

# N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter

# NEWS

National Organization for Women

VOLUME III, Number 6, June, 1975

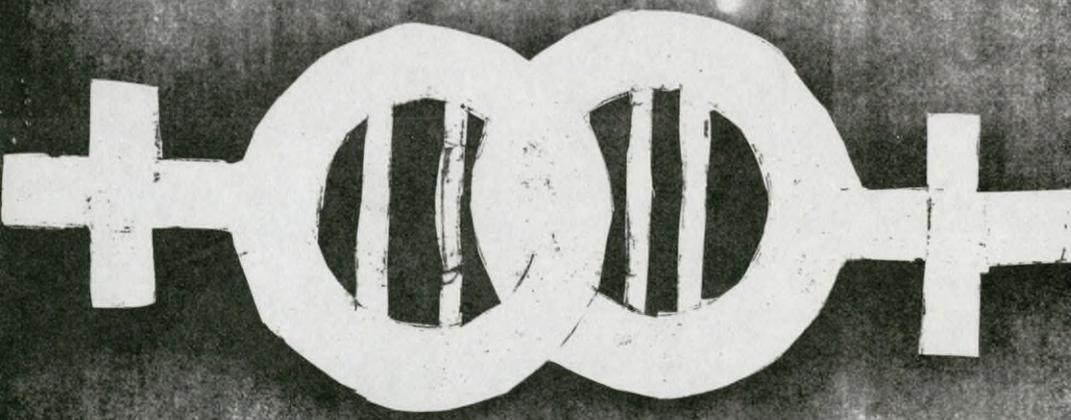


Thanks, but...

You want me  
to dance to your tune  
step, to your drum beat.

I have a rhythm of my own  
a pulsing beat that leads my feet  
to dance at my own pace  
on my special place.

Mary Freerricks  
Paramus, New Jersey



## HUMAN SEXUALITY

POKKEY ANDERSON of Houston-NOW will lead a discussion on Human Sexuality which will include the topics of heterosexuality and lesbianism.

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 NOW Calendar for June
 

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- June 2 Close of Texas Legislative Session. Yea!!!!
- June 4 8:00 P.M. First session of C-R Group, Uniting Church, Clear Lake City
- June 5 8:00 P.M. Program Meeting, Human Sexuality, Uniting Church. See front page.
- June 14 10:00 A.M. Texas NOW Council Meeting, Old City Hall, College Station, Tex.
- June 19 8:00 Board and Business Meeting, Uniting Church. Come help us make decisions for your Chapter and the feminist movement.
- June 28 Honor Thy Womanself, First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, 8:00 P.M. See below.
- June 23- UN Conference on Women, Mexico City. It is essential that feminists attend  
July 4 to bring up and discuss our issues.
- June 24 8:00 P.M. First meeting "Politics of Feminism" discussion group. Call 488-2403.
- July 2 8:00 P.M. Rape Crisis Coalition Meeting, Friendswood Library, Friendswood.
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BAY AREA RAPE CRISIS COALITION MEETS

Persons interested in working to help rape victims in the Bay Area met May 19th and made initial plans to form a Coalition. Alice Schrader of Houston Rape Crisis Coalition and Lynn Richardson, President of Galveston NOW shared their experiences in forming rape crisis coalitions. Our goals at the beginning are reading on the topic and speaking to groups to spread information on rape and the varieties of help available (or not available) in our area for rape victims. If you are interested, call Frances Hicks at 482-7840 and come to our next meeting. The meeting will be held July 2, at 8:00 P.M. at the Friendswood Library, Friendswood, Texas.

"POLITICS OF FEMINISM" DISCUSSION GROUP

This group will take a look at the relationship of feminism to economics, and to political and social institutions. Included will be an in-depth study of Woman's Estate by Juliet Mitchell, with other topics of interest to group members. There will only be four sessions, the first of which will include a discussion of Part I of Mitchell's book. Call Ann Smith (488-6213) or Shirley McFaul (488-2403) if interested---call soon if you need the book in paperback. Meetings will be Tuesdays at 8:00 P.M., June 24, July 1, 8, 15 in the homes of group members. Bring your own ideas and suggestions. We have much to learn from each other.

From Martha Dickey, Texas NOW Coordinator:

"The Statewide Task Force on Women and Criminal Justice will report at the State Council Meeting in College Station, June 14." This ACTION has been chosen by National NOW as our August 26th priority. Those have questions about recent NOW National Board Meetings may contact any of our three Texas members on the National Board, as follows:

Helen Cassidy, 4368 Graduate Cir., Houston, 77004, 713-748-5369.  
 Martha Dickey, 5949 Elderwood, Dallas, 75230, 214-363-2838.  
 Cilia Estrada, 3019 Larknolls La., Houston, 77018, 713-682-3575.

A convenor kit for NOW Chapter has been issued to two women in Big Spring, Tex.

INSURANCE INDUSTRY AND E.R.A.

Persons curious about the involvement of the insurance industry in stop-ERA efforts may order a booklet on this topic from Lincoln, Nebraska NOW for \$2.50, including postage. The address is NOW, Box 83069, Lincoln 68501.

The authors of this material are now collecting materials on the stop-ERA movement in Texas. Please send any such materials or information you may have to the above address.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF ANY BILL, CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-292-9693.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ANY STATE AGENCY, CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-292-9600.

"HONOR THY WOMANSELF"

Is the title of a Feminist Celebration in story, song, slides and other forms, all organized into a theatrical production. It was produced most successfully in April for two performances, and will now be done again at 8:00 P.M., June 28 in the First Unitarian Sanctuary, 5210 Fannin. Admission will be \$1.00 per person. J.J. Hendricks invites us to laugh and cry together and join this beginning of "a library of common songs and experiences."

C-R ANYONE???

Are you interested in weekly sessions of sisterhood to delve into your feelings about woman's place in society today? Consciousness-raising groups meet once a week for 6 to 8 weeks, all discussions are confidential, and topics for discussion are decided a week in advance. C-R groups help you to sort out your feelings about feminist issues. We'll be meeting for the first time on wednesday, June 4, at 8:00 P.M. in the Uniting Church, El Camino and Reseda, Clear Lake City. Call Frances at 482-7840 if you wish to join us.

REPORT FROM TEXANS FOR E.R.A.

HCR 57, the Bill to rescind Texas's ratification of ERA sponsored by insurance-man Hilliard of Ft. Worth, has passed out of subcommittee by a vote of 3-2, with the recommendation that the Legislature recall from the files of the Administrator of General Services in Washington the papers recording Texas's ratification. The next step would be for Rep. Hutchison to call a meeting of The Constitutional Revision Committee to receive this recommendation, but we hear that he is having a difficulty in getting a quorum to meet.

HB 666, the bill to put ERA to a referendum, sponsored by George Preston, came out of committee May 12th and has been placed on the General Calendar in the House. This is said to be a repository for "unimportant bills."

National ratification this year is still possible, but not probable. We have until 1979 to get ratification, knowing now what a fight we have on our hands and by implication the importance being given this Amendment to the Constitution by the opponents of feminism.

Alabama Citizens for ERA request letters from all States to George Wallace, Governor of Alabama, Montgomery, Ala. 36104, asking him as a Presidential candidate to make his support of ERA known. They think this could affect that State's ratification this year.

If you want a copy of the sub-committee report on HCR 57, send Texans for ERA \$1.00 to cover postage and mailing. Their address is 603 West 13th #203, Austin 78701.

TEXAS N.O.W.' STATE BY-LAWS

There is hope that a more efficient State Organization evolved from the By-Laws Revision Convention held in Austin May 17-18. Each of our members will receive a copy of the proposed By-Laws, and we will vote on them at the July program meeting. Some changes proposed are the abolition of the offices of State Legislative Coordinator and State Fundraiser. Duties of the former may more economically be handled by the State President, and function in the latter office has proved to be more difficult than anticipated. Need for fundraising will decline if proposed Chapter dues are adopted; they are \$1.00 per member per year... Delegates will be elected by each Chapter to represent them on State Council, with larger Chapters entitled to an additional representative for each 50 members over the base. Chapter delegates who fail to attend Council meetings may be removed and replaced. Our thanks to Jonnelle Owen for attending this Convention to represent Bay Area NOW.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER NEEDED FOR N.O.W.

Resumes are being accepted by the NOW Public Information Office, 1266 National Press Building, Washington, D. C. 20045, for this position, which pays \$13,200 per annum. Director should be willing to move to Washington at own expense. Job description available from Cathy Irwin at above address.

HOUSTON AREA FEMINIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

By May we had accumulated over \$18,000 of the projected \$30,000 needed in pledges for HAFFCU to apply for Charter. Please send further pledges to HAFFCU, 3602 Milam, Houston 77002. See form below. Send no money now. Charter will be sought in the next few weeks, and volunteers are now needed to serve on three Charter Committees, as follows:

- 1) The Board- a governing body consisting of representatives from each member organization.
- 2) The Credit Committee- a body which will pass on loan applications, guided by the Board.
- 3) The Supervisory Committee- a body which will perform internal audit twice a year and communicate results to individual members. Call Laura Oren at 528-3631 to volunteer.

This initial slate of volunteers will serve only 3 months, until election of officers.

**HAFFCU PLEDGE FORM**

**YES, I am interested in joining the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, when it receives its charter.**

**HAFFCU will provide women with the credit opportunities which discrimination has denied them for so long. It will help women--single, married, separated or divorced, old or young, employed in a paying job or busy running a home---to establish credit in their own names, buy a car, consolidate other loans, pay for legal or medical expenses, or to finance women's enterprises.**

**I UNDERSTAND that my deposits will be fully ensured up to \$40,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, and can be withdrawn at any time.**

**I EXPECT to deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ initially (\$5 minimum share) and intend to save \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month (no minimum requirement).**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Feminist Organizational Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**I would also like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the initial costs of establishing HAFFCU.**

BAY AREA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

President: Frances Hicks 482-7840

Vice President: Marjorie Randal 488-4396

Documentarian: Twiss Butler 333-4764

Treasurer: Linda Eichblatt 488-4382

Task Forces

Childcare: Pamela Linbeck 482-1558

C-R: Linda McCollum 488-0950

Education: Mary Buxton 333-3872

Membership: Shirley McFaul 488-2403

Women in Sports: Linda Eichblatt 488-4382

Information Sources

Alternatives for Young Women:

Julie Walker 488-3854

ERA Status: Frances Hicks 482-7840

Legislative: Dorothy Pearson 332-3993

Publicity: Etta Richards 488-5546

Speakers' Bureau: Jonnelle Owen 471-5208

Newsletter: Officers and Task  
Force Chairpersons

No more printing by Sperry Univac, because  
NOW is suing the company in St. Paul, Minn.

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to Linda Eichblatt, 16589 Buccaneer, Hou. 77058

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a member of Bay Area NOW and National NOW. (\$15.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to join, but can only afford \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a member but would like to receive the newsletter for a year. (\$3.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to NOW.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation and Employer \_\_\_\_\_



Houston Rape Crisis Coalition  
 P.O. Box 4157 • Houston, Texas 77210  
 228-1505 For Assistance • 524-5743 For Information

Some services offered through the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition; 24-hour telephone service through Crisis Hotline; advocates to assist victims through hospital, police & court processes; discussion group for victims; referrals to professionals; information and speakers on topics related to rape, sexual assault and self-protection; moderately priced self-defense courses.

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NEWSLETTER

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## Public Seminar On Rape

Everyone is welcome to attend a seminar entitled "Rape in Our Society: Attitudes, Issues & Law." The meeting will be held from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, May 29 in the Houston Room in the University Center at the University of Houston.

The program is free and will begin with a film "Rape: A Preventive Inquiry," which portrays the first-person stories of a group of rapists in prison, a group of sexual assault victims and some police officials. Two panel discussions will follow the film: one dealing with medical-legal procedural information and the other with sociological and psychological issues related to rape. Cathy Bonner of the Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project will moderate the panels and present the film. Ms. Bonner will also facilitate the question-answer period following each panel presentation.

Some of the speakers are Allen Stilley, Chief of the Grand Jury Division of the District Attorney's office; Dr. Jean Liles, Director of Emergency Room Services at Hermann Hospital; Ruby Allums, Community Relations, Houston Police Department; Helen Copitka, Research Director Houston Council on Human Relations; Dr. Carol Weiner, Assistant Professor of History at Texas Southern University.

Houston Rape Crisis Coalition, Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project, University of Houston Office of the Women's Advocate and City of Houston Office of the Women's Advocate are jointly sponsoring this program.

# Good News & Bad News

## HOUSTON EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIANS SERVICE

Members of HRCC met with representatives of the Houston Emergency Room Physicians Service on April 24 to discuss treatment of rape victims in the hospitals they serve. It was learned that there is no hospital policy preventing treatment of rape victims; instead, the decision is largely left to the individual physician. However, at the meeting many objections were raised by the physicians. These ranged from "rape victims are not an emergency" to "let someone else do it."

There are some Houston area doctors who are sympathetic to the problems of rape victims and more than willing to examine and treat. But for the most part, though, there is no guarantee that a rape victim will be treated in hospitals other than Ben Taub and Hermann.

Anyone interested in working on this problem should call the Women's Center, 524-5743, to volunteer. Someone will return your call.

## PRESBYTERIANS SUPPORT HOUSTON RAPE CRISIS COALITION

Rev. John Wimberly, a friend and advocate for HRCC, presented a resolution to the Gulf Coast Presbytery. This group had representatives from United Presbyterian Churches in Southeast Texas and Louisiana. The resolution passed unanimously. It read: "...the Gulf Coast Presbytery supports the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition's efforts to aid and help rape victims through a time of personal trauma and crisis."

## TENNECO SEMINARS

Tenneco Oil Company took a giant step forward in demonstrating concern for its employees. A series of seminars on rape was presented under the direction of the Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project with assistance from Houston Rape Crisis Coalition. The seminar reached over 800 women and was received with great enthusiasm. In addition, Tenneco asked for permission to reprint HRCC's brochure for distribution among their employees and families of employees.

We applaud Tenneco's efforts and hope that other companies will take the same initiative in helping their employees learn about rape prevention. For information on this project contact Bette Anne Knoll, 524-5743

## INDIANAPOLIS WORKSHOP

Summer Milton, coordinator of the advocates program, attended a workshop "Rape: One City's Approach," in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 17-20. We are looking forward to many helpful ideas and approaches. Look for Summer's reports in future newsletters and at meetings.

# Bill Passes Both Houses

The rape reform legislation, House bill 284 and Senate bill 63, passed both houses early in May and is awaiting the Governor's signature. HRCC would appreciate copies of letters to and from legislators and the governor, particularly letters of thanks to Representatives Kay Bailey and Sarah Weddington.

In the version that finally passed some good things were removed, such as the definition of consent that we were hoping would make it. But a number of other good things are still in: threat can be communicated by actions, words, or deeds; evidence of victim's sexual conduct may be admitted only if, and only to the extent that, the judge finds it relevant as evidence in the case; statute of limitations extended to three years.

## Rape: A Houston Concern

Medical, legal, law enforcement and rape crisis center personnel met in Austin for a three-day statewide conference on "Rape: A Texas Concern" to focus on the ways that agencies can work together to facilitate services for the rape victim and to secure convictions.

Emphasis was placed on keeping a personal touch in all the work that must be done when a case of rape is reported. Special programs in hospitals as well as a sympathetic approach by detectives were proposed as the most productive means of assuring the well-being of the victim and promoting her continued assistance in the prosecution.

The work being done by the Austin Rape Crisis Center has encouraged many women to come forward when attacked, because they know they will receive supportive services. The rate of reported rapes is up 63% in that county and the increase is attributed to the cooperation among all the systems a woman must deal with once she becomes a rape statistic.

While it seemed as if every major city in Texas except Houston has a working procedure for rape victims, Houston's hopefully will not be too much longer in arriving. The city has submitted a grant proposal to the Criminal Justice Department for the establishment of a professionally staffed service to aid rape victims from the time of the attack to the time they no longer need supportive services.

For more specific information on the conference, contact Alice Shrader, Summer Milton or Bette Anne Knoll. If you contact the city or county government to encourage them to set up these programs, please leave copies of your correspondence at the center to share with HRCC.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The next issue of the newsletter will probably be out mid-August or early September with lots of summer progress reports and plans for action for the fall. Anyone wanting updates on information here or wishing to volunteer for any project should call the Women's Center, 524-5743, and we will return your call. Thanks!

# From the Bookcase

RAPE: VICTIMS OF CRISIS, Burgess & Holmstrom, \$6.95 paperback

RAPE: HOW TO AVOID IT AND WHAT TO DO IF YOU CAN'T, By Csida & Csida,  
Published by Books for Better Living, \$1.50 paperback

NEWSLETTER, Texas Rape Prevention and Control Project. PO Box 13072  
Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711. FREE!!

## When & Where

Thursday, May 29 "Rape in Our Society: Attitudes, Issues & Law,"  
7-10 p.m., Houston Room, University Center, University of Houston

Saturday, May 31 HRCC advocates meeting, 10 a.m., Women's Center,  
contact Summer Milton for more information

Tuesday, June 3 HRCC program meeting, discussion on pregnancy and fear  
of pregnancy presented by Reproductive Services, 7:30 Women's Center

Tuesday, June 17 HRCC business meeting

Tuesday, July 15 business meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 19 business meeting

During July and August there will be no program meetings. They will  
resume in September. Times and places to be announced. To put  
something on the agenda for the business meetings contact Bette  
Anne Knoll.

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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HOUSTON RAPE CRISIS COALITION!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Memberships \$3/year      Organizational Memberships \$25/year

Please make check payable to Houston Rape Crisis Coalition. Send to  
SUSAN WATKINS, HRCC, PO Box 4157, Houston, Tx 77210. Donations Welcome!