



HAPPY NOW YEAR

by Joan Ritter

It's time to examine our accomplishments and shortcomings for the past year and to plan for the coming one. Much soul-searching was done at the December board meeting and business meeting. This was induced partly by reports from the workshop on Chapter Growth conducted by Mary Jean Collum-Robson at the Texas State Organizing Conference in Dallas November 17.

In examining our accomplishments we can list the work done by the Education Task Force on textbook selection and with the Houston Independent School District. But that was accomplished by not more than twenty members. We picketed in fine form at Foley's in support of the Farah strike and at Harris County Commissioners Court for the Jeff Davis abortion clinic. We filed a major complaint with HEW against Rice University (and whether it was reported by the local news media or not, it did have the effect of holding up funds for a few months). We have developed several "service" task forces (e.g., legal referral), spurred by the many telephone requests received by the Women's Center. We have successfully established the Women's Center. We have conducted an excellent film festival. Our membership has grown and we have conducted several consciousness raising groups.

But something is lacking, and I think it is concerted action. We need a few major projects on which we can all work together. In this vein, Collum-Robson suggests that we hear proposals for planned projects at the program or business meeting and have the membership decide which will be adopted. We will limit ourselves to three projects. Proposals will be heard at the January 2 program meeting. A review of the proposals and voting will be conducted at the January 9 business meeting. The proposals will include a budget (in dollars and people) and a timetable to cover 1974. Of course, an evaluation and reconsideration might be held during the year, perhaps in July with the election of new officers.

continued

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Dear Reader:

I don't know about you, but I'm excited about this comet Kohoutek. Being of a mystical bent, I am continually on the lookout for omens and portents.

Take the full moon, for instance - I get really wierd when that rascal is floating around up there. Not that I sprout hair and run out and howl at it, but my behavior does get to be a little bizarre.

The strangest mystical experience I ever had was one time when I was living in Oklahoma City. It was the dead of winter with about a foot of snow on the ground and I was alone in my apartment at about 9:30 at night, out of cigarettes.

There was a small grocery store about two blocks away so I put on my coat, mittens, scarf and cow-girl boots and stepped outside. I stood there for a minute, taking shallow breaths of the biting air so as not to hurt my lungs, then I noticed the dog.

He was sitting by my walkway, still as a statue. Totally white he was, with golden eyes. As we looked at each other he spoke to me. Not aloud, not in dog language, but somewhere in my head. All he said was "hello", but I was suffused with joyous rapture.

I started plowing through the snow toward the store and the dog accompanied me. Although my breath was making great clouds of steam in the air, the dog's did not. He sat across the street from the store and waited while I bought the cigarettes, then walked me back home.

We shared another long look before I went inside and the joyous feeling lasted for a good while. Later, my cerebral cortex started to function and I began to wonder. I went outside but the dog was gone.

I saw the trail I had made through the snow and as I walked over and looked closely at it, I saw that the dog had left no pawprints. No prints at all, except mine. I often wonder about that.

Jan

TASK FORCE REPORTS

REPRODUCTION AND ITS CONTROL

Please - NOW - write your U.S. Senators and Representatives and urge them to support our right to choose abortion. The January issue of Ms. states that the anti-abortionists have chosen January 22 (the first anniversary of the Supreme Court decision) for a massive lobbying effort.

Your U.S. Senators are:

The Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.
The Honorable John G. Tower
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

If you do not know who your Congressman is, call the League of Women Voters, 529-3171, and they can tell you.

We all believe that freedom of choice is our right - we'd better also believe that this right can be taken away from us and made, instead, into a privilege for a few.

Nancy Kuykendall

FCC

A better employment record for women in broadcasting and new directions in programming for women were the main issues in our meetings with television management this month. Negotiations will continue right up to license renewal time -- summer of '74.

The most effective way all members can help our efforts is to join our "praise or protest" letter campaign. When you see a program or ad that you feel merits NOW-listener feedback, please bring it to our attention.

As an example of the effect of letters, Channel 11 told us they stopped carrying the national NOW spot, "This perfectly normal, health child has a handicap. She was born female.", because listeners complained that the use of "handicap" was in bad taste. Channel 8 is still running it and if you feel they should continue to do so, please write.

This fall Channel 8 has also been running a weekly series on Tuesdays at 6:30 called WOMAN from WNED-TV, Buffalo. It is a mature and intelligent discussion program on topics such as Women and Politics. In order to encourage programs like this or to begin a local series on issues of the changing roles of women (and men) in society today, we asked the audience at the Feminist Film Festival to write Channel 8. Because of their letters, Program Director Sharon Blair said they would be continuing the series in the spring.

Now, although this series is a "first" in many ways, it cannot go without criticism. We would like those of you who felt that having only men as guests on the two-part

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FCC (continued)

discussion of Sexuality and the Teenager to write the station about this ridiculous oversight. Surely, women experts in this area could have and should have been found and included. In order to make certain that the spring series includes women each week, please write Samantha Dean, Program Hostess, WOMAN, WNED-TV, Hotel Lafayette, Buffalo, New York.

Channel 8 will deserve another round of recognition via letters when they carry the film, GROWING UP FEMALE, as the PBS "Special of the Week" on Monday, January 7 at 7 PM. The film, directed by a woman named Julia Reichert, will be followed by a panel discussion of eight men and eight women. DO NOT MISS IT! And when you write, be sure to personally thank Sharon Blair for her efforts on behalf of women in programming. She is the only woman program director in the Houston area and we believe we are seeing visible effects of having a sensitive and intelligent woman in this important broadcast management position.

How many of you watched CRY RAPE! on Channel 11 (December 2 from 11 PM to 12:30 AM)? It was a dramatic attempt to deal with the crime of rape. Many points were pro-victim -- the assault as only the beginning of the trauma, the degrading interrogation by police, the vicious questions by an ambitious public defender in the courtroom. Then came the "twist" ending. The accused is wrongly accused because his exact likeness (same actor and hairstyle, different-colored shirt) really committed the crime. The victim who identified her attacker tearfully asks her lawyer, "Oh, what can I do to say I'm sorry?". She apologizes but the man leaves the courtroom without granting her forgiveness. The film ends. Audience sympathy goes to the man, while she has to face the courtroom ordeal over again. As the credits rolled, it was interesting to note that an all-male crew had made the film. Please write the CBS network. First praise their attempt to treat the problem of rape, then protest their methods.

Local programming must hear from us and here is one that must -- Kasey Kirby's talk show, "Houston Scene" on Channel 26. On her December 18 program she had a guest from the Rice University Media Center faculty talking about a spring course in film making open to the community. Her introduction went something like, "Ladies, here is a great gift for your husband for Christmas.". In the interview she asked, "How long would it take you to teach a dum-dum like me...? Obviously, she did not attend this fall's "Film Festival of Women Directors".

In the television ad department PRAISE the Lionel train commercial which features a woman who complains because she did not get a train as a child and the narrator intones, "Lionel trains. We never said they were only for boys.". PRAISE the General Motors ad which shows Anne Jackson with a doll house and dolls on the set. She speaks of how homemaking was once the only career choice for girls and women but now all choices are open to women and GM is hiring women as engineers, scientists, etc. Write the NBC network for both these ads which ran on Channel 2. PROTEST the Instant Maxwell House Coffee ad which shows three women roommates on moving day. One says, "Let's have something to drink". Another says, "Coffee's not good this time of day". In comes the male who teaches them how to make INSTANT coffee -- "the coffee that's good all day". This is one of those male-dominated ads that seems never to leave us but it will

HAPPY NOW YEAR (continued)

We are also revamping the orientation meetings. Darrell Wells ("Women & Men") has temporarily resigned but we are adding two new orientations -- a much-needed one by the Harris County Women's Political Caucus (hopefully) and "NOW in Action", an introduction to the three projects we adopt.

We have received some criticism (warranted, I'm afraid) that we do not pay enough attention to new and prospective members. We must change our ways. (We're really not unfriendly. I've never had more friends.) To this end we are reinstating the Friday night "NOW-comers Social". We were interrupted by the film festival last spring and never got back into the swing. Peggy Hall has personally guaranteed a social evening every Friday from now through February. These evenings will be quite informal, and a good habit to form for the New Year. They will be held at the Women's Center at 8 PM, as usual.

1974 DUES

If you want to vote during the 1974 NOW National Conference you must pay your dues by February 1. All voting delegates must be on National NOW's lists by February 25 and it takes time from the date the local chapter sends them in until the names are fully incorporated (as we well know). To be safe, pay your dues by January 1 when they are due.

THE DOLL'S HOUSE

Houston NOW is sponsoring two Southwest Theatre Guild productions of Henrik Ibsen's "The Doll's House" on Friday, January 18 and Friday, February 1. Tickets are \$3.00 each. Send checks to the Women's Center to the attention of Joan Ritter. Make your checks payable to NOW. Fifty tickets will be sold for each of the two performances. Make your reservations with DeNita Avery at 473-2218.

ADOPTION CHANGES NEEDED

Amendments to the Texas Family Code require the consent of the father before a child may be adopted, even though the child is not the legitimate child of the father. The only way that an unmarried mother may place the child for adoption without the father's consent is to place the child with an agency or to sign an affidavit stating that she does not know who the father is or that she does not know where he is. This law seems harsh in any case where the father has refused to contribute to the support of the mother and child. Surely any father who has accepted the responsibility of parenthood should be consulted, but one who has refused to do so should not be given the right to prevent the mother from deciding freely what is best for the child. Clearly she should not be asked to swear that she does not know who the father is in order to find a proper home

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ADOPTION (continued)

for her baby. Because of this injustice, there is a good chance that the law can be invalidated. To bring a test case, we need to find a woman who is willing to be a plaintiff in the case. She should be unmarried, expecting and receiving no support from the father. She should also prefer to place the baby privately rather than through an agency. If you know of such a person, please leave her name, address and telephone number at the Women's Center.

Barbara Finney

WILMA SCOTT HEIDE

Our very own Wilma Scott Heide will speak at the University of Houston Thursday, January 31 at 8 PM in Agnes Arnold Hall Auditorium 2. This program is being sponsored by the Department of Women's Affairs of the Students' Association. In order to retain the funding for the Department we all need to support this program. Let's aim to fill all 300 seats of the auditorium. The topic will be "Perspectives of the Women's Movement for 1974". For further information call Allison Korn, 749-3388 or 747-1934.

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

Is there anyone who would be interested in being a facilitator for a CR group at the University of Houston? I would like to organize some CR groups but need some help. Call Allison Korn, 749-3388 or 747-1934.

SELF-HELP

Come to the Women's Center on Thursday, January 3 at 8 PM. We will rap about self-help and organize into small groups to teach ourselves about our bodies. Self-help has been spreading sisterhood in California and now in Houston. Join us! Anyone who is interested in information on menstrual extraction and abortion please contact Brenda Cooper or Harla Kaplan, 772-4987, or Jan Pierce, 522-1278.

YOU'RE INVITED

The Houston Chapter of NOW announces "Gertrude Stein: When This You See, Remember Me", a 1970 film directed by Perry Miller Adato, will be shown at the Rice Media Center on Saturday, January 12 at 8 PM. You are also invited to an after-film party at the home of Clif & Kay Whyburn, 2234 Goldsmith, at 9:30 PM. Drinks \$1.00.

LESBIAN GROUP FORMING

All women interested in the politics of lesbianism please attend a meeting Thursday, January 10, 8 PM at the Women's Center.

WOMANPOWER - IT'S MUCH TOO GOOD TO WASTE

FCC (continued)

if we care enough to write about it. Write the ABC network on this one. It came on during "Joker's Wild".

Keep us informed. Make double use of your viewing time by monitoring and reporting. Leave messages at the Women's Center or call Janice Blue (522-0020) or Rosaland Curtis (472-4046).

VERY IMPORTANT! We are asking stations to post job openings with the Women's Center. Channel 11 has sent us two openings this past week (one for a co-anchorman, another for a weekend weather reporter). Please be sure your resumes are on file with WOMAN POWER.

Janice Blue

BOOK REVIEW

Take a fortyish female journalist, Middle American, allergic to intimacy, afflicted with intermittent cuteness, and send her out to write a book on What American Women Are Really Like. You will get, if A Different Woman by Jane Howard is any evidence, a formless and shallow book, in which superficial personal reminiscences are interspersed with verbatim reports of dutiful interviews. Women involved in abortions, self-help clinics, and lesbianism rate a dozen pages. But there is a whole chapter on the domestic logistics of the Cat Lady (old lady, many cats, need I go on?). With her reluctance to get involved, Ms. Howard finds it somehow natural for human affairs to work out somewhat badly. Hence she does not inquire into the causes. But when someone seems totally happy, she just lies back and turns on the tape recorder and lets Pollyanna have her heyday, again questioning nothing in her glad daze of basking in someone else's happiness. There is an overall passivity to this book -- a sentimentality and dutifulness about the project which suggest to me the worst and most trite typical characteristics of American Womanhood. There are no brilliant generalizations; hell, there are hardly even any stupid ones (I hunted, before writing this review). This book offers very little that is interesting or enlightening except about details of Jane Howard's family life, a subject in which I am not much interested because Jane Howard says nothing to command my interest. I must join the ranks of reviewers in Ms. and the New York Times who thought the book unsuccessful. Perhaps it attempted too much; certainly it achieved too little. What might yet be achieved is evident, I think, in an article by Gail Sheehy in New York magazine (December 10, 1973) about the most powerful woman in New York. Brilliantly written, it tells more in several pages than Jane Howard tells in several hundred. We need a book about American women; I wish Gail Sheehy would write it.

Mary Ross Rhyne

WANTED: Roommate(s) to share apartment or house. UH area preferred. Contact Joan Ritter, 488-3964, or leave a message at the Women's Center.

NOW TEXAS STATE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE

The state conference was attended by about 100 people, including six from the Houston chapter. State interim bylaws were passed establishing offices of State Coordinator (Martha Dickey, Dallas), Treasurer (Sue Ricket, Austin), Fund Raiser (Suzanne Santistevan, Waco), Legislative Coordinator (Suzanne de Satrustegui, San Antonio), Communications Coordinator (Jane Baker, Richardson), and five regional membership coordinators (Tegwin Pulley, Dallas; Peggy Hall, Houston; Carolyn Dungan, Del Rio; Linda Clonch, Temple; and Linda Taylor, Arlington). The bylaws call for a state convention every eighteen months and for a state council consisting of the above officers, one delegate from each chapter and convenor, and five regional at-large delegates, to meet every six months. Workshops were held on Rape, FCC, Reproduction, Legislation, New Chapters, and Chapter Growth.

SELF DEFENSE

Meetings will be held January 21 and 22 at the Women's Center at 7:30 PM for those interested in joining a free self-defense class for women. All ages are welcome. For further information call Lucy Proctor at 863-2529.

ERA BRACELETS

Wear your ERA bracelet until the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified. Symbolic of the shackles that still bind American women to a past era, the nickle silver bracelet can be worn by both men and women. Available for \$3.00 from the League of Women Voters, 11313 Frederick Ave., Beltsville, Maryland 20705. Proceeds go toward ratification efforts.



NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The conference planning committee will meet Tuesday, January 8 at the UH Student Center at 8 PM. Everybody interested in working on the conference in any capacity should plan to attend. Contact Helen Cassidy or Poppy Northcutt for further details.

JOIN NOW (members receive free issues of the BROADSIDE)

- I would like to become a member of NOW (\$15)
- I want to join but can only afford \$_____ (\$7.50 minimum)
- I am not a member but would like to receive the BROADSIDE (\$3.00)
- I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ to NOW
- I pledge \$_____ per month for the Women's Center

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____

Mail to: National Organization for Women
 3602 Milam
 Houston, Texas 77002

Dec. 31, 1973

9:00 P.M.

Women's Center

3602 Milam

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Free Food

Live Music

Silent Movies

Beer and Soft Drinks for Sale

B.Y.O.B.

Free Ice

Raffle

\$3.00 Donation for benefit of
Women's Center

Call Chris or Linda at 644-4861
for information and reservations

CALENDAR

WOMEN'S CENTER

3602 Milam
524-5743

Open Monday-Friday, 7-10 PM
Saturday 12-3 PM
Sunday 12-3 PM

1974 JANUARY 1974						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CENTER SITTERS:

- Jan. 1 CLOSED
- 2 open
- 3 Yolanda Martin, Janice Williams
- 4 Rose Marie Lund, Jackie Howard
- 5 Vicki Glasgow
- 6 open
- 7 Chris Feahr
- 8 Mary Jane White, Sally Bedford
- 9 Adrienne Nelson
- 10 Linda England
- 11 Linda Herbert
- 12 Jonelle Owen
- 13 Joan Ritter
- 14 Beverly Horton
- 15 Rose Bernard

- Jan. 16 Kay Whyburn
- 17 Jennie Coon
- 18 Harla Kaplan
- 19 Jan Pierce
- 20 open
- 21 Linda Bayer
- 22 Carolyn Nichols
- 23 Peggy Hall
- 24 Sally Melville
- 25 Bonnie Metze
- 26 Clara Willing
- 27 Gail Carstens
- 28 Betty Barnes
- 29 Jeanne Necaize
- 30 Diana Freeland
- 31 open

COMING EVENTS

- Jan. 2 - NOW Program Meeting, 8 PM, UH Student Center
- 3 - Self-Help Rap, 8 PM
- 7 - NOW Board Meeting, 8 PM
- NOW Orientation, "Consciousness Raising", Helen Copitka, 8 PM
- 8 - Fund Raising Task Force, 8 PM
- NOW National Conference Planning Meeting, 8 PM, UH Student Center
- 9 - NOW Business Meeting, 8 PM, UH Student Center
- 10 - Lesbian Group, 8 PM
- 11 - Marriage & Divorce Rap, 8 PM
- 12 - Gertrude Stein film, 8 PM, Rice Media Center
- 14 - NOW Orientation, "What is Feminism", Helen Cassidy, 8 PM
- 21 - NOW Orientation, "Legal Rights", Parrish Hirasaki, 8 PM
- Self Defense Group, 7:30 PM
- 22 - Self Defense Group, 7:30 PM
- 28 - NOW Orientation, "History of NOW", Joan Ritter, 8 PM
- 31 - Wilma Scott Heide, 8 PM, UH Agnes Arnold Hall

Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at the Women's Center. Adult-supervised child care is available at all meetings.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

broadside

Houston Chapter

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
FOR WOMEN

January 1974

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
3602 MILLAM
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

broad·side n 3b: a sheet of paper printed
on one or both sides and folded 4: some-
thing (as a ballad) printed on a broadside
5a: the simultaneous discharge of all the
guns on one side of a ship

Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary

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