

# Herland

## VOICE

November, 1999

## THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

By Joanna Campbell-Fife  
Advocate for Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Programs

*(Ed. Note -- This article is the second in a series of three on the issue of domestic violence and the battered women's shelters and crisis services available in Oklahoma.)*

Domestic violence or partner violence is considered cyclical. In the home, there is a cycle of several stages. Following a temporary period of stability, there is a build-up of tension, and an explosion into violence. The violence is typically followed by a period of remorse and forgiveness and then the 'honeymoon' phase when life seems fairly normal. Then it all starts again. The phases often become shorter with each succeeding cycle.

The violence may cycle down through the children and grandchildren, affecting more and more families with each succeeding generation.

Domestic abuse is common to all races, all cultures, all backgrounds and all levels of education and income. It is common to families who go to church and to those who don't. It occurs in the heterosexual community, and in the gay/lesbian community.

Some abusers don't beat their spouses. There are many ways to be cruel. Women have told of being kept from sleeping for weeks at a time, or of having their use of the toilet severely restricted, or of not having access to enough money to buy groceries, even if they helped earn the income. Some are expected to have sexual relations with the abuser's buddies. Many are treated like servants and berated crudely in front of their friends, families and children. Some are "cut down" in quite sophisticated fashion. These cruelties may be in addition to being beaten. *(continued page 2)*

### November Events

**November 13 -- Herland Supper Club meets at Herland at 5:30 pm to go out to dinner. Everyone welcome.**

**November 13 -- Native American Two-Spirits Support Group at Herland 7:00p.m.**

**November 20 -- Look for Herland and other peace and justice organizations at the Peace Fest at the Myriad, 10am - 4pm.**

**November 21 -- Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner at Herland 1:00pm - 3 pm. We'll supply the turkey. You bring you own special holiday dish to share.**

## NATIVE AMERICAN TWO-SPIRITS ORGANIZING SUPPORT GROUP

Are you of Native American or First Nations descent? Are you lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered? Are you a partner, friend, or family of someone who is? Then this is of importance to you!

All around the country, and out, there are local support groups for those who fall into the above categories. It's time for those of us in Oklahoma to organize a support group for ourselves. We have been, for too long now, outside of this growing circle. Let's get with the program! Let's get together Saturday evening 7:00 p.m., November 13, 1999, at Herland! We'll talk then about future meetings.

Why is this so important? Why am I so adamant about this you ask? Because I care about our people, and our issues. We have gone from being honored ones in our tribes to being outcasts due to the influence of assimilation. I have seen and felt the effect of this in the lives of myself and others. I have also seen and felt the effect of not having the local support of one another.

I recently returned from the west coast where I attended an annual national gathering of Native American/First Nations Two-Spirits for my first time. This was a life changing experience for me! This four day annual event is totally awesome! It's educational, spiritual, fun, and rejuvenating! There were sweats (all female, all male, and mixed) and talking circles, films, dances, no talent talent shows (complete with drag shows), a pow-wow, and a giveaway. There were arts, crafts, and beading supplies available for all to use (great for making giveaway gifts!). There were many elders, medicine men and women who were, as usual, full of insight, knowledge and support.

And last, but not least, there was plenty of sharing, jokes, and fun! I urge you, if at all possible, to attend next years gathering, which will be held next summer in Arizona (specific date and location is not yet set). You will not be disappointed! There will be scholarship applications available for those who cannot afford the registration fee.

I personally would like to thank the members and board of Herland Sisters Resources for there support and for donating the use of their facility for this meeting! Please take advantage of this opportunity to get together and support one another.

In the Spirit of the Circle,  
Denise Smith  
686-0820

# HALF MAD MOON

Reviewed by Jill Garner

One CD I've been listening to a lot the past few months is The Damnations Tx, *Half Mad Moon*.

Austin's Damnations TX could probably be considered alternative country, whatever that is, but whatever they are, I like them a lot. I kind of consider them a pop/rock band with a lot of a country sound, hard living lyrics, a little wild west imagery, and just a damn fun sound. Or maybe an acoustic group with an electric guitar, and a bluegrass sound from time to time. One review I read of them said "Sitting on the fence between country and rock, it's too folk for both and too good to matter much." While they may be drowning in a sea of like-sounding bands in Austin, I think this CD is a wonderfully refreshing sound around here, especially if you compare it to any of the fluff on the radio, rock, pop or country. There are probably a few somewhat similar sounding bands in this area, but certainly none fronted by two women.

I read about The Damnations TX in *No Depression* magazine several months ago and had no problem finding their CD because it was being promoted at Hastings. I probably haven't taken it out of my CD player for more than a few days at a time since then. I love their sound, and the voices of sisters Amy Boone and Deborah Kelly. Amy also plays bass and piano, Deborah contributes the acoustic guitar accompaniment, Rob Bernard plays guitars, banjo, mandolin and contributes back-up vocals, and finally, Keith Langford plays drums and additional percussion. The liner notes say the sisters wrote every song on the album except where noted, but it's not noted anywhere that I can find which songs they didn't write.

One of the sisters has a wonderful husky voice that's perfect for the whiskey-laden laments and the other seems more appropriate for the rockin' songs on the CD. The liner notes don't provide much information so I don't know which sister is which, but they're both good singers and alternate taking the lead from song to song. They both have slightly deep voices, but the husky sound is my favorite.

The lyrics are well written, and catchy at times, and although I couldn't tell you what many of the songs are about, that's one of the things I find so intriguing about the CD. The title song is one such song, but with lyrics like "Love is one of those unstable chemicals,.....It's a gift of contradiction, a hellish kind of heaven," I'm listening! Another song that I don't yet understand, Kansas, has a line that I love and can't stop trying to figure out what "What we've all come to fear, is a pepper on fire like that old man" really means.

I really like the guitar (and banjo and mandolin) playing by Rob Bernard. It's never overpowering and adds a lot to their sound, whether that's a twangy sound like the mandolin on Kansas or just plain old rock-n-roll like the song Down the Line. I'm probably the biggest fan of his playing on "Commercial Zone Blues" where he contributes to the bluesy sound of a song about living on an alley watching all the action outside the window night and day. "And the all-night revelry in the alley costs the price of a good night's sleep, Cause I'm living, living, in a commercial zone home with the blues." "Things I Once Adored" also has a fun rocking guitar sound where Bernard really contributes a lot. He sings the lead

vocals on "Finger the Pie" but his voice is not memorable at all. Fortunately that's the only song on the CD he sings. For any Texans or guitar buffs out there, Bernard either does or used to play with Austin's Prescott Curlywolf and used to play with the Dallas-based Picket Line Coyotes.

One of my favorite songs on the CD is "Black Widow," a sad lament about a stolen amplifier that gives a new twist to lost love. "According to the investigator, I'm lucky it was just an amplifier, Nothin' now is gonna sound the same, Oh the damn thing even had a name, We called her Black Widow, Even though she's blue.... Oh for the widow's sake, I sure could use a drink."

"Jack's Waltz" is another of my favorite songs about a drunkard departing words of wisdom. "Cause wars over shores, and being dirt-stinkin' poor, can leave a man with a whole lot to say,... He said I see life going down like whiskey, it burns and it warms your heart just the same, it's sorrowful to find you can't separate, all the pleasure it brings from the pain." The banjo in the song adds to the mournful bittersweet sound.

If you like the alternative country sound, kind of rock and roll meets traditional country, then I think you'll like this CD. I recommend it highly and I hope they continue to make music and attract a following outside of Austin, TX because they deserve it. I'll do my part to spread the word. But you can't borrow my CD. I'm nowhere near tired of it! □

## THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE *(continued from page 1)*

**Why doesn't a woman leave the abuser?** At first, she doesn't leave because she loves the abuser. She believes her love will make things right. She believes things will change for the better. She thinks she can control the hurtful words and the beatings by doing everything the way it 'should' be done. She thinks it is her responsibility to make the relationship work. She is embarrassed for them both, and seldom seeks help. She doesn't want her partner in jail.

Later, she doesn't leave because she has been threatened with loss of her children, with harm to her family, her friends, and her pets. She thinks her abuser needs her. She is afraid to be alone. She frequently has no connections, no funds, no friends, no job, no self-esteem, no perceived alternatives. All she has is confusion, stress and increasing fear.

In the end, she doesn't leave because she feels overriding fear, she believes no one can love her, she feels hopeless and helpless. She feels a total loss of control in her life. She believes she cannot make it on her own. She is depressed and immobile. Decisions are difficult or impossible. She has developed serious emotional and physical problems. She may have become suicidal or homicidal.

*For information on local services for battered women anywhere in Oklahoma, call the the Safeline Hotline at 800-522-9054.* □

**The Voice is published by:** Herland Sister Resources, Inc. 2312 N.W. 39th, Oklahoma City, OK 73112.

*The Voice is offered as an open forum for community discourse. Articles reflect the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of Herland Sister Resources. Unsolicited articles and letters to the editor are welcomed and must be signed by the writer with full name and address. Upon request, letters or articles may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously.*

*Subscriptions to The Voice are free upon request although a donation is requested to meet publication and distribution costs.*

# ST. SYBIL

Dear St. Sybil,

I'm a practicing lesbian – well, actually, I'm pretty good at it by now, could almost go pro – but I didn't write you to brag – or make lame jokes; but rather to alert my queer sisters and brothers to something I just found out; to wit: Are you aware that gays, lesbians and bisexuals in Oklahoma are at risk of spending twenty years in jail just for doing what comes naturally to us? Twenty years, under Oklahoma's 1998 Truth in Sentencing law.

Yes, Sybil, this is not some antiquated, abandoned, over-looked, passed-in-the-bad-old-days, prohibition of "that certain crime against nature", as formulated at statehood. This was our current Legislature's work in 1998, increasing the penalty for consensual homosexual acts from ten to twenty years. Supposedly it was an oversight, or a typo, or one of those computer glitches, but that wouldn't matter much to a poor sweet lesbian languishing in jail for nearly a quarter of a century.

So, Sybil, waddaya think? Can you suggest something we can do to get this abhorrent statute off the books? Are my only choices risking jail or going without?

Morosely,

Donna Juana Bee Aphellin

Dear Donna,

No, no one wants to go to jail, and "going without" isn't much of a choice, either. I personally have always been a fan of civil disobedience, and my first thought is that if you got enough lesbians and gays together – a couple of hundred couples should do it – and had a well-staged "Kiss In" on the Courthouse steps,

you could maybe get arrested, confess to committing "that certain felony" as often as possible, and see if the state is willing to put you all in jail. Unfortunately, with all the private prisons springing up, they just might be delighted to do so. More money for somebody. You would then appeal and it would go to the Supreme Court – the same Supreme Court who in *Post v. the State of Oklahoma* repealed the sodomy law as it pertained to heterosexuals, but were silent as to its application to homosexuals.

That would be the judicial route; the other would be legislative repeal. Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia have repealed these statutes, but that is not to say that it would be easy in Oklahoma. There was actually an end run towards repeal when the statutes were recodified in 1989. The sodomy laws were taken out with other archaic laws against frightening horses and spitting on the sidewalk, and it was hoped that no one would notice. Ha! They noticed, and in order to get the huge recodification approved, those laws were put back in.

It's not going to be an easy fight, but it is one you might want to make. Every time the community tries to get a hate crimes act or anti-discrimination law amended to include gays, or heaven forfend legalize holy unions or pass domestic partner benefits policies, you will run into the argument that gay and lesbian behavior is criminal in the first place, so why should gays be protected in any way?. So the sooner you get those "crimes against nature" laws off the books, the better.

Unless, of course, you just want to retire from life, tattoo "Not tonight, dear, it's a felony" on your forehead, and go on - and go without!

Love,

Sybil

## *It's basketball season again and there's lots of great women's basketball in Oklahoma. Here are the home schedules for OKC area university teams.*

### Oklahoma University

(All games at Lloyd Noble Center, Norman, OK unless otherwise noted.)

11/08/1999 Basketball Travelers 7:00 p.m.  
11/13/1999 Exhibition 3:00 p.m.  
11/28/1999 Oral Roberts (Bertha Teague Classic) 8:00 p.m.  
11/29/1999 Tulsa (Bertha Teague Classic) 8:00 p.m.  
12/02/1999 Sam Houston State 7:00 p.m.  
12/11/1999 Arkansas-Little Rock 3:00 p.m.  
12/21/1999 San Diego 7:00 p.m.  
12/29/1999 Connecticut 7:00 p.m.  
01/05/2000 North Texas 7:00 p.m.  
01/08/2000 Texas Tech 7:00 p.m.  
01/12/2000 Texas A&M 7:30 p.m.  
01/22/2000 Colorado 7:00 p.m.  
02/02/2000 Baylor 7:00 p.m.  
02/05/2000 Nebraska 3:00 p.m.  
02/16/2000 Texas 7:00 p.m.  
02/26/2000 Kansas 3:00 p.m.  
03/01/2000 Oklahoma State 7:00 p.m.

### Oklahoma City University Stars

(All games at Oklahoma City University)

11/06/99 Friends, KS 1:00 p.m.  
11/13/99 Tabor, KS 7:00 p.m.  
12/2/99 –12/4/99 Capitol City Shootout  
12/09/99 Patton College 7:00 p.m.  
12/17/99 Fresno Pacific College 7:00 p.m.  
01/08/00 ST. Gregory's College 6:00 p.m.  
01/15/00 Oklahoma Christian Univ. 6:00 p.m.  
01/27/00 John Brown Univ. 6:00 p.m.  
02/12/00 Southern Nazarene 6:00 p.m.  
02/17/99 Lubbock Christian 6:00 p.m.  
02/19/00 Wayland Baptist 1:00 p.m.  
02/26/00 Oklahoma Baptist 6:00 p.m.

### University of Central Oklahoma

(All games at UCO, Edmond, OK)

12/02/99 Abilene Christian 6 p.m.  
12/04/99 Angelo State 4 p.m.  
01/08/00 Northeastern State 4 p.m.  
01/20/00 East Central 6 p.m.  
01/22/00 Southeastern Oklahoma 4 p.m.  
02/01/00 Midwestern State 7 p.m.  
02/10/00 Harding 6 p.m.  
02/12/00 Ouachita Baptist 4 p.m.  
02/17/00 Southwestern Oklahoma 6 p.m.  
02/19/00 Cameron 6 p.m.

### Oklahoma Christian University

11/05/99 Friends University Homecoming 8:00 pm  
11/08/99 Evangel College 7:00 pm  
11/12/99 Tabor 6:00 pm  
11/26/99 SNU Thanksgiving Classic-Langston 2:00 pm Bethany  
11/27/99 SNU Thanksgiving Classic-William Wood 2:00 pm Bethany  
12/10/99 Patten College 7:00 pm  
01/08/99 Southern Nazarene University 6:00 pm  
01/13/00 St. Gregory's University 6:00 pm  
01/22/00 John Brown University 6:00 pm  
01/27/00 Lubbock Christian University 6:00 pm  
01/29/00 Wayland Baptist University 1:00 pm  
02/10/00 Oklahoma City University 6:00 pm  
02/17/00 Oklahoma Baptist University 6:00 pm

### Southern Nazarene University Crimson Storm

(All games at SNU, Bethany, OK unless otherwise noted)

11/04/99 7:00 p.m. Oklahoma Flyers  
11/12/99 5:00 p.m. SNU Alumni  
11/13/99 1:00 p.m. Evangel University  
11/22/99 5:30 p.m. St. Edward's University  
11/26/99 4:00 p.m. (Columbia Health Thanksgiving Classic).  
11/27/99 4:00 p.m. (Columbia Health Thanksgiving Classic).  
12/09/99 7:00 p.m. Trevecca Nazarene University  
11/20/99 6:00 p.m. Fresno Pacific  
12/29/99 3:00 p.m. Oklahoma Baptist University  
01/13/00 6:00 p.m. Oklahoma City University  
01/22/00 6:00 p.m. Oklahoma Baptist University  
01/27/99 6:00 p.m. Wayland Baptist  
01/29/00 1:00 p.m. Lubbock Christian University  
02/05/00 6:00 p.m. Oklahoma Christian University  
02/10/00 6:00 p.m. St. Gregory's University  
02/17/00 6:00 p.m. John Brown University

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

Address Service Requested

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

## Support our Supporters



*Jean's*

**PLUMBING**



844-1951

"FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING NEEDS"

**REBECCA R. COHN, Ph.D.**

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

321-2148

P.O. Box 5119  
Norman, Okla. 73070

Individual - Couples  
Family Therapy, Retreats



**mystic**  
**FOREST TREASURES**

• incense & oils • candles • imports  
• crystals & stones • jewelry  
• unique & unusual gifts  
• new age supplies

Campus Corner  
323 White Street  
Norman, OK 73069

Natasha Rice (405) 447-5111

**THE LAW OFFICE OF SANDY INGRAHAM**  
@ TURTLE CREEK

**NANCY NESSER, J.D.**  
ASSOCIATE

ROUTE 2, BOX 369-B  
MCLLOUD, OKLAHOMA 74851

TELEPHONE (405) 964-2072  
FAX (405) 964-2058

email - njnesser@aol.com