

the HERLAND VOICE

January 2005

volume 23, number 1

THE L WORD COMING TO HERLAND

Herland will be showing the complete first season of **The L Word** beginning Friday, January 7th, 2005. Two episodes will be shown at Herland each Friday evening at 7pm for 7 weeks—ending February 19th.

This Showtime series focuses on the lives, careers and romantic relationships (gay and straight) of a group of women in Los Angeles.

This is a fundraising event for Herland and the cost will be \$3.00 per night or \$15.00 for the whole series. In addition, the box DVD set will be given away on the last night of the showing (Feb. 19) to the winner of a drawing. Each ticket you buy will enter you in the drawing for the DVD set—seven tickets gets you 7 chances and the series price of \$15.00 gets you 7 tickets.

So if you missed the first season, join us at Herland on Friday nights so you will be ready for the second season of **The L Word**.

Herland Sister Resources is located at 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK.

Season two of the L Word begins Feb. 20, 2005 at 10:00 pm on Showtime.



New Year's Potluck at Herland Everyone Invited

January 1st, 2005 from 4 to 6 pm. Come share the traditional New Year's Day fare of black eye peas, cornbread, cabbage, good company and more. Bring a dish to share.

Support and Socialization for Lesbian Moms

The OKC Lesbian Moms Group is an organization with two purposes. First and foremost the establishment of a playgroup to provide the children of lesbian parents an opportunity to have fun interactions with similar children and their families.

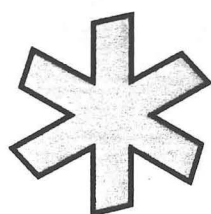
It is crucial to our children's mental health and emotional well being that they interact with other families that "mirror" their own family! This way they can feel that their family is "normal" too!

Our second goal is to provide lesbian parents with an opportunity to socialize and network with other lesbian parents. Parenting is always demanding and challenging, but can be especially so when the parents are lesbian or bisexual. Socializing with other lesbian parents is not only fun but it provides a healthy, informative forum for the exchange of parenting ideas and resources.

OKC Lesbian Moms Group is a forum for lesbian and bisexual mothers to come together for support and socialization. The group is non-judgmental and non-discriminatory. It is a place where women can find help and support and also be able to offer help and support to other mothers. This group is for discussing all aspects of parenting, from conception to coming out to your kids. Members do not have to be from the OKC area to join.

The group has an online group through Yahoo! It can be accessed through our website at www.geocities.com/okclesbianmoms. Group members communicate mainly through an email list that is very active. They also meet once a month with their children for fun activities and they meet once a month for a "mom's only" night out.

For more information you can contact the founder, Stacey Young at okclesbianmoms-owner@yahoo.com. If you do not have email, you can send your name, address and phone number to Stacey Young, c/o OKC Lesbian Moms, PO Box 75911, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 and we will send you a schedule of events.



National Coalition for LGBT Health

is announcing the Third Annual National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Awareness Week, scheduled for March 13 - 19, 2005.

The National Coalition for LGBT Health is committed to improving the health and well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and communities through public education, coalition building and advocacy that focuses on research, policy, education and training.

The National LGBT Health Awareness Week is a very visible way for you to support the Coalition and promote a healthy LGBT community across the nation via four objectives:

1. Raise public awareness of the unique health concerns, as well as the very real health disparities, among the LGBT communities,
2. Educate the LGBT health communities about the health issues that are present in our communities, since there is a belief that awareness in our communities must be significantly improved,
3. Provide community health centers, local organizations, and community representatives with tools to amplify the national campaign at the local level,
4. Educate medical and health care professionals in the area of cultural competency with regard to LGBT health.

To ensure the National LGBT Health Awareness Week is as successful as possible, there are many ways for individuals and organizations to contribute to the national campaign and get involved on the local level.

* Join us in Washington, DC from March 13-15, 2005 to kick off National LGBT Health Awareness Week with strategy meetings, lobbying, and hill briefings. Participate in LGBT Health Lobby Days at HHS and Capital Hill on Tuesday, March 15th. A form to request additional information for our two-day meeting can be obtained by calling, writing or visiting Herland Sister Resources.

* Help get the word out about LGBT Health issues during the week of March 13 through 19, 2005. Make sure your community organizations, clinics, health departments, universities, and allied organizations participate in whichever way they can. Some ideas for participation are holding a town-hall for your community, including a special article in your newsletter or website, writing letters to the editor, hosting an open house or health fair for your agency, and having a proclamation from your city council, mayor, or governor.

* Please share your ideas on what will make this week a successful one. Let's us know what you are planning so that we can promote your activities via our newly designed Awareness Week website (to be launched in January

2005), and provide you assistance where possible. You can submit your plans or ideas by emailing our National Field Director, Donald Hitchcock, at coalition@lgbthealth.net. Your input is valued and important in the work that we do.

* Materials are being produced to assist you in your outreach and educational efforts currently available on our website at www.lgbthealth.net. Thirteen informational fact sheets (English and Spanish versions) dealing with pertinent LGBT health issues will be available for free from our website: Aging Issues, Cancer, Domestic Violence, Smoking, Mental Health, Genital Warts and HPV, Nutrition and Weight, Sexual Health, Access to Quality Healthcare, Hepatitis A, B, and C, Youth Issues, MTF Trans Health, and FTM Trans Health. Please use these as tools to help you educate the community about our issues. A form to request postcards and posters can be obtained by calling, writing or visiting Herland Sister Resources.

We are excited about the possibilities and potential for raising the awareness in our community and beyond around LGBT health in all of its issues. Your participation in the Third National LGBT Health Awareness Week will ensure that we will be able to work together in a coordinated way and provide a unified voice at the forefront of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender health.

Donald Hitchcock,
National Field Director National Coalition for LGBT Health
1407 S Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Next Herland Poetry Issue

Herland is soliciting contributions for our second Herland Voice poetry issue which will be the April 2005 issue. Submission deadline is March 1, 2005. Please indicate if you wish your name to be included, and if so, how you want it printed. Send submissions to Herland Sister Resources c/o Voice editor, 2312 nw 39th, OKC, OK 73112, or email to herlandsisters@cox.net with "Voice Poetry Issue" as the subject line.

Herland Needs Donation of a Laptop Computer

Herland uses board-member computers to maintain our financial records, mail databases and Voice publishing. Not all board members have a personal computer. A laptop computer would greatly help us carry out our volunteer responsibilities.

This Month's website of the month is:

WWW.LGBTHEALTH.NET

Herland Supper Club

The January Supper Club will meet Saturday January 8th at 4:30 pm at The Harbor House—6400 39th Expressway in Bethany. Those wishing to carpool can meet at Herland Sister Resources at 4:15 pm (Herland is located at 2312 NW 39th street in OKC). After the meal, all are invited to attend the SNU/St Gregory's University women's basketball game at SNU. The game begins at 6 pm. The SNU women's basketball team are the reigning NAIA champions so come see some of the region's finest women players.

Herland Marches in the Martin Luther King Parade

Herland Sister Resources will be marching in the Martin Luther King parade Monday, January 17th. We are inviting all who wish to join us to meet us at the Coca Cola Center at 1:30 pm—The parade steps off at 2:00 pm from the Coca Cola Center in Bricktown—or if you wish to carpool, meet at Herland at 11:30 am.

Native American Women

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

The Voice is published monthly by Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 NW 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Articles reflect the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously. Herland reserves the right to edit or not publish any article. Subscriptions to The Voice are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.

Don't Forget to Support the Voice!

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

☐ Enclosed is a contribution for \$ _____

☐ Please add me to the mailing list for The Voice.

☐ Please change my address (new address below).

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

HERLAND EVENTS CALENDAR

January

Saturday, January 1: Herland New Year's Day potluck, 4 to 6 pm. At Herland

Monday, January 10: OGLPC Monthly Meeting at the Center, 2135 NW 39th, 7 pm.

Friday, January 7: First showing of *the L Word* at Herland—episodes 1 and 2 starting at 7 pm.

Saturday, January 8: Herland Hike at Martin Nature Park, 5000 W. Memorial, 10 am.

Saturday, January 8: Herland Supper Club will meet at The Harbor House restaurant at 4:30 pm (4:15 at Herland to carpool). After the meal, all are invited to attend the SNU women's basketball game. See article this page.

Friday, January 14: Second showing of *the L Word* at Herland—episodes 3 and 4 starting at 7 pm.

Saturday, January 15: Out with the Old, in with the New!! Saturday, January 15th, it's the annual Gypsy Café Night! Miss Brown to You will play dance music and singalongs, and there will be toothsome victuals and soothing spirits. All the proceeds will go to microcredit lending in Central America. At the First Unitarian Church, 13th & N. Dewey, from 7 - 10 pm.

Sunday, January 16: Herland Board Meeting at Herland, 4 pm, everyone welcome.

Monday, January 17: Martin Luther King March in OKC. Gather at the Coca Cola Center in Bricktown at noon, step off at 2 pm

Friday, January 21: Third showing of *the L Word* at Herland—episodes 5 and 6 starting at 7 pm.

Saturday, January 22: Herland Video Night, 7 pm — Film to be announced at event.

Friday, January 28: Fourth showing of *the L Word* at Herland—episodes 7 and 8 starting at 7 pm.

Saturday, January 29: Herland Scrabble Night, 6 pm

Spiritual Walk for Peace

2 pm, Sunday, January 30th

Gather at the Episcopal Church Center,
NW 9th & Robinson, Oklahoma City

Purposes of this Peace Walk:

1. To nonviolently express grief about the suffering and death resulting from the war in Iraq.
2. To launch "A Season for Nonviolence". Annually celebrated by many groups around the world for 64 days beginning January 30th, the memorial of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, through April 4th, the memorial of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Actions expressing nonviolence or calling consciousness to nonviolence are suggested for each of the 64 days.

For more information, contact Nathaniel Batchelder, The Peace House, (405) 524-5577.

UCC Television Ads Banned

The United Church of Christ has started a response to the refusal to air our ads by CBS and NBC. The Justice and Peace Action Network (<http://www.ucctakeaction.org/action/>) will be issuing a call to action in coordination with the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns (<http://www.ucccoalition.org>). The story has also been posted to the front page of the denominational website (<http://www.ucc.org>) where every person who wants information about the UCC will learn of CBS's and NBC's actions.

The Council of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns is currently in discussion concerning their reaction. Some proposals are phone blitzes to the networks, issuing press releases, and local actions at affiliates, including in Oklahoma City.

Ban on Gays Impacts On-Campus Recruiting

from Lambda Legal Defense

Handing a significant legal victory to gay-rights advocates, a federal appeals court ruled Monday that academic institutions may restrict on-campus recruiting by the military because of the Pentagon's policy on gays and lesbians. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Philadelphia, ruled that a federal law known as the Solomon Amendment infringes on the free-speech rights of schools by allowing the federal government to withhold funds from colleges and universities that deny access to military recruiters.

The preliminary injunction issued in one of four separate lawsuits filed by students and professors at law schools throughout the country found that by threatening to withhold federal funds from schools that do not accommodate military recruiters, the government was compelling them to take part in speech they did not agree with.

The court overturned an opinion by a federal judge in New Jersey who ruled a year ago that law schools must open their doors to military recruiters, even if the Defense Department's refusal to admit openly gay or lesbian individuals to military service offends a school's antidiscrimination policies. The Pentagon can seek a review of the ruling from the entire 3rd Circuit or from the Supreme Court. Lawyers for the Pentagon did not return calls asking what their next step might be.

Lawsuit Seeks to Strike Down Oklahoma's Antigay Adoption Law

from Lambda Legal News

A federal judge gave the green light last month to Lambda Legal's lawsuit that seeks to strike down Oklahoma's antigay adoption law. U. S. District Judge Robin Cauthron found that the lawsuit filed against Oklahoma's Governor Brad Henry

and Attorney General Drew Edmondson can go forward. The state had asked the court to dismiss the case.

In the ruling, Judge Cauthron said, "... if Governor Henry faithfully executes this Oklahoma law pursuant to his duty to do so, no state agency will recognize these Plaintiffs as a family and these Plaintiffs could be deprived of all the legal rights and obligations associated with that relationship."

The drastic law, passed hastily in the last legislative session, could be interpreted to nullify legal adoptions of children by same-sex couples from other states when they are in Oklahoma, Lambda Legal said. Lambda Legal represents same-sex couples who adopted children while living in other states and later moved to Oklahoma with their children or want to visit the state with their family.

Anne Magro and Heather Finstuen, together 13 years, are parents to six-year-old twin girls born to Anne in New Jersey and adopted through a second-parent adoption by Heather while living in New Jersey. The family now lives in Norman, Oklahoma, where Anne teaches accounting at the University of Oklahoma. The new law endangers the legal relationship established lawfully by a New Jersey court between Heather and her girls. The law says that Oklahoma, "shall not recognize an adoption by more than one individual of the same sex from any other state or foreign jurisdiction."

Also plaintiffs on the case are Ed Swaya and Greg Hampel, who live in Washington State and adopted their two-year-old daughter Vivian from a woman in Oklahoma. The two men made news earlier this year when the state of Oklahoma initially refused to issue an amended birth certificate that accurately reflected both men as Vivian's parents after a court in Washington issued an adoption decree. Before the new law was passed, the Oklahoma State Department of Health issued Vivian's correct birth certificate, but Swaya and Hampel are now hesitant to bring Vivian to Oklahoma to visit her birth mother and see the state where she was born.

OKC Lightning Women's Football

Our Organization

We provide exciting women's full-contact football games, surrounded by a wonderful family atmosphere. Attendance at our home games has grown from an average of 150 fans per game to an average of 750-800 fans at our last two playoff games.

We are a not-for-profit organization run by a board of executives. We have successfully financed two football seasons with budgets of \$60,000-\$80,000. The team pays for all lodging and travel expenses of players throughout the season.

Some sponsorships and donations to the team are tax deductible. Contact our General Manager for more information.

Players and Coaches

Our 2004 player roster consisted of 34 extremely talented, unique women from diverse backgrounds. Although many of our players have experience playing various other sports, the full-contact football experience of our players ranges from 0-4 years.

We have two outstanding Head Coaches who share the bulk of the coaching responsibilities. Coach Mike Harris has NFL experience playing for the Kansas City Chiefs in 1989-90 as an offensive lineman. Coach Leonard Bulock played defensive back at Northeastern Oklahoma State University from 1987-1990, winning All-American honors. In addition to coaching for the Lightning, both Head Coaches are currently on the coaching staff at Northeast High School. Coach Bulock has also coached football at Edmond North High School.

Our League

The OKC Lightning plays in the National Women's Football League (NWFA), the world's largest full contact women's football league in existence. The NWFA is based in Nashville, Tennessee. See www.womensfootballcentral.com for more information.

Tryout Requirements

Minimum 18 years of age; Provide own health insurance; \$35 league tryout fee; Sign team and league waivers; Availability for practices, games and away game travel.

Team Success

- 2004: Record 10 wins – 1 loss
 NWFA Championship Runner-up
 NWFA Southern Conference Champions
 NWFA Southwest Division Champions
- 2003: Record 9 wins – 2 losses
 NWFA Southern Conference Runner-up
 NWFA Midwest Conference Champions
- 2002: Record 5 wins – 3 losses
 IWFL Division Runner-up

Player Achievements

- 2004: #33 Liana Calderon named NWFA leading rusher (1503 yds.) and NWFA leading point scorer (20 touchdowns)
- 2004: NWFA All-Star Team (TBA)
- 2003: 6 players selected as NWFA 1st Team All-Stars
 4 players selected as NWFA 2nd Team All-Stars

Our Community Service

OKC Lightning has provided service to our community by participating in events like the Team Blood Drive for Oklahoma Blood Institute and the AIDS Walk raising over \$4,000 for Oklahoma's Food Pantry.

Team Appearances

OKC Lightning has appeared at and/or participated in the following events:

- Yard Dawgz Arena Football Games
- OKC Downtown Christmas Parade
- OKC Downtown 4th of July Parade
- Moore, Oklahoma Red Ribbon Parade

Our Future

With the high quality of OKC Lightning players and coaches and the continual growth and success of our team and our league combined with our history of financial stability and sound leadership, the future of the OKC Lightning organization is most certainly very secure.

For more information on current events or news about the team, check out our website at www.okclightning.com.

THE OKC LIGHTNING

Kim Mitchell, General Manager
 (405) 524-1509
MsMoose44@aol.com

Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Challenged

by Nancy Zuckerbrod

Twelve gays expelled from the military because of their sexual orientation filed a legal challenge Monday to the Pentagon's 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Boston, cited last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling that overturned state laws making gay sex a crime.

Other courts have upheld the policy, approved by Congress and put in place by the Clinton administration. However, those decisions came before the 2003 Supreme Court ruling last year that state laws making homosexual sex a crime were unconstitutional. That overturned an earlier Supreme Court ruling that had upheld sodomy laws.

Former Lt. j.g. Jen Kopfstein of San Diego was dismissed from the Navy after she told her commanding officer she was a lesbian. Kopfstein, a plaintiff in the case, said Monday hiding her identity felt dishonest. Justin Peacock, a former Coast Guard boatswain's mate from Knoxville, Tenn., and also a plaintiff, was discharged after someone reported he was seen holding hands with another man. Lt. Col. Joe Richard, a Pentagon spokesman, said officials have not seen the lawsuit and therefore could not comment on it.

"Don't ask, don't tell" allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they don't reveal their sexual orientation and abstain from homosexual activity. Before that the Pentagon barred homosexuals from military service. Two other lawsuits challenging the policy have been filed since the high court's reversal.

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