

BROADSIDE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TIME: THE DARKNESS

You are a single woman. You play the dating game. You work very hard at building egos. You fend off "not nice" advances. When you do have sex, you don't feel much except guilty.

You are a married woman. Your life centers around your husband, your children, and your kitchen floor. You spend much of your time being taken for granted. You feel left out of the world.

You are a working woman. The man who interviews you for your job is more impressed with your breast development and your sex appeal than with your 3.5 college average or typing speed.

You are a raped woman. You are asked how you enticed this man to the point where he lost control. You feel ashamed and frightened.

Cont'd on Page 2

VOL. 8, No. 1 HOUSTON AREA NOW JAN. 1977

Program Meeting.....	3
Pregnancy Disability Benefits.....	4
Women's Week, UH/CLC.....	5
Calendar.....	6
Proposed National Bylaws.....	8
Houston Area NOW Folk.....	11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

You are a pregnant woman. You cannot have a baby. You pay \$500 for a back-room, illegal abortion. You bleed for two weeks afterward. Maybe you die.

TIME: THE DAWN

The Powers That Be said let women come up from their bondage. So the women came forth and said we will no longer accept a society in which we are less than equal. We will not play these games any longer. We will explore our own needs; we will decide who we are and what our roles will be. We will control our bodies; we will explore our sexuality. We will be what each individual woman decides for herself is her own way of being. We will be free.

TIME: THE DAYLIGHT

And so the Feminist Movement was born. With each birthday the Movement grows and changes. We cry sometimes, we laugh at our own insanities, and we try to accomplish what we have always been told is not possible. The Movement has its darker days; it also has its shining moments. And, because of it, our society is being forced to change.

To you who are tired and discouraged, I can feel your pain. I know too that you cannot stop giving your soul to this Movement any more than you can stop breathing. And we all know that nothing worth fighting the world for is easy.

To you who have sweated, suffered, slaved, given countless hours of your time, given thousands of your dollars for ten long years, thank you is little enough to say. You, more than any other people on this earth, have given me the opportunity to be a person I can respect. You have given me the courage to stand up and scream, "Yes, I am a Woman. I am proud to be a Woman!"

To you who are not involved yet, now is the time for you to make a choice. There is still so much to be done. We have a crisis in this country in the area of domestic violence. We must apply more pressure in the enforcement

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont'd)

of favorable employment, credit, and abortion rights. We must ratify the ERA. We must still raise the consciousnesses of those around us. If we fail now, we leave it to our daughters to start again from Step One.

To you who say the Women's Movement is dead, I say I do not believe you. As long as we have not achieved complete equality, as long as women must struggle to be free to be themselves, as long as a woman who calls herself a feminist is alive, our Movement will survive.

Happy New Year!

Renee Rabb

* * *

JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Houston Area NOW will hold its program meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 1977, at 7:30 P.M. in the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline. The topic will be "Women and Credit." Leading the discussion will be Elayne Tatar, an attorney and Chairperson of the Credit Committee of Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, and Rema Lou Brown, office manager of HAFFCU. The program will center on the responsibilities of the various parts of the Credit Union, its purposes and some of the successes and failures of its first year of operation.

Tatar is a member of Houston Area NOW. Brown is a member of Bay Area NOW.

Also to be discussed is The Equal Credit Opportunity Act and its enforcement. We will consider ways to bring pressure to expand positive enforcement of equal credit protection.

There will be question and answer time at the meeting. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to bring various credit applications to the meeting so that we can consider what is legal and what is not. Come join us and learn about your rights and responsibilities. Remember, it's your money!

MORE ON WOMEN AND FINANCES

Channel 13 will broadcast a live program at 7:00 P.M. on January 3, 1977, dealing with women and credit and other areas of finance. The format will be a panel discussion, a question and answer period, and call-in time for viewers. Two of the panel members will be Merryl Leatherman, Vice President of Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, and E. Robbie Roberts, an independent financial planner. Be sure to watch; this should be a good one.

DAY OF INFAMY II

Remember December 7, 1941 - Pearl Harbor Day? Well, on December 7, 1976, we got blown out of the water again. The Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that disability and sick leave benefits need not be provided to female employees for pregnancy and childbirth - and that this is not discrimination because - get ready for this one - if a man were pregnant he would be treated no differently than a pregnant woman. Let us know if you find anyone who understands that.

Justice William H. Rehnquist, who wrote the majority opinion said, "It is impossible to find any gender-based discriminatory effect in this scheme simply because women disabled as a result of pregnancy do not receive benefits; . . ." In other words, you're not being discriminated against because you're a woman, but because you have a uterus.

Can you imagine the reaction if these 6 white males had said, "You're not being discriminated against because you're a member of a minority race, but because your skin is a different color than ours."

Since it will probably be a long time before we can get another hearing on the subject, we will try for legislation to make exclusion of these benefits illegal. You should start your lobbying work now, writing and visiting your Washington senators and representatives, urging them to introduce, support and pass such legislation.

"WOMEN'S WEEK" - U OF H AT CLEAR LAKE CITY

The Womens Studies Committee at the U of H, Clear Lake City, is having "Women's Week" Jan. 31 - Feb. 4, 1977, highlighted by the appearance of Germaine Greer. The activities are sponsored jointly by the Student Activities Office and the University Cultural Committee and will be in the Bayou Building at the Clear Lake Campus, 2700 Bay Area Blvd. A number of NOW members are involved in this project. The activities include a discussion of Germaine Greer's The Female Eunich; workshops on Assertiveness, Self Differentiation, Women and Sexuality, Assertiveness Training, Political Resources, Body Rape/Mind Rape; a book fair; slide shows, Beginning of a Long and Real Revolution, and Sexism in Textbooks; films, The Emerging Woman, We Are Women, A Woman Under the Influence (with discussion), and for children Free To Be You and Me; discussions on pertinent issues for Houston women, career opportunities for women, and "Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Man?" Germaine Greer will speak at 8 PM on Friday, Feb. 4th, at UH/CLC Auditorium. For further information, call: Carol Bardon, 488-9218, Sonia Carmean, 488-9270, or Dr. Nanette Bruckner, 488-9370.

THANKS, BILL SAYLOR . . .

. . . for your to-the-point "cartoon" in The Houston Post on December 21st. For those who did not see the cartoon, it depicts the Women's Movement as the Statue of Liberty, looking at her watch. The caption reads, "Is time standing still?" Very effective. A lot of us have known for a long time that Bill Saylor was a very talented political cartoonist, but some of us didn't know he had such a sensitive understanding of the feminist perspective.

JANUARY

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2	"Women and Credit" Channel 13 7:30 PM	4	NOW Program Mtg 7:30 PM Clayton Library 5300 Caroline	6	7	8
9	Task Force on Domestic Violence, 7:30 PM 1818 Fairview	Alice Paul's Birthday	NOW Business Mtg., 8:00 PM 2339 Addison	Women's State of the Union	ERA Rally dedicated to Alice Paul, 7:30 PM, 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin 14	NOW State Council San Antonio 15
16	17	18	<i>Est Broadside Deadline</i>	20	4th Anniversary Sup. Ct. decision to legalize abortion	22
23	24 Lesbian Mothers Org. Mtg.	Virginia Woolf's Birthday	26	27	28	29
30	31					

PROPOSED CHANGES IN NATIONAL BYLAWS

As NOW enters its second decade, new bylaws have been submitted to the membership for a decision. Basic structural changes and new electoral provisions are contained in the proposal which must receive a 3/5 majority of mail ballots cast to be adopted.

The number of officers is reduced from the current 13 to only 5 - president, vice-president-action, vice-president-executive, secretary, and treasurer. The qualifications for and duties of officers are spelled out, with especially strong qualifications required for treasurer. Current bylaws require only that officers be members of NOW for 6 months and stipulate no duties.

Under the proposed bylaws, officers would be salaried and would serve two-year terms. Balloting for officers would be preferential.

Two options for election of board members are provided in the bylaws proposal. The options differ in the drawing of regions. Both options provide, however, for the election of board members at regional conferences. In an effort to provide continuity, board members would serve staggered terms. Under both options the size of the board would be reduced.

One of the most dramatic changes in the bylaws concerns the national conference. Conferences would still be annual and would rotate among the regions. All NOW members would be eligible to attend, as in the past, but only delegates would be allowed to vote. Since board members would be elected at their respective regional conferences and since officers would serve two-year terms, the voting for leadership at national conferences would be greatly reduced. Every other conference would have no balloting for leadership positions.

The proposed section on national conferences attempts to resolve an issue that has plagued past NOW meetings. The proposal stipulates that no fee shall be required of any NOW member at any membership meeting at any level of NOW.

A grievance procedure to resolve conflicts between members and a provision for recall and removal of officers and board members are innovations in the proposed bylaws.

A section on finances sets the fiscal year for NOW, provides for anniversary dues, mandates publication of the budget, and requires an audit.

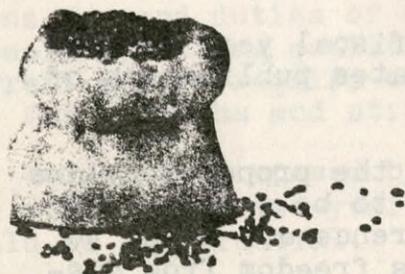
An old policy is articulated in the proposed bylaws requiring every member at any level to be a member of national NOW. Age and sexual preference are added to the list of areas in which NOW seeks freedom from discrimination. Affectional preference and lifestyle are added to the reasons for which NOW shall not discriminate. The name is not changed, but "women" now precedes "men" in the opening sentence of the current bylaws, and "chairman," thank God, has been banished.

Official ballots and pro and con arguments appear in the December issue of DO IT NOW. If you are a member and did not receive a ballot, you can use a photocopy of a ballot upon proper proof of membership. Call Renee Rabb, 523-5970, for further information. Ballots must be post-marked by January 18, 1977, and must be received by January 27, 1977.

Helen Cassidy

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The next task force meeting is Monday, January 10, 1977, at 7:30 P.M., 1818 Fairview. We are working on several aspects concerning services for battered women: a telephone hotline volunteer and advocate service, a legal and general information pamphlet, a statewide network for information exchange, food, clothing, etc., funding, and several other things. Come one, come all. Call Catherine Livingston, 524-7149.



HOUSE OF COFFEE BEANS

The Village
2526 Rice Blvd.
524-0057

We do it

House of Coleman is more than a fine print shop. We offer a complete design service: graphic design, illustration, photography and copywriting. Now you don't have to run all over town putting your pieces together. We have what you need.

and we do it well

House of Coleman — imaginative printers
Phone: 523-2521 901 West Alabama

LESBIAN MOTHERS

If you are concerned about the issues, rights, joys and problems of lesbian mothers, come to 2207 Bissonnet on Monday, January 24th, at 8:00 P.M., to rap, organize, give and receive support. Every woman is wanted and welcome - mother/child-free, old/young, gay/straight, single/coupled - no labels needed.

houston area now folk

OFFICERS:

President	Renee Rabb
Vice President	Linda Jones
Secretary	Joy Goodman
Treasurer	Cynthia Millis

BROADSIDE STAFF:

Jan Dilbeck	Nancy Kuykendall
Jan Pierce	Carolyn Nichols
Joy Goodman	

- ABORTION INFO
- * DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- * EMPLOYMENT COMPLIANCE
- MASCULINE MYSTIQUE
- PUBLIC RELATIONS
- * UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152
Catherine Livingston 524-7149
Jo Stewart
Pamela Hamilton 526-5050
Linda Smith 222-3281, 529-2156
Craig Roberts 524-6517
Helen Cassidy 524-3009, 748-5369
Nancy Landau 783-8547

*denotes active task force

NOTE: To contact those persons whose phone numbers are not listed above, call 524-5743 and leave a message.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Houston Area NOW or NOW, Inc.

broad'side

- 1: a sheet of paper printed on one or both sides and folded
- 2: any strong or comprehensive attack, as by criticism
- 3: the simultaneous discharge of all the guns on one side of a ship



Houston Area Chapter
National Organization for Women

3602 Milam • Houston, Texas 77002

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Houston, Texas
Permit No. 9902



76

BROADSIDE

IS FREE WHEN YOU JOIN NOW.

- I want to join NOW and enclose \$25 for local & national dues.
 I enclose hardship dues of \$16.50 for local & national membership.
 I'll pay in two equal monthly installments of \$12.50 (regular) or \$8.25 (hardship).
 I want to subscribe to BROADSIDE and enclose \$4.
 I enclose \$ _____ as a donation to Houston Area NOW.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

Mail this form to: Treasurer
Houston Area NOW
4021 Mandell #8
Houston 77006