

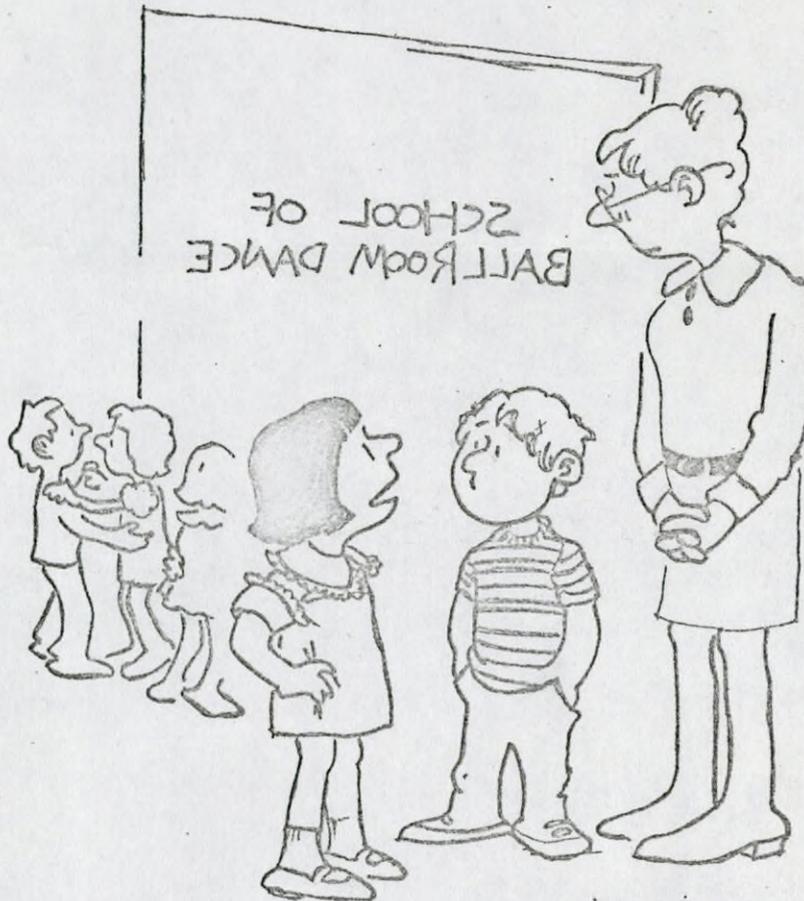
N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter



NEWS

National Organization for Women

Volume VI, Number 6, June, 1978



"Why does the boy always lead? It seems to me the better dancer should lead."

JUNE PROGRAM MEETING

June 1, 1978 - 7:30 p.m.
Uniting Church, Reseda at
El Camino Real

Coordinator and Chair of
June meeting - Etta B.
"Rusty" Richards

488-5546

INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP IN ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

On June 1, 1978, Bay Area N.O.W. will present an "Introductory Workshop in Assertiveness Training" with Sandy Anderson, who has a degree in Behavioral Science from UH/CLC, and Judy Ruff, who obtained a Master's Degree in Sociology at UH/CLC.

Anderson and Ruff have conducted daytime workshops at UH/CLC in assertiveness training for improved communication, mainly for students and housewives.

Says Anderson, "Assertive behavior allows a person to express honest feelings comfortably, to be direct and straightforward, and to exercise personal rights without denying the rights of others, and without experiencing undue anxiety or guilt."

N.O.W. is planning to conduct evening workshops in assertiveness training during the summer if enough interest is shown.

- June 1 - 7:30 p.m. - Bay Area NOW Program Meeting - Uniting Church
- June 7 - 5:30 p.m. - Houston Area NOW picnic - Hermann Park, near corner of Fannin and Outer Belt Drive. Posters will be made for ERA action of June 17.
- June 9-11 - First Regional Conference, SW Central Region, Women's Studies Assoc. at Texas Christain University, Ft. Worth
- June 17 - All day - ERA tables in shopping areas. Volunteers needed. Call Sandy Anderson at 554-6416 or 488-9216.
- June 22 - Women's Rights Coordinating Council - 7:30 p.m. World Trade Center, Texas at Crawford in Houston.
- June 23 - Business meeting, Bay Area NOW - 1529 Bonanza - 7:30 p.m. - Bring goodies if you like.
- July 9 - ERA Rally in Washington, D. C.

The Politics of Assertiveness

One of the best ways to avoid having to deal with the needs of others is to insure that these needs are not spoken. Persons who are in favorable power positions may state their needs as though stating natural and inexorable laws ("Boys will be boys." "Man is by nature polygamous, woman by nature monogamous.") Persons who feel powerless can be made to feel their needs are invalid, unimportant, ridiculous, or whatever. Persons who become assertive are enabled to state their needs without apology and without feeling the need for external justification. We may not get our needs met if we ask, but where is the harm in asking?

Up Against the Mainstream

On May 18, Rema Lou Brown, representing Women's Resource Services at UH/CLC, and Twiss Butler, representing NOW, addressed an audience of about 50 women members of Bay Area Newcomers. These articulate members sustained their listeners' interest and interacted with them for over an hour and a half. Observers judged this to be a highly positive feminist presentation.

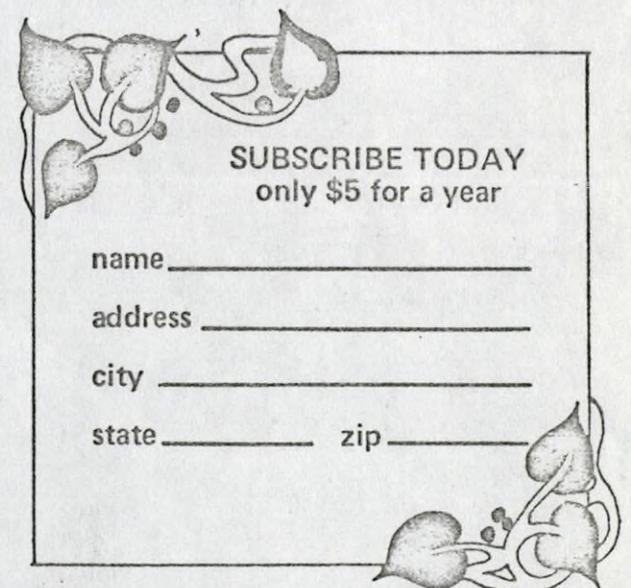
SWEET (UNEXPECTED) VICTORY

A New York Times article of May 13, 1978, is entitled "Another Sexist Bastion Falls: Hurricanes Renamed." A significant paragraph quotes Richard A. Frank, the director of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration as saying there had been "pressure" from individuals and groups, such as Patricia Butler of Houston, etc. Our Twiss has worn them down up there--hooray!! Every second hurricane will now bear a masculine name, which ought to go far toward stopping nonsense about female destructiveness in weather reports.

Additional help would be obtained by the firing of some "good ole boys" who announce our news - namely our local Ron Stone, who when he announced this item, contemptuously referred to the event as the advent of "himacanes and heracanes."

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Dr. Gretchen Mieszkowski of UH/CLC presented consciousness-raising illustrations of sexism in literature at our May meeting. This was followed by a slide-sound show on various aspects of sexism in Texas children's schoolbooks, and Marjorie Randal discussed the annual textbook review and protest for sexism conducted by Texas feminists since 1972. Copies of the 1978 letter of instruction in our textbook review methodology, prepared by Twiss Butler, were distributed to volunteers.

There are more than 300 items offered by publishers for adoption in Texas this year. The situation is improving, and now there is real contrast in levels of sexist prejudice present in these books. We need to influence the adoption of non-sexist books this year. Call Twiss Butler at 333-4764 if you would like to write a review and possibly to testify in Austin this August.

JULY 9 --- JULY 9

This is the date of THE rally of the year - to be held in Washington, D.C. - a march of feminists for the ERA!!! At our May meeting the membership voted funds for two members (\$100 each) for this trip. To date, three Bay Area members will be attending: Sonia Doty, Marie Stimson, and Melissa Weiksnar. Anyone who can possibly do so is urged to attend. If you are planning to go, please contact Dorothy Howard, 486-0752, for a copy of the JULY 9 RALLY PACKAGE. You are urged to make hotel reservations immediately. You are urged to make hotel reservations immediately. Some have questioned, and rightly so, the wisdom of spending this money on the travel and hotel, asking if a direct donation would not better aid the ERA effort. Melissa, one of the questioners, came to the conclusion that she could justify the trip by staying over for the lobbying effort on Monday. *****Sonia Doty will be marching in the parade with her daughter and granddaughter. Sonia's mother is a suffragette. We can call this a four-star family.

Bay Area NOW members Marjorie Randal, Phyllis Tucker, Nancy Whitecotton and Dorothy Howard attended the Women's Rights Coordinating Council (WRCC) meeting of May 18.

Bay Area has joined a coalition to sponsor ERA efforts on June 17 - namely - obtaining signatures authorizing ERA letters to be written in signer's name - OR signatures on the ERA postcards (AND HOPEFULLY POSTAGE). This effort will take place in shopping centers in the Houston area. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. Please contact Sandy Anderson at 554-6416 or 488-9216.

WRCC is also planning to hold a special meeting, Presidents' Night. Marjorie Randal will be in charge of these preparations.

ERA ratification extension letters being generated in San Antonio are beginning to filter back to Houston for signatures, addressing, and mailing. Evie Whitsett received some 700 this past week. Women meeting at the UH/CLC on Tuesday, and members of the Houston CLUW chapter have helped in addressing. There will be more letters to come. San Antonio is making this a regional project - and will be preparing letters from New Mexico and Colorado as well as from all cities of Texas.

1978 NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE - October 6 thru 9

Check your National NOW Times, May or June issues, for complete information and registration forms. Frances Hicks is in Washington, D.C. this week. She will make reservations for one room. We will, however, need more than one room. When she returns, we will probably be making the second reservation. Anyone interested in sharing these rooms, please contact Frances at 488-8574 or Dorothy Howard at 486-0752.

TITLE IX COALITION TASK FORCE PUBLISHES

REPORT ON CCISD

Our member Elizabeth Glenn, Chair of the Bay Area Coalition Task Force on Title IX has recently written a report on their work with Clear Creek ISD this year. Quite long excerpts appear in the local newspaper article below. Please note Elizabeth's devastating comments....

Page 6B, THE DAILY CITIZEN, Thursday, May 18, 1978

Study says school district doesn't enforce sex discrimination ban

The Bay Area Coalition for Monitoring Title IX Compliance has found the Clear Creek Independent School District's (CCISD) efforts to comply with Title IX of the federal Education Amendments of 1972 are incomplete.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in all federally funded education programs.

Any public school system which receives federal financial assistance of any kind is required to be in compliance with the law.

The Bay Area Coalition for Monitoring Title IX Compliance was formed in Jan., 1977 to familiarize its members with Title IX and to evaluate school districts for their compliance.

The Women in this group represent the Clear Lake City Branch of the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, and the Bay Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

The study found that while most teachers in the district are women, most high-level, more

highly paid administrative positions are held by men.

"The majority of CCISD teachers are female: 362 of 386 elementary teachers and 306 of 458 secondary teachers" the study said. "18 of the 20 elementary and secondary counselors are women".

"All the school nurses and all the librarians are women. 19 of the 24 department heads are women. 8 of the 12 supervisors are women. However, at the higher levels the picture changes abruptly."

"1 of 12 assistant principals is a woman. 4 of the 15 principals are women. 1 of the 17 highest administrators is a woman. The explanation given for this discrepancy is that that women cannot devote the time to administrative positions because of their heavier home responsibilities."

However, we know that teachers spend many hours in addition to those in the classroom in preparation and student evaluation. . . . A profession which is considered to be an "ideal field for women" should also include "ideal" opportunities for women to advance."

"Salaries at the administrative levels are

more than twice those of most classroom teachers. We are told that there are no written policies governing advancement, but that such policies exist through board decisions which may or may not be published."

Male coaches, the study found, are paid from one-fourth to one-third more than female coaches, and are also expected to spend an equivalent additional amount of time at coaching duties.

The committee found further discrepancies within custodial staff employment.

"Only 2 of the 19 head custodians are female in spite of the fact that almost all of the hourly custodians are women," the study said. We were told that they promote from within whenever possible, so one wonders where the male head custodians were found."

A strong tendency within the district to follow traditional thinking about what are "boys' courses" and what are "girls' courses" was found by the committee.

"The counseling materials which we saw were heavily male oriented and showed very few women and those few were engaged in traditionally female roles."

No publication of the student grievance procedure to report violations of Title IX could be found in material made available to students, the committee said. Title IX requires that a grievance procedure for student and employee complaints was to be adopted and published by Oct., 1975.

Among the CCISD administrators with whom the committee talked in the course of the study are: Dr. Andrew Pupa, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, who is also Title IX coordinator for the district; Arthur Goforth, principal of Clear Creek High School; Ross McGlothlin, principal of Clear Lake Intermediate School; Darwin Gilmore, Director of Personnel; E.E. Stephens, Assistant Superintendent for Business who is responsible for the employment of noncertified personnel.

The committee found almost everyone it interviewed to be cooperative, but found their level of understanding about the meaning and purpose of Title IX to be low.

"We have been told that an in-service training was held for CCISD personnel to acquaint them with Title IX, but we can find no one who is aware of having

attended such a session," the study said.

It is possible that our visits and the questions which we asked may have caused some increase in awareness and have, at least, indicated that there is some community interest in the steps which CCISD is taking to implement Title IX."

A gentle reminder.....

Memberships which expired December, 1977

Allen, Evelyn	Oettinger, Patricia
Bradfield, Lynn	Price, Juanita C.
Bruckner, Nanette	Richards, Etta B.
Foote, Lorraine	Smith, Dolores
Hicks, Frances	Swisher, Lilla
Jewell, Kathryn	Tangedahl, Joanne
Johnson, Lillian	Young, Jo
Kemp, Margaret	

expired March, 1978

Berend, Donna	Smith, Ellen K.
Smith, Ann K.	Stewart, Sally

expired May, 1978

Morgan, Carolyn	Shaw, Dale M.
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will expire July 1978

Hickman, Linda	May, Carolyn
Hoskins, Charles M.	Ruff, Judith
Mauer, Eugenia	Weidenhoffer, Edith

[June 1978]
 * Membership expired???? This is
 * NO TIME for feminists to be
 * deserting the ship. Been so busy
 * writing ERA letters that it com-
 * pletely slipped your mind????
 * That is the purpose of our "gentle
 * reminder." Please correct over-
 * sight by contacting our Treasurer,
 * Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway,
 * Houston, 77062. You'll be glad
 * you did.

 * WELCOME!!! NEW MEMBERS IN MAY

Margie Balch	Terry Bobo
Jean Bettencourt	

 * ANOTHER WELCOME - MAY VISITORS

Debbie Fry	Pat Sprowls
Janet Reiser	

* Hope to see you again next month

Saturday, May 20, 1978 Houston Chronicle Section 1, Page 25

Catholic women criticize bishops

A group of Roman Catholic feminists here has criticized the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for failing to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment.

The challenge apparently marks the first time a local Catholic group has directly criticized the Conference of Bishops.

"It is appalling that churchmen who purport to defend human rights do not believe woman are entitled to equal treatment under the law," the Houston chapter of St. Joan's International Alliance, said in a written statement.

Formed some eight months ago, the local group advocates "equality of women in the Catholic Church."

The bishops recently said they would not endorse the ERA because they fear it

could destroy the unity of family life in this country.

"The bishops obviously think female subservience is not too high a price to pay to maintain family stability — thereby showing which members of the family they truly value," the Houston group said.

"As daughters, sisters, wives and mothers we reject the proposition that family unity is grounded upon inequality. The bishops who made this decision have revealed the hypocrisy of men who express concern for the welfare of women while they would deny us full membership in the human family. The church teaches that we also are made in the image of God. Justice demands that women be accorded those unalienable rights given to us by our Creator."

Sunday, May 21, 1978 Houston Chronicle Section 1, Page 29

Women push cut in church gifts to protest prelate's anti-ERA vote

BALTIMORE (AP) — "No ERA, no bishops' pay" is the slogan of a campaign launched by Roman Catholic women here to protest the stand taken against the Equal Rights Amendment by Archbishop William D. Borders.

The women, members of the Baltimore Task Force on the Status of Women in the Church, said they were urging Catholics of the archdiocese to reduce their usual Sunday donations by about 12 percent to show their displeasure with Borders' stand.

Spokeswomen say that each parish hands over about 12 percent of its weekly donations to the archbishop's office to pay for administrative and certain other expenses of the Baltimore archdiocese.

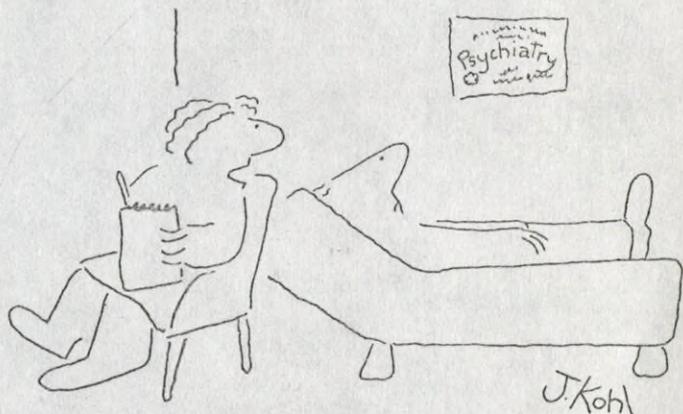
"We cannot continue indefinitely to support church leadership which denies our baptismal equality in Christ and fails to uphold our civil equality in the society in which we live," the group wrote Borders last week.

The protest stems from votes by Borders and Auxiliary Bishop J. Francis Stafford against a proposal supporting ERA ratification at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Chicago earlier this month.

Rev. John Geaney, a spokesman for the archbishop, said the prelates voted against the statement on the ERA because it "opens the door to the possibility of legislation on abortion" and the traditional institution of marriage.

The women's group, formed about four years ago, includes about 290 women in the Baltimore archdiocese, which claimed membership of 413,742 Catholics in 1977. Among the group's aims are to promote the ordination of women and bring an end to allegedly sexist language in church texts and some ceremonies.

The ERA has been approved by 35 states and must be ratified by three more by March 22, 1979, to become part of the Constitution.



"There's no need to get upset. LOTS of people dislike housework."

Newsletter Editor
 for July &
 August will be
 Melissa Weiksnar

15722 Parksley,
 Houston 77059
 488-2850 OR
 965-2620

JULY PROGRAM CHAIR:
 Evie Whitsett,
 488-1777 OR
 226-5444

IT SURPRISED ME...

If you read no further in this saga, at least mail \$3 with your S.S.#, Address, and spouse's name (so they say--I didn't) to: Credit Bureau of Greater Houston, 2309 Fannin St., Houston, 77002, and request a copy of your credit report. They probably don't need your name since only S.S.# is on the report, but they do ask for it and I provided it.

If you were about to stop here, wait 'til you hear that--although I did not change my name when I married, and have no joint savings or checking accounts, somehow, my account with the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union showed up on my spouse's record, and not on mine!!

And that's only the beginning! When my meager credit report appeared, I immediately had my spouse request his--then the tempers flared! My spouse's report listed his employer, job title, salary, and college degree; my respective data never showed. Although I first obtained credit in Houston in 9/76, my report begins in 2/77--his begins (need I state?).

Several accounts which I opened with no reference to marital status, much less spouse's name, appeared on his report an not mine. HAFFCU couldn't believe it!

What hurt worst was that when I applied for a joint car loan, I specifically asked the banker if I'd have any trouble getting a credit rating from it--he verbally assured me that I would get equal recognition even though my name is not on the payment stubs (is it because he's a B and I'm a W, or because he is M and I am F?). This banker has not responded to either of my letters--the next one gets a cc to the FTC.

The Credit Bureau was most prompt in responding to my letter listing four general and two specific contentions and five omissions. They said they would correct what information they had verified, but in two cases it was up to me to find out why the banks reported joint credit in his name. Indeed, the bank of our mortgage company told the Credit Bureau that I was not on the loan! I wrote to the bank, and the Asst. V.P. wrote back six weeks later, with apologies and about "presently preparing voluntary credit reports...."

I'd better get out my \$3 and send S.S.#.....Melissa Weiksnar

Women who have requested their own credit files at Assoc. Credit Services are discovering that this development is not unique. We can only suggest a personal visit to the place, review of file, and placement of 50-word statement in file, explaining circumstances. Supposedly, such a 50-word statement concerning disputed credit must be called up on every request by a potential creditor. To have a complaint against ACS itself appear might be a successful pressure tactic.Marjorie Randal.

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Houston 77062.

- I would like to become a member of Bay Area NOW and National NOW. (\$22)
- I am already a member of National NOW and wish to pay local dues. (\$ 7)
- I want to join but can only afford \$_____.
- I am not a member but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for a year. (\$4)
- I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ to NOW.
- As a NOW member, I authorize my name and address to be published on the chapter roster.

NAME _____ Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ City and Zip _____

Occupation _____

Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to Bay Area NOW projects:

