

# BROADSIDE

January 1978

Houston Area N.O.W.

No. 1

Vol. 9

## N.O.W. PLANS ABORTION ACTION

On Monday, January 23, the Houston Area Chapter of N.O.W. will observe the fifth anniversary of the Roe v. Doe decision with a noontime leaflet at the Federal Building, 515 Rusk. In Roe v. Doe, the Supreme Court concluded "that the right of personal privacy includes the abortion decision..."

The N.O.W. action will be taken both to demonstrate our continued commitment to the right to choose and to show our opposition to recent federal decisions limiting the use of federal funds for medicaid abortions. Using coathanger leaflets on abortion, the N.O.W. action will dramatize the suffering of poor women who are being forced to seek back alley abortions.

Plan to attend the January 23 action, and bring a few coathangers to the January program meeting to join in the leaflet making. Your participation is vital. N.O.W.'s position is that there must be access to abortion for all women if we are ever to be truly equal. We must not permit the Congress, the Court, or the President to sacrifice the lives of poor women in their efforts to pacify the right-to-lifers.

Poppy Northcutt

A TIME FOR ACTION--SUMMARY: DEC. 14 BUSINESS MEETING

Houston Area N.O.W. members

1. Maintained total amount for national, state and local dues at \$25 despite the increase in state dues from \$1 to \$2. Renewals are due on the anniversary of the member's original date of joining.
2. Voted to send a delegation to meet with Mayor-elect McConn to discuss the needs and concerns of women in the community.
3. Voted to attempt to have chapter representatives attend city council meetings on a regular basis.
4. Endorsed a major project on sexual harassment on the job and appropriated \$100 for the project.
5. Voted to conduct a pro-choice event at the Federal Building on Jan. 23 at noon to call attention to the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on abortion and its adverse effect on women.

Linda Bain

ABORTION STATISTICS

"More women 14 and younger received abortions than delivered living children in 1975.... The substantial decline in the births to 18- and 19-year-olds is offset by the relatively unchanged rate among the 15- to 17-year-olds and the rise among 10- to 14- year-olds."

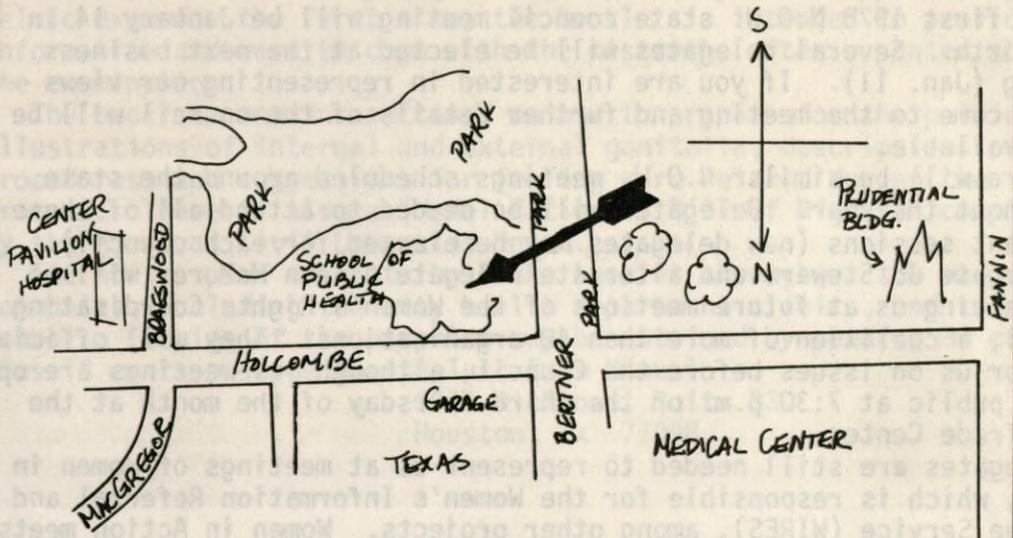
NEW YORK TIMES, 26 October 1977, p. 44

"...At the beginning of 1971 only 38% of the world's people lived in countries where abortion was liberally available. By early 1976, this figure had increased to 64%, or nearly two-thirds of the world."

ATLAS WORLD PRESS REVIEW 24:50, October, 1977

## PROGRAM MEETING

The January 4 meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at the the University of Texas School of Public Health, 6905 Bertner, Room 102 (see map below). The itinerary will involve preparation for the abortion action leafletting. Bring as many coathangers as you can.



## WOMEN'S WEEK FEATURES BETTY FRIEDAN

The University of Houston at Clear Lake City will host its second annual "Women's Week" from January 30 through February 3. The week will be highlighted by the appearance and lecture of Betty Friedan on Friday evening, February 3, at 8 p.m. in the UH/CLC auditorium. Concerns to be addressed in this week of presentations and discussion groups include "As Others See Us", "Lifestyles", "Women and the Law", and "Women and Work". Book discussions, film presentations, panel discussions and lectures are scheduled for public participation.

Schedules detailing the week's activities will be available early in January. "Women's Week", 1978 is coordinated by the Women's Resource Service at UH/CLC, with Betty Friedan's lecture sponsored by the UH/CLC Cultural Committee. For information about the week and its activities, contact the Women's Resource Services at 488-9216. For lecture tickets, call the Information Desk, 488-9288.

Courtesy of Bay Area N.O.W.

## SPEAK UP FOR N.O.W.

Houston Area N.O.W. needs delegates to represent us at state-level councils of N.O.W. and meetings of other interesting groups during the next year.

The first 1978 N.O.W. state council meeting will be January 14 in Fort Worth. Several delegates will be elected at the next business meeting (Jan. 11). If you are interested in representing our views there, come to the meeting and further details of the council will be made available.

There will be similar N.O.W. meetings scheduled around the state throughout the year. Delegates will be needed to attend all of these important sessions (new delegates may be elected for each council).

Delegate Jo Stewart and alternate delegate Aileen McMurer will be representing us at future meetings of the Women's Rights Coordinating Council, a coalition of more than 40 organizations. They will officially vote for us on issues before the Council, although its meetings are open to the public at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the World Trade Center.

Delegates are still needed to represent us at meetings of Women in Action, which is responsible for the Women's Information Referral and Exchange Service (WIRES), among other projects. Women in Action meets every third Monday at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested and available for these meetings, come to the next business for more details.

## CHILDLESS WOMEN ARE FULFILLED, TOO

According to Erik Erikson, the adult who has reproduced, created a family and helped others to grow achieves an integrity and ego maturity unmatched by other accomplishments. But a study of 590 professional women who have voluntarily remained childless "call(s) into question Erikson's emphasis on parenthood as a necessary condition for continued development," Karen Welds of New York Hospital's Payne Clinic reported recently. Her results show the same sense of fulfillment and maturity "can be achieved by those who are not biologically generative or procreative." Ms. Welds presented the survey data at the 1977 American Psychological Association meeting in San Francisco.

## PELVIC EXAMS REVEALED

Deborah Cooper and Barbara Oberg, two University of Texas nursing students, have compiled a pamphlet entitled "Understanding the Pelvic Examination." Aimed at young women, especially those approaching a pelvic exam for the first time, the booklet is intended to provide information and ways to cope with the mistruths often repeated about the examination.

The booklet contains sections on how to prepare for the pelvic exam, illustrations of internal and external genitalia, descriptions of exam procedures, and suggestions for feeling more relaxed during the process. There is also a "Model Patient's Bill of Rights," compiled by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The nurses plan to distribute the booklet throughout the medical community, including the city health department clinics, and to area schools. Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained by sending 30 cents plus 13 cents postage to:

Pelvic Exam Manual  
3311 Richmond, Suite 330  
Houston, Tx 77098

## GET YOUR PEN AND PAPER READY--SOON

At the November business meeting a letter writing campaign to our representatives was discussed, as part of a city-wide campaign. We were asked to target Bob Eckhardt and Barbara Jordan with 50 letters on issues as they come up.

At the December business meeting we reassessed the politicality and practicality of targetting Eckhardt and Jordan, who for the most part it was felt voted the way we would like them to anyway. It was then discussed whether we ought to target Bob Gammage and Bill Archer instead.

A question that came up during the discussion was in which districts are our members located. It would help a great deal in assessing the strategy of this letter writing campaign and any future actions to know individual members' national and state representatives. If you do not know who your national and state representatives are, you can find out by calling the League of Women Voters at 529-3171. Then, write their names (along with yours) in the spaces provided on page 8 and mail that form to address provided or bring it with you to the next business meeting.

Aileen McMurer

OFFICERS:

President Linda Jones  
Vice President Joy Goodman  
Secretary Linda Bain  
Treasurer Ellen Sitton

BROADSIDE STAFF:

Yvonne Broach, Editor  
Jan Pierce  
Nancy Kuykendall  
Linda Jones

BUSINESS MEETING Wednesday — January 11 — 7:30 p.m.

The January business meeting will be held at Jo Stewart's house at 2207 Bissonnet. Those who get lost may call her at 522-5094.

BROADSIDE DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the February issue will be January 23. Please get your information to Yvonne Broach by then by calling 523-8705 after 7 p.m.

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

← CUT HERE ... FILL OUT ... SEND IN!

GIVE US A PIECE OF YOUR MIND!

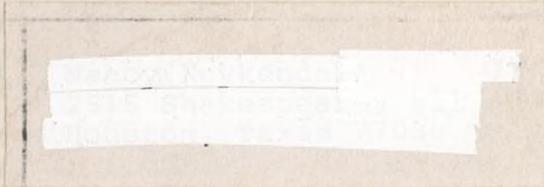
Houston Area N.O.W. is conducting a survey of members and prospective members. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and then mail your responses to the address on the other side of this page or bring them to the next business meeting. Results will be presented in an upcoming BROADSIDE and will be considered at a business meeting soon (dates will depend on how rapidly you respond).

1. Program meetings are currently held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend at that time, please indicate why. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The real nitty gritty of N.O.W. is carried out at business meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. If you are unable to attend at that time, please indicate why. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is transportation to and from meetings a problem for you? Yes, I need a ride to meetings. My address is \_\_\_\_\_ and my phone is \_\_\_\_\_. No, but I'm willing to help someone else by giving a ride. My address is \_\_\_\_\_ and phone is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Is child care during meetings a problem for you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, have you any suggestions for arranging child care? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Are there issues, projects, activities that N.O.W. has undertaken in the past which particularly interested and involved you? Do you have suggestions for topics for program meetings? Or new approaches in program meetings? Do you have suggestions for projects that you would be especially interested in and would become involved in? Use this space to let us know, and if necessary, continue on another sheet of paper.



Houston Area N.O.W. Chapter  
 National Organization for Women  
 P.O. Box 66351 Houston, Texas 77006

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Address Correction Requested

# BROADSIDE

IS FREE WHEN YOU JOIN NOW.

- I want to join N.O.W. and enclose \$25 for chapter, state and national dues.
- I enclose hardship dues of \$16.50 for chapter, state and national dues.
- 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 N.O.W.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to:  
 Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 66351  
 Houston, Tx 77006

My U.S. Congressperson is \_\_\_\_\_  
 My state senator is \_\_\_\_\_  
 My state representative is \_\_\_\_\_