, 1994. I drove from Lexington, KY to Camp Sister Spirit, 20 miles outside Ellisville, Mississippi. I had intended to attend a "town meeting" planned for January 4th, but when I called that morning and spoke with Wanda, I learned it had been rescheduled for that evening. I expected the drive to take at least ten hours, not counting time for stops. I wasn't certain I'd arrive on time, but I'd try. (continued page 4)

## NOTED ATTORNEY TO SPEAK

Ruthann Robson, author of *Lesbian (Out)Law: Survival Under the Rule of Law* and professor of law at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, will be speaking at the University of Oklahoma on February 17-19, 1994. She will speak on Thursday, February 17, 1994, at 7:30 P.M. in the Meachem Auditorium of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the OU campus. Her presentation entitled, "Lesbians in Life, Law and Literature," will discuss some of the legal and literary problems in contemporary lesbian lives. On Saturday, February 19, Robson will read from her fiction work at Herland Sister Resources at 6:30 P.M.

Robson is recognized as one of "the nation's foremost Supreme Court scholars," according to the *Advocate: The National Gay and Lesbian Newsmagazine* and "the leading authority on lesbians and law," according to the *Village Voice*. *Lesbian (Out)Law* is a groundbreaking and unique work that has garnered wide attention in lesbian, lesbian/gay/bi and feminist publications as well as from legal scholars in legal journals, textbooks, and classrooms across the United States and Canada.

Robson is also the author of two critically acclaimed collections of fiction, *Eye of a Hurricane* (1989), recipient of the prestigious annual Ferro-Grumley Award for "outstanding fiction on lesbian life," and *Cecile*, a series of inter-related short stories of "first rate women's writing" about lesbians "surviving in occupied territory" that nevertheless "insists on its right to humor, sex, politics, and academic theory." [Off Our Backs, Booklist, Women's Review of Books] (Continued page 2)

### RUTHANN ROBSON

"Lesbians in Life, Law and Literature"

Thursday, February 17, 1994, 7:30 P.M.

Meachem Auditorium, Oklahoma Memorial Union  
University of Oklahoma

Readings from Her Fiction Works

Saturday, February 19, 1994

6:30 P.M.

Herland Sister Resources

## **LESBIAN WRITERS FUND ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FOR 1994 AWARDS**

The Lesbian Writers Fund will make five awards of \$11,000 each to lesbian writers in June 1994. Now in its fourth year, the Lesbian Writers Fund was established by the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation to support the work of emerging lesbian writers of fiction and poetry.

The deadline for applications for the awards is March 8, 1994. Complete guidelines and the application form can be obtained by writing the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, Attn: Lesbian Writers Fund, 666 Broadway, Suite 520, New York, NY 10012.

Additionally, the Sappho Award of Distinction, a grant of \$5,000 will be given to an established writer. The Sappho award winners for 1992 and 1993 were Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich. There is no application process for this award.

Astraea is the first nationwide lesbian foundation. Astraea was begun in 1966 by a multi-racial, multi-cultural group of feminist activists to empower women through financial and organizational support. In recognition of the contributions and needs of lesbians, Astraea became the National Lesbian Action Foundation in 1990.

The Lesbian Writers Fund has been made possible by the generous support of its founding donor, Joan Drury, a lesbian feminist philanthropist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Fund is seeking additional contributions to expand the number and kinds of awards to be made in future years. □

### **ACLU CHALLENGE TO SODOMY LAW**

If you are a lesbian and you wish to join in a legal action challenging the constitutionality of the Oklahoma state sodomy, please contact the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma at (405)524-8511 or write 1441 Classen Blvd. #318, Oklahoma City, OK 73106-6609. Plaintiffs' attorneys Mark Henricksen, Esq., Jane Eulberg, Esq., Shirley Wiegand, Esq. You have nothing to lose but your chains.

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*(405)735-4099  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73120*

## **RUTHANN ROBSON**

*(continued from page 1)*

Robson's newest work is a forthcoming novel about a lesbian lawyer who represents lesbian mothers, including lesbian mothers accused of murder. She will read from the forthcoming novel at her Herland appearance.

The OU Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Association and the OU Speakers Bureau are sponsors for Robson's Oklahoma visit. Special provisions can and will be made for those who have a physical impairment. Contact the OUGLBA at 325-4452 for further information. □

### **Praise for the fiction of Ruthann Robson**

#### ***Eye of A Hurricane***

winner of the 1990 Ferro-Grumley Award for outstanding lesbian fiction

· "a strong and fresh contribution to women's literature."

-Marge Piercy in *Women's Review of Books*

· "Robson is a master of her craft....Place, character, story-line language all meld into wholes as rare as perfect shells found along the tide line"

-*Bay Windows*

· "The least of these stories entertains and charms us; the best of them broadens our vision."

-*Sojourner*

#### ***Cecile***

· "Robson's writing is spare and graceful, with wonderfully original sparks of sarcasm and wit sprinkled liberally throughout."

-*Publishers Weekly*

· "This is fiction that insists on its right to humor, sex, politics, academic theory...."

- Valerie Miner in *Women's Review of Books*

· "fine writing - by far the very best I have read in a book in which lesbians are the main characters in a long time."

- Rebecca Brown in *Belles Lettres*

# **LESBIANS UNDER ATTACK IN RURAL MISSISSIPPI: A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT**

by John Gutierrez

ELLISVILLE, MS-On January 3, over 400 residents of Jones County, Mississippi, gathered for the second time in the Ellisville courthouse to discuss plans to run lesbian couple Wanda and Brenda Henson and their feminist educational retreat, Camp Sister Spirit, out of the two-store town of Ovett. I joined eight other supporters of the Hensons from south Mississippi in attending the meeting. No supporters of Sister Spirit spoke at the meeting; rather, we served merely as observers. For this Mississippi native, the meeting and its aftermath were like a journey back to a time when the National Guard was needed to keep citizens of Little Rock from attacking young African-American girls on their way to school and when Mississippi preachers denounced Elvis for corrupting young minds.

The Hensons are renovating a 120-acre pig farm to use as a retreat and meeting space for their own feminist educational organization and other like-minded groups. The goals of Camp Sister Spirit include feeding and clothing the poor, teaching literacy, aiding displaced homemakers, and providing education on racism, sexism, homophobia, and other social issues. Residents of Ovett fear the Hensons will recruit local women to become lesbians and that their community will become a "hotbed of lesbianism." For weeks, the Hensons have been harassed by phone calls threatening death and gunshots on their property. At the meeting, the opposition group announced it will file a lawsuit in order to protect the property values of the surrounding area which it claims are threatened by the Hensons' presence.

The meeting itself consisted primarily of canned fundamentalist Christian rhetoric and generous doses of distorted and false information about gay men and lesbians. Part of the Christian right propaganda film *The Gay Agenda*, featuring carefully selected scenes from the 1993 March on Washington, was shown, and no fewer than three Baptist ministers led the crowd in prayer. Frequent shouts of "Amen" and "Hallelujah" rose throughout the evening, adding to the already distinct feeling of a religious revival. The ministers prayed for the power to drive the 'evil reprobates' out and thereby protect such a morally upright community from becoming a "hub of homosexual activity." At the meeting's end, opposition leader James Hendry implored the crowd to contribute to a fund being collected to fight the Hensons.

Ultimately, each speaker used the occasion to whip the crowd into a hostile mob and to stir emotions in order to persuade locals that two doctoral candidates who plan to feed the poor and teach the illiterate are a serious threat to the health and morals of the community. Rev. Ken Fairly of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Hattiesburg, went so far as to specifically encourage local citizens to attack Camp Sister

Spirit. He said, "When I heard that rednecks were attacking Camp Sister Spirit, I was disappointed because I think they should be attacked by all kinds of necks: black necks, white necks...."

A large number of local and national media representatives attended, including Leslie Stahl of the television newsmagazine *20/20*, and reporters from National Public Radio and *The Village Voice*. The leaders of the meeting were painfully aware of this heavy media presence. Those speaking repeatedly referred to the media's portrayal of the townspeople as a violent lynch mob. The crowd was cautioned to be on their best behavior and to remember that they were a community of law-abiding Christians.

The meeting seemed carefully staged to stress the town's religious and moral concerns and downplay the tendency towards bigotry and violence. During the screening of *The Gay Agenda*, many of the women dramatically buried their heads in their hands and wept or pretended to weep. There were, however, revealing cracks in their righteous facade--moments the media weren't supposed to see. Some in the courthouse cringed when a speaker made reference to the local "colored" folks. A more sinister slip was one man's suggestion that, due to the media's presence, they not discuss their actual plans at that time. The gaffe visibly disconcerted Hendry, who was leading the meeting, and he conspicuously ignored the comment.

It became apparent after the meeting that many people were not going to heed Hendry's call for lawful "Christian" behavior. As the crowd dispersed, some recognized gay men Todd Emerson and Luis Cintron from their recent appearance on an Oprah Winfrey Show which focused on the Ovett-Sister Spirit issue. Emerson and Cintron were part of our small group of Sister Spirit supporters. Several men surrounded us, taunting with "faggots," "queers," "sinners" and asking if we "knew Jesus." One man was held back from physically attacking us and finally the police parted the crowd for us to exit. As we made our way out, the increasingly unruly mob waved Bibles, pushed at us, and threatened that we "better get out." Finally, the police escorted us to the county line.

The importance of the Hensons' fight cannot be underestimated as it has implications for gay men and lesbians living in small towns and rural areas across the South and across the country. I can think of no current gay or lesbian effort tougher than waging a pitched battle against fundamentalist Southern Baptists in rural Mississippi. This fight is far from mere politics or ideology; it is truly a life or death struggle for liberty. In order to survive, Camp Sister Spirit needs the support of gay men and lesbians everywhere. To offer your support, call the Hensons, at 601/344-1411.

Many prayers were said at the meeting, all in a most un-Christlike spirit of hostility. I would like to offer a prayer of my own for the people of Jones County. I pray that they will learn to live without fear and hatred. I pray that they will educate themselves and not blindly accept the teachings of men motivated by prejudice and greed. And finally, I pray that they may come to know peace and compassion and that they may develop an appreciation for the diversity of human life. Amen. □

# CAMP SISTER SPIRIT

(continued from page 1)

I drove into Ellisville at 8:30 central time (9:30 Lexington time). The meeting had begun at 7 P.M.. As I drove by the town hall I saw 5 or 6 police cars parked and 2 cruising the streets. A few people were milling about. I was alone in a car with a Kentucky license plate: I drove on by.

## *I was feeling the paranoia of entering a warzone and being identified as the enemy.*

On the south end of town I stopped at a gas station to call the Hensons. Wanda had told me that morning to call when I got to Ellisville as the entry gate to the property would be locked and they had been escorting all visitors on and off the grounds. She gave me directions one more time and I set off on the final 20 mile leg of my journey. Even though it was pitch dark I was feeling conspicuous in my aquamarine Toyota Paseo. Most all the vehicles I had seen in town were older model beat-up American cars and trucks. I drove slowly to watch for the turns. About 8 miles out of town a fast moving car came up from behind. I slowed to about 40 m.p.h. to allow it to pass. It didn't. Rather, it got right up on my rear and stayed there for about three miles, no matter what my speed. When it finally passed I started to feel some relief until I realized it was staying about three quarters of a mile ahead of me; maybe watching, maybe not. I was feeling the paranoia of entering a warzone and being identified as the enemy.

I found the first turn, then the second without seeing any other traffic. I was moving very slowly to watch for the gate when I saw the headlights and a white gravel drive: I had arrived and there were my escorts. One of the women jumped out of the truck: "Kentucky?" "Yeah, I'm Sarah." "Drive on in. We'll close the gate and follow." I was on a one-lane gravel path, about a half-mile long. It had been raining for several days in Mississippi and the red mud was deep. I saw another truck prominently parked at what appeared to be a lookout point, but learned later it was simply stuck in the mud. I drove on up to the two main buildings and parked near 8-10 other cars and several campers. My escorts introduced themselves and took me "inside."

There are two buildings under construction/renovation. The kitchen area of the main building has a dirt floor, two walls of plastic sheeting, a third of plywood, while the fourth is open. A wood stove made not long before from a 50 gallon drum stands in the entry where 12 women were crowded around trying to stay warm. There is no other heat source here. Some were college students from Hattiesburg, some friends of the Hensons, some members of the New Orleans chapter of the Lesbian Avengers. All were there to protect, help and support Camp Sister Spirit. I was introduced to Brenda, then Wanda, then "everyone else."

First I had to call Alex back in Kentucky to let her know I'd arrived safely. Then these various women asked about my drive (12 hours) and why I had come all the way from Kentucky

(how could I not?). One student from California asked "Is Kentucky part of the South?" Others asked "Isn't Kentucky a lot more progressive than here?" What could I say to that?

There were several other women who had arrived just that day, so Wanda got up and directed us to please sign the release forms their lawyer was insistent about. Essentially I was indicating in writing that I knew where I was and willingly had entered a potentially dangerous situation. Then Wanda told us about some of the most recent events (the last death threat had come on Christmas Eve) and talked about safety (walk in groups at all times) and self-defense (if you have a gun keep it hidden. Pull it out only if you intend to use it immediately.) This is a war zone.

Later on others arrived who had attended the town meeting. They described it as a cross between a revival and preparation for a lynching. The townsfolk had been unable thus far to find any legal means of removing the Hensons from their property; they were angry and stymied. They called for a defense fund to be established to prepare for legal battle with the Hensons. The county sheriff (an elected official sworn to protect all citizens) assisted in passing the hat. Someone put in a hundred dollar bill: "hallelujah, praise the lord, amen." The 11 P.M. news had a brief report and video clip from the meeting. A news crew from ABC's 20/20 was there and would be coming to the camp the following day to interview the Hensons.

Wanda, Brenda, and several other women went to bed. The rest stayed up, some all night, to stand guard. They spoke in low tones and with great tension, fully expecting something to happen. The dog barked a few times and several women walked out a short ways to check each time. Around 1 A.M. I finally got my gear from the car and prepared for bed. The sleeping area was upstairs: a half-finished room with plastic sheeting hung to divide it kept the warmth in. Bare mattresses with blankets and sleeping bags were strewn about the floor. I took one that appeared unclaimed. Then I had to go out to the other building for bathroom preparations: no running water yet in the main facility. Back in the sleeping room a couple of

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The Voice is printed on recycled paper

women snuggled under four or five blankets stirred and began asking questions, so I sat on their mattresses and talked a long time. They had met on a previous visit to the camp and had since been dating: new love arising out of age old hatreds. I finally crawled into my sleeping bag (many thanks to Alex who reminded me to take it!) and pulled an extra blanket across. Surprisingly enough, I fell asleep rather quickly. Tense as I was, it had been an exhausting day and I was drained both physically and emotionally.

The next morning I awoke to the sounds of people milling about below me. I made my way to the bathroom through a crowd of new people: photographers, reporters, crews from various TV stations. The media had been arriving nearly every morning since the Oprah show two weeks before. A few women were putting up walls and electrical lines, but many (including me) were wandering the grounds, waiting for something to happen. This day Lynn Sherr from 20/20 would arrive to interview Brenda and Wanda, and the crew was there early to setup and prepare the camp in what they thought would be a more realistic setting.

I grabbed some coffee and went to my car where I had left an open box of granola bars. With the media filling the kitchen there was no way to prepare breakfast, or lunch, for the women present that day.

After awhile a phone call came: Lynn Sherr was on her way and someone needed to meet her car at the gate. Kelly, a student from SMU-Hattiesburg, and I drove down to wait. He filled me in on some more of the local news articles, TV stories, and letters to the editor. Most, though not all, are sympathetic with the towns folk, not the Hensons.

*I've never been more proud to be a lesbian than while I sat there listening as they told their stories and proclaimed their rights as Americans and human beings.*

The 20/20 interview began. We had to remain quiet and out of the way most of the time, but couldn't help breaking out into wild cheers and applause at each break.

The Hensons are warm, genuine, brave, and angry, and they are not going anywhere. I've never been more proud to be a lesbian than while I sat there listening as they told their stories and proclaimed their rights as Americans and human beings. The gate and many of the trees at the entry are painted lavender. One question came: "Why paint everything \*lavender\*?" Brenda replied, "They have torn down and stolen every sign we've put up. Women who need us don't know how to find us. I'll paint every tree on this hill, every rock, every bush; I'll paint the dog if that's what it takes to let people know we're here!"

The interview went on. Brenda's daughter, a human rights activist with her own set of enemies in Mississippi, was interviewed. Wanda's son was shown splitting wood. Another woman running various power tools. Different locations, walking the property, looking over the wooded hills. Other reporters were doing their own interviews. Finally the big one was over and the crew packed up to go to the next location to interview

neighbors down the road. Adrienne, the cook, was finally able to prepare an evening meal: fried chicken, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans. Standard southern fare, but was it delicious!

I'd told Alex the night before I'd call again at 7 P.M.. The local news came on; yet another story. "Hey, Sarah! You're on TV!" It was getting dark, people were leaving, a few new folk arrived. Kim and I washed the dishes from our evening meal. Finally! I felt useful! We all settled in front of the stove for another evening of talking and standing guard. Someone brought out a book of lesbian essays and poetry and a few of us took turns reading aloud. More discussions about civil rights, and anger, and fear. The Hensons were in the office working on press releases. There was also lighter talk of good bars and restaurants in New Orleans, invitations to come back to visit, suggestions to start a Lesbian Avengers chapter in Lexington.

I went to bed at 11 that night since I was returning to Kentucky the following day and needed a good night's sleep.

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*We are at war, folks. The battle lines are being drawn as you read this.*

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Wednesday morning. I awoke early, no one else was up. The sun was shining, the birds singing. It was quiet and peaceful and beautiful: just the atmosphere the Hensons intend Camp Sister Spirit to have always. I was profoundly moved by this bittersweet moment of what ought to be. I wandered the area, getting last photographs, not wanting to leave, feeling a need and desire to do more than simply witness their work.

Cheri, the third permanent resident of the camp, invited me into the Henson's trailer for coffee and to say good-bye. They were all hustling around, preparing for another day. A local radio talk show was having a call-in regarding the Sister Spirit "situation." Wanda was looking for the phone number so she could call shortly. I lingered, watching and listening, but finally had to go. I tried to tune in the radio station in my car, but couldn't find it. I stopped in Ellisville to call Alex one more time to let her know I was still alive and on my way home.

Brenda and Wanda Henson truly are the two bravest people I have ever met. They have absolute confidence that they will succeed, and total trust that the queer community will rally and come to their aid. And this we MUST do. Because of the ongoing battle and subsequent media blitz, the Hensons are far behind in their planning to get the camp up and running. They need help of all kinds. Anyone with a few days time and the least bit of skill in carpentry, plumbing, fencing, electrical, mechanics, or anything else, call them and go. If you can't go, send money, even if it's just a dollar. If you can't send a dollar, send a card expressing your pride and support for their work.

We are at war, folks. The battle lines are being drawn as you read this. People have already died elsewhere, and some of the people I met in Mississippi last week may die next. It is time to stand up and fight. If you want to help the Hensons, call or write at the following: Brenda and Wanda Henson (601) 344-1411 Camp Sister Spirit, Inc., P.O. Box 12 Ovett, Mississippi 39464.

The 20/20 interview likely will be aired in late January or February. Watch for it. (P.S. I'm the one peeling potatoes on the left!) □

# Dykes To Watch Out For

INTER  
ACTIVE

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## HERLAND ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY, 1993 -- DECEMBER, 1993

### Operating Account

Income	\$29,350	Expenses	\$29,914
Donations	\$7,057	Building	\$ 8,110
Bookstore Sales	\$5,305	(Mortgage, utilities & maintenance)	
Retreat Registrations	\$5,421	Newsletter	\$ 5,946
Events	\$8,555	Retreats	\$ 3,091
Foundation grant	\$1,000	Goods for Resale	\$ 3,764
Other	\$2,012	Program	\$ 7,964
		Other Expenses	\$ 353

### Herland Legal Defense Fund

Income	\$7,840	Expenses	\$7,281
		Payments to attorneys	\$6,760
		Fundraising Expenses	\$ 521

## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Here are just some of the opportunities available in Oklahoma City to learn more about African-American history. Check with your local library, university, and community organizations to find out what's planned for other cities.

### Black Liberated Arts Center

February 11: Multicultural Conference with Robert Northern and George Smith

February 19: 8 P.M. and February 20 at 4 P.M. "The Colored Museum" (musical comedy) at the Civic Center Little Theater

Call BLAC at 232-2522 for more information.

Ralph Ellison Library  
2000 N.E. 23  
Oklahoma City, OK

Tuesday, February 10 10 - 11 A.M.  
African Folktales & Music featuring Jahuuba

Saturday, February 19 9 A.M. - Noon Third Annual Dave Ross Speech Contest

Saturday, February 26 9 A.M. - Noon Black Jeopardy for High School Students

Monday, February 7 7 P.M. Blacks in the Military: Part 1

Wednesday, February 9 7 P.M.  
Blacks in the Military: Part 2

Saturday, February 19 1:30 P.M.  
The Emancipation of the African Brain

Wednesday, February 23 7 P.M.  
Black Freedmen and Their Interrelations with the 5 Civilized Tribes

Call the Ralph Ellison Library at 424-1437 for more information.

# THREE-YEAR PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE

The Herland Board is beginning to work on the next three-year plan for Herland. In 1990, we developed a three-year plan and most of the goals have been met. As a community organization, your input is very important to the success of Herland's plan. Please take a few minutes to respond to the questions below and share your ideas of what Herland is and can become. Please return the completed questionnaire to Herland, 2312 N.W. 39, OKC, OK 73112 by February 12 so we'll have your suggestions when we meet.

## How are you involved in Herland?

- I am a Herland volunteer.
- I attend Herland sponsored events regularly.
- I attend the Herland retreat regularly.
- I attend Herland sponsored events/sometimes.
- I occasionally make purchases at Herland.
- My only involvement is through reading the *Herland Voice*.

## Programming:

### I prefer Herland present:

- 1 or 2 nationally known women's music performers each year
- or
- 3 or 4 regionally known women's music performers each year

### Performers I suggest Herland consider presenting are:

### I'd like to participate or coordinate these activities:

Participate	Lead
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading discussion group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshop/discussion group on _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshop/discussion group on _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshop/discussion group on _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Right now, the only Herland activities restricted to women-only are the semi-annual retreats. Would you like for Herland to offer other women-only activities/space?  Yes  No

If so, what kinds of activities do you suggest be women-only?

What other suggestions do you have for Herland programming?

## Retreats

My favorite retreat locations are: (choose 3)

- Robber's Cave State Park
- Lake Wister State Park
- Lake Murray State Park
- Roman Nose State Park
- Osage Hills State Park
- Boiling Springs State Park
- Arrowhead State Park
- Red Rock Canyon State Park
- Sequoyah State Park

I prefer:

- the retreat to be held in a variety of parks around the state.
- or
- the retreat to be held in one or two specific locations

(over)

How important is travel time to the retreat for you?

- if travel time is longer than 2 hours I won't go.
- I prefer travel less than 2 hours but it won't stop me from attending.
- travel time is not important.

What other suggestions do you have about retreats?

#### Sales

When Herland began it was the only place women's music and books were available in Oklahoma City. Since then, women's books and music have become much more widely available.

Herland should sell:

- a wide range of women's books, tapes, and cds even if otherwise available locally
- only books, tapes, and cds and music not otherwise available in OKC
- no books, tapes or cds

What would you like Herland to make available for purchase?

What suggestions do you have for improving the *Herland Voice*?

The Herland Mission Statement says, "Although Herland is not restricted to lesbians, we have a strong lesbian focus." Do you feel Herland has the right balance of lesbian/gay focus and women's issues? In what areas would you like to see more emphasis?

What other suggestions do you have for improving Herland?

Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire. Your suggestions will be an important part of developing a plan for Herland. Herland is completely operated by volunteers. There is a place for you. Please let us know what volunteer activities you are interested in.

I'd like to:

- |                                                                    |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the Board                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Write for the newsletter                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff Herland on the weekend              | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on Herland productions (e.g., coffeeshops & concerts) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help maintain the building and grounds    | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with fundraising                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on the Legal Defense Fund Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Help organize and maintain the library                     |

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please send to: Herland Sister Resources, 2312 N.W. 39, Oklahoma City, OK 73112