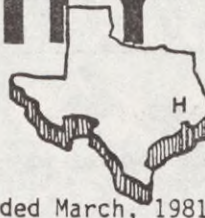


# UNIVERSITY NEWS



NOW at the University of Houston, Founded March, 1981

## THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SECTION 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

SECTION 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SECTION 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

(complete text)

Newsletter Layout and Pasteup by Rossann Daumas

November 1982

Volume 2 Number 7

## President's Column

The National NOW 1982 Conference took place October 8-10 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Jeanne Sommerfeld, JoAnn Evansgardner and I were there as delegates representing the NOW chapter at UH.

The conference consisted of plenary sessions, candidates speeches, speakers and workshops. At the plenary sessions, resolutions were discussed, voted on and passed. The Reproduction Rights, Lesbian Rights and Minority Women resolutions were passed. All other resolutions not discussed at the plenary sessions because of time factor will be discussed by the National Executive Board. The elections of officers was a major factor at the conference. After listening to all candidates and meeting them for questions and answers, all delegates cast their votes on Sunday. Judy Goldsmith was elected president with approximately 200 votes over Sonia Johnson.

Judy Goldsmith's contributions in NOW are many. She served as vice-president executive (1978-1982), was coordinator of major administrative functions at the National Action Center, was frequent spokesperson for hundreds of radio, TV and print media interviews, major contributor, editor and business manager of National NOW Times, etc. Sonia Johnson, who was ex-communicated from the Mormon Church because of her support for the ERA, had a large amount of supporters at the conference. She is known for organizing Mormons for the ERA and for leading the hunger strike for the passage of the ERA.

We are sad to see Ellie leave her position as NOW president. She proved herself a tremendous leader of NOW through her hard work and accomplishments in the advancement of the rights of women. I would like to mention that JoAnn Evansgardner, our chapter convenor and active member, was mentioned more than once in Ellie's speeches. JoAnn recruited Ellie and helped her in many ways in the women's movement. Although Ellie steps down from office, she said "we would not see her walk away." Ellie, thank you.

Although of course not all delegates saw their choice become a reality, no hard feelings were visible and more importantly we saw an even greater commitment among the feminists there to work for the day NOW makes equality a reality for all women in this country.

There were workshops on a variety of issues such as: Insurance Discrimination, Reproductive Rights, Lesbian Rights, Title IX and many more. The workshops were designed to educate on the issues and its resolutions. NOW at UH met with university chapters from other parts of the country and designed a Campus Chapter

Resolution which requests a special program to be originated by National NOW to be more specific to university based chapters.

The speakers were an inspiration to us all. Among the speakers were Congresswoman Katie Hall, the first woman US Representative of Indiana, who delivered a speech of encouragement to increase the number of women in government. Mary Kay Blakely, well-known feminist humorist, and author of Pulling Your Own Strings enlightened us with some of her experiences in this patriarchal society.

I am very glad to announce that JoAnn Evansgardner obtained all the tapes that were recorded throughout the entire conference. If anyone is interested in listening to them please do not hesitate to let me know.

There is considerable interest in NOW at UH in starting Conscious-Raising groups (CR) on campus. I feel that one is needed badly on our campus but careful planning with an experienced coordinator is important in starting a successful CR group. At this time, we need to hear from anyone who is interested in being part of a CR group in order to set meeting times. CR groups usually meet once a week for 6 - 8 weeks and I understand that when one signs up one should try not to miss any of the meetings. CR groups are not as effective otherwise.

NOW at UH participated in kicking off Reagan Ranches, an event sponsored by ACORN (Association of Community Organization for Reform Now). Its purpose is to raise public awareness of the damaging effects the Reagan Administration program is causing low-income people. His program is also abolishing or cutting back just about every federal program, law or office designed to advance equality for women. Reagan Ranch will be open 11 days - until election day.

NOW at UH sponsored a slide presentation October 26 called Motherhood: A Sacred Trust, Let It Be A Choice which was followed by a discussion of the religious questions surrounding abortion. The show was interesting and educational and I am very very sorry to say that the attendance was very very low. I do hope to see a larger attendance at our future programs because we have some interesting programs planned. At this time I do not ask for participation in planning and working for events (even though we would like that). I ask that you come by to our events so that we can learn together and share some of our personal experiences and maybe in that way we can each be just a little bit more free.

Rossann Daumas, President, NOW at UH



### LET NO VOICE ON CAMPUS BE SILENT

How many issues of importance have evolved from the University of Houston? Any that we can recall as the student body? Whatever actions or activities of great causes, have remained within university walls and even then not well recognized. As NOW members, we cannot sit back and remain unnoticed by the university or anyone else. Our forthcoming actions are important and need to be heard.

At the suggestion of the NOW at UH Board of Directors, I have begun putting together a Media List which will include community newspapers, the major city newspapers, radio and television stations and all the outlets on campus. Through these connections, news releases will be sent informing the media of NOW activities. Yet, there are no guarantees that these releases will be announced or covered. I will need your help in accomplishing this effort. With your help we can reach a larger public. Please call me at 928-7075 if you would like to help, or leave a note at the NOW office in the UC.

I would like to thank Bay Area NOW's president, Pat Kuhlmann, for the help given in beginning this project and NOW at UH member Joseph Alva for his help.

Let our voices be heard and none kept silent.

Public Relations Chairperson  
Helen Ortiz

President	Rossann Daumas	924-5177
Treasurer	Gerry Gardner	749-7336
Secretary	Sherrri Forschler (M-F)	645-5213
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Univ.Grps Liason	Karen Dietrich	946-2925
Public Relations	Helen Ortiz	928-7075
Public Affairs	Lucretia Copeland	496-9984
Newletter	Jeanne Sommerfeld	726-9828

### COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT UH

The Committee on the Status of Women is a University sponsored group. Both faculty and students compose this committee and most of the seats mandated for students are still open. This would be good place for feminists to participate both in terms of potential results and personal vitae. Please contact the Student Association, 749-1366, if you would like to participate.

### CHAPTER BYLAWS/OPERATING RULES

Our chapter's operating rules, revised as of 10/14/82 by chapter vote, are NOW printed up and available on request by chapter members in our office in the UC.

## Elizabeth Dole says Reagan boosting women's rights

BY NENE FOXHALL  
Chronicle Political Writer

The woman responsible for providing President Reagan with public feedback to his programs says advocates of women's rights should realize he is helping their cause despite his opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Elizabeth Dole, assistant to the president for public liaison and wife of U.S. Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., said in Houston Tuesday that Reagan has instituted exhaustive efforts to encourage the purge of sex discrimination from existing state and federal laws.

Reagan has advocated this method of improving the legal status of women rather than the constitutional amendment. The deadline to ratify the ERA recently passed without approval of the required number of states, but lawmakers have reintroduced the measure.

Mrs. Dole said a number of Reagan's top assistants participate in a "coordinating council" concerning women's issues. A top priority, she said, has been encouraging all 50 governors to institute a study to locate and rectify by legislation sex discrimination in existing statutes.

Although activist women's groups disagree with Reagan's stand on the ERA, they have exhibited a "real willingness to cooperate" with his efforts, Mrs. Dole said.

"This is not an alternative to the ERA, but it's a means to move forward," she said. "The debate is not for or against the ERA. They know where he stands."

Mrs. Dole said while she has supported the ERA, she supports Reagan's program because it provides an immediate means of improving the status of women.

Mrs. Dole, who serves as liaison not only with women, but with minority groups, labor and business, said her job is to try to develop a consensus on concerns in the private sector, and communicate those concerns to the president.

Among groups with whom she met in Houston were the Houston Business Forum and Women in Energy.

She said improvement to the economy is a key to aiding women. Reagan's efforts to cut taxes and inflation have aided the increasing number of women in the work force, she said.

As for other economic problems, she said, she believes that the public understands "that what took 40 years to create can't be turned around in 40 weeks. They want the president to stay on the course. They know this economy can't be turned around on a dime."

Mrs. Dole said Reagan has pushed institution of tax credits for child care and appointed women to numerous positions of importance.

### NOW at the University of Houston MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and NEWSLETTER REQUEST FORM

(Please check blanks as appropriate for you)

- I wish to join the National Organization for Women, NOW at the University of Houston, Central Campus (Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$11 to \$25. This amount is divided among the Chapter, Texas NOW, and the National. Please send an amount for your dues according to your circumstances.)
- Enclosed are my dues in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (Make your check payable to "NOW at the University of Houston" and send to:  
NOW (Membership), Box 509,  
University Center, 4800 Calhoun  
Houston, TX 77004
- I would like to continue receiving a Courtesy Copy of the Newsletter. (U of H campus mail address only - please use MAIL address as listed in UH phone book.)
- Please discontinue sending me the newsletter.
- I would like to talk to someone to get more information about NOW.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PRECINCT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (from voter registration card)

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (hours)

UH CAMPUS MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(This form can be mailed to us free via CAMPUS MAIL to address above.)



Artwork by Lucretia Copeland

# ACT NOW ACT NOW ACT NOW

## Breaking Out

NOW at UH is planning a formal protest against the University of Houston for its lack of positive image of women on this campus. The Daily Cougar is the most obvious offender because it consistently displays demeaning, sexually provocative pictures of women in its advertising. Individual NOW members have formally complained about the ad policy, only to be told it will be looked into.

At the University of Texas, they've solved this problem by having an advertising policy that prohibits the running of ads that are demeaning to women. We suggest that NOW formally demand the Cougar adopt and enforce this policy.

The Cougar's policy represents only the most obvious mistreatment of women on our campus. Far more insidious is the administration's lack of concern about women. There is no women's studies program here. Courses that cover gender related problems or attempt to correct historical omission in the humanities and social sciences are at best sporadically offered and difficult to find; at worst they are non-existent. Often instructors who support feminist\* education are covertly - even overtly - threatened.

If you believe that women and men on our campus would benefit from a sex-fair educational environment, join us to formulate our platform and demands. (see calendar. Let us know if you have ideas for creative protest - ideas on guerilla theatre, etc.

The title of this article, BREAKING OUT, was inspired by the statue on campus (between AH and SRI) called "Sandy in a Confined Space." We are considering using "Sandy Freed" as our symbol for this protest.

Jeanne Sommerfeld

\* since so many have heard the term "feminist" only in pejorative tones, we feel it is unfortunately still necessary to include the dictionary definition. In the context here, a feminist education means an education based on the principle that women and men should be politically, socially and economically equal.

Our experience as students at UH reveals that we are receiving a predominantly sexist education, where sexism is defined as the principle that males and females are inherently different; that members of one sex should be dominant and the other submissive; that members of one sex should rule and the other be ruled; that laws, practices and institutions should be designed to create, maintain, and enforce such differences.

Jo Ann Evansgardner



## Sporting Event

On November 27th the Chicago Bulls play the Houston Rockets in the Summit. This is probably not the sort of news you expect to find in your NOW University Newsletter. It's in here because of the actions of our "justice" system with respect to one of the Bulls' star players, Quintin Dailey.

Quintin Dailey was the Bulls' number one draft choice in 1982. This means he will be highly paid and rewarded for his basketball skills.

It is important to us because on December 21, 1981, Dailey held a woman captive for over three hours, threatened her with death and forced her to perform sexual acts against her will. Quintin Dailey pleaded guilty to one count of felony - aggravated assault - a plea bargained arrangement.

Neither Dailey, the Bulls, nor the National Basketball Association seems to be at all concerned by Dailey's crime - that is a reflection upon the priorities inherent in sports as commonly practiced today. I think it would be appropriate to join in a Chicago NOW based protest against the Bulls. As a chapter action, we can write letters to the local media and we can picket the game. If you are interested in expressing your rage at continued societal acceptance of violence against women\* PLEASE COME TO THE ACTION PLANNING MEETING. (see calendar)

\*see "TURKEYS")

Jeanne Sommerfeld

## Sexist Classroom Climate

**D**o faculty members create a negative learning atmosphere for women college students through a variety of overt and inadvertent behavior patterns?

Could be, according to a study, "The Classroom Climate: A Chilly One for Women?"

The study, conducted by the Association of American Colleges Project on the Status and Education of Women, asserts that some instructors—of both sexes—are guilty of the following practices: (1) using sexist humor in the classroom; (2) providing women with less informal feedback than men on the intellectual quality of

their work; (3) interrupting women more frequently than men, or permitting women to be interrupted more often than men; (4) asking questions followed by eye contact with men students only; and (5) calling on men students by name more frequently.

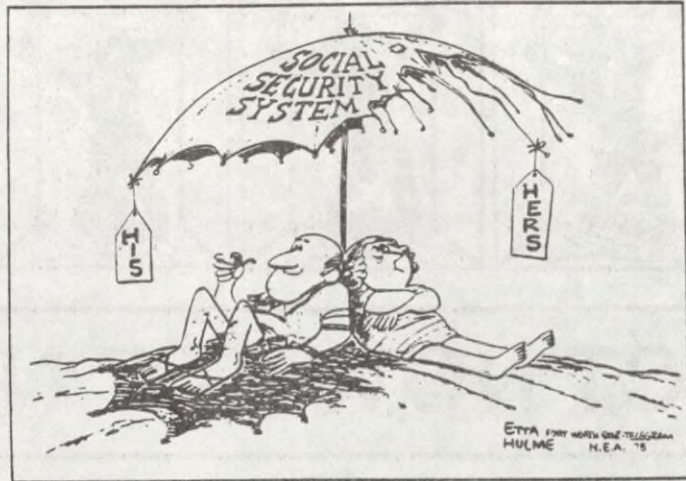
Feminist changes might change this.

# Holidays & Feminism

Jo Ann Evansgardner

THANKSGIVING - What does it make you think of? Autumn leaves? Going home for the holidays? The whole family together, with warmth and affection and lots of catching up on family news and achievements? Real home cooking, with roast stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes only "mom" can make, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, and grandma's special homemade pickles, relishes and canned preserves? Housecleaning, extra beds made up wherever possible, endless "tidying", dishwashing, and the big job of putting everything back to "normal" when all the "folks" are gone? Mediating family quarrels, soothing in-laws "ruffled feathers", trying to maintain a happy, "holiday" atmosphere "they'll always remember"? Avoiding "political" subjects, keeping the conversation general and inclusive, so no one feels left out? Bills, bills bills?

The definition of a 'holiday' (holy + day) as "a religious feast day; any day of exemption from labor or work; a day fixed by law for suspension of business in whole or in part" seldom applies for women, especially mothers, as well as it does for males and young children. Women who "work" and are "homemakers" have a double burden. Even though they bring home an important part of the bacon, they do not enjoy a holiday in anything like the carefree manner of those who are not "homemakers".



Whether you are "going home" or "at home", whether you are a "home-maker" or "the breadwinner", the mother, the father, or the child, remember this as the Thanksgiving "holiday" approaches - no one adequately appreciates the work of "home-makers", especially at holiday time. The most likely case is that her work will be noticed only when it is not done, or done with less than the traditional perfection.

As feminists, let us give conscious attention to this aspect of family life and make Thanksgiving a day our "home-maker" enjoys as much as anyone there.

\* outside the home, of course; what they do in the home is not "work" it is a labor of love.

## May the best candidate win

Women aren't always best bets to help the women's rights movement

BOSTON — Ten years ago, it all seemed fairly straightforward. The goal of assorted women's groups, just entering the political process, was to elect women to office.

The female candidates then were few and far between. So was the money, the support, the clout of these organizations. On the whole, the candidates they supported ran against men, and ran against men who were not friendly to the cause of women's rights.

But by 1982, the list of complications has grown almost as long as the list of women candidates. There are 53 women running for House seats, three running for the Senate, 1,620 running for state legislatures, and their campaigns come in all sizes, shapes and philosophies.

**THE VARIATIONS** on the good woman vs. bad man theme are enormous. There are now women running against women, anti-feminist women running against pro-feminist men, somewhat progressive women running against more progressive men.

The complexity of all this can be seen in the controversy over endorsements. This year, for example, in half-a-dozen congressional races, the largest feminist organization in the country, the National Organization for Women, has supported male Democrats over female Republicans.

In the media aftermath, its leaders have been accused of becoming just a wing of the Democratic Party, dubbed the National Organization for Democrat-



AT LARGE/Elean Goodman

ic Women. But to Eleanore Smeal, the outgoing president of NOW, the charges sound familiar and ironic.

"Two years ago," she remembers, "when NOW came out against the re-nomination of Jimmy Carter, we were charged with being Republicans. Now we're charged with being Democrats. We used to be criticized, 'Why are you only for women?' Now, in half a dozen races, we're supporting men, and we're being criticized for the reverse."

In fact, some of the races were easy calls. NOW wasn't likely to support the congressional candidacy of Republican Ann Bagnell, the Phyllis Schlafly of North Carolina. And they happily endorsed the candidacy of Republican Rep. Claudine Schneider of Rhode Island.

**BUT OTHER ENDORSEMENTS**, other campaigns, do reflect on changing standards and goals.

In the heated race between Republican Margaret Heckler and Democrat

Barney Frank, for example, two incumbent representatives from Massachusetts are running for one redistricted seat.

On one side is Heckler, the ranking woman in Congress, and co-chair of the women's congressional caucus. She is not only one of a handful of pro-ERA Republican women, but over the years she has sponsored significant legislation on women's rights issues.

On the other side is Frank, a man whose record as an advocate of women's rights is shorter but stronger than Heckler's. He has voted for abortion funds when she voted against them. He has voted against Reaganomics when she has voted for it.

Frank especially likes to remind audiences of the time when Heckler submitted a stunning analysis of the impact of the Reagan budget cuts on women and then voted for the budget. "I honestly believe," says Frank, "that by lending support to the anti-woman administration she's doing women more harm than good."

NOW faced a decision. As Smeal says, "We did not target Heckler, we don't want to target her, but when they redistricted we had to make a choice." They had a choice between a man and a woman, a choice between a pro and anti-abortion vote, a choice between a pro and anti-Reagan vote. They chose Frank.

**YET EVEN THAT RACE** was relatively simple compared to the New Jersey race where Republican Millicent Fenwick is running against Democrat

Frank Lautenberg for the Senate. After a good deal of debate, the New Jersey NOW decided to support Lautenberg, the Democrat, while the National Women's Political Caucus decided to support Fenwick, the woman.

As Smeal explains it, NOW's priority is to get rid of a Republican majority in the Senate. "Frankly, there's a fondness toward Fenwick. But the Republican-dominated Senate has been so bad on women's rights . . . we feel we must weigh the balance between the two."

The National Women's Political Caucus has decided to support only women. Beyond that, their priority is bipartisanship. Kathy Wilson, the caucus head, says they remain determined "to get more progressive people elected to both parties."

Yet as Wilson also sees it, "The failure of our success is that as more women run they are not always running against targeted men. We are also running against our friends."

**THE CONFLICTS** of this election are likely to multiply in the decades ahead. Sex lines, party lines, policy lines form complicated, overlapping political patterns. Is it more in our interest to have a woman in office, more in our interest to change the composition of a party, more in our interest to get behind a particular piece of policy?

These are decisions that now can only be made case by case, race by race. The days of the class action are over.

Goodman is a columnist for The Boston Globe.

Jeanne Sommerfeld & Jo Ann Evansgardner

The original impetus for this article was to include some relevant feminist history to do with the Thanksgiving season. Well, we could not come up with any feminist Pilgrims off the top of our collective head.

But we did come up with this format to highlight some of the modern day turkeys of this holiday season along with a few reasons for feminists to give thanks. (The bad outweighs the good in our selection, but we'd love for you to send us your own contributions -- including any feminist Pilgrims!)

Artwork by Joseph Alva

## Turkeys

Judge William J. Beer, who delayed sentencing a convicted rapist for one year "to see how he will act in society" saying he wanted to give the rapist "the opportunity to prove his eligibility for probation" although he also noted that the evidence "left no doubt in my mind that he had committed the rape." (Houston Chronicle, 10/20/82)

William Boam, who wants to sell "Nude Beer" with a picture of a "full body, .. female and unclothed". Boam said, "I got the idea when I was going through a divorce three years ago and stopped by a store to pick up a six pack and a copy of Playboy. I walked out thinking 'Gee, I could combine these two things'." (Houston Chronicle, 10/21/82)

American Multiple Industries, producers of a video game called "Custer's Revenge" in which players score points by sexually assaulting an Indian maiden. "In the game, players score points by maneuvering a figure of Gen. George Custer through a Western scene to the figure of an Indian maiden tied to a stake, then having Custer sexually assault her." (Houston Post, 10/82) (Ed. Note: By their games ye shall know them)

Cibco Importing Co., (Carta Blanca & Tecate beers) for their "media message that women are for "popping", "squeezing" and "shaking", Sazerac Co. (Torada Tequila), Two Fingers Tequila, for their sexually demeaning ads, and The University of Houston and The Daily Cougar for administrative policies which encourage and maintain second class status for women students, faculty and staff. And like Judith Oppenheimer (University Newsletter, 10/82) we are not going to permit this without fighting back. (See "Breaking Out" elsewhere in this issue.)

Kent County (MI) Probate Judge Randall Hekman who said, after denying a pregnant 13 year old's request for an abortion, "Eventually she will have what she desires - an end to her pregnancy." ... "I find it impossible not to give regard for this totally innocent and defenseless creature that is within the womb of this lady(sic)" (but) "The U. S. Supreme Court would limit me to only looking to what the girl's interests were..." (Houston Chronicle, 10/21/82) We have seen this attitude before in Michigan. It results in cases like that of a raped 11 year old who was denied an abortion and a year later was, as a mother, brought to court accused of child abuse. The case has been resolved by a ruling which "held that she is incapable of caring for the 8 month old child and must relinquish custody to a foster parent." (Houston Chronicle, 10/28/82)

New Jersey Superior Court Judge Richard Barlow, Jr., who freed 500 lb. Joseph "Jo-Jo" Giorgianni, convicted of raping a 14 year old on the ground that prison conditions were so stressful they might kill him. (Houston Chronicle, 1982)

Houston Police Force which allowed 10 women to be kidnapped and gang raped over a period of 90 days before they formed a special squad in an effort to stop the "gang's spree of abductions and sexual attacks". (Houston Chronicle, 9/24/82)

continued on page 6

## Thanksgiving

for the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court which asked the State Court Administrator to refrain from assigning any criminal cases to Judge William J. Beer. The request came after Rep. Donald Gilmer, (R-Augusta) learned that Beer had been scheduled to return to Kalamazoo County Court. Gilmer called several other legislators and the Chief Supreme Court Justice Mary Coleman to protest Beer's assignment. (Houston Chronicle, 10/20/82)

for Manuel Espinoza, assistant director of regulatory affairs for the California Alcoholic Beverage Control board who denied permission to sell "Nude Beer" in California. (Houston Chronicle, 10/21/82)

for Atari which has announced plans to sue to stop American Multiple Industries from marketing "Custer's Revenge" and two other sexually oriented games and for the protest march organized by NOW, Asian-American Pacific Association and the American Indian Movement. (Houston Post, 10/82)

U. S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer, who ruled that section 21.06 of the state penal code violates homosexuals' rights to privacy and to equal protection under the law. "The right of privacy does extend to private sexual conduct between consenting adults - whether husband and wife, unmarried males and females or homosexuals - and the right of equal protection condemns a state statute which prohibits homosexual sodomy, without any rational basis." (Houston Chronicle, 8/18/82)

for Pagedale Missouri, a St. Louis suburb which elected an all female as well as an all black city government. A standing-room-only crowd packed the meeting room and roared approval when the new officials took their seats, completing a turn-around in power from an all-white city government in 1977. (Houston Chronicle, 5/16/82)

for the members of the U. S. Senate, who repeatedly defeated attempts to overturn the Supreme Court Roe v. Wade Decision, recognizing, as Senator Packwood put it, that women "have a constitutional right to make the decision for themselves whether they want an abortion" Especially for Lowell Weicker who led the filibuster against the infamous Jesse Helms.

for Harriett Wood,(MO), up-front feminist candidate for the U. S. Senate who has confounded all the experts by supporting the right to choose and coming up a winner in the Democratic primary. We think she'll win next Tuesday.

for Miss Manners, who on the Today Show when asked what was the proper salutation for a business letter when one does not know the sex of the intended recipient, replied that since in the past letters addressed to "Sir" were assumed to include any woman recipient, we should NOW address business letters "Madame" and let any men who receive it assume that they are included.

continued on page 6



## Turkeys continued from page 5

County Court Judge Louis B. Scheinman, who ruled that a former anti-abortion leader's six month sentence for statutory rape involving his 14 year old foster daughter should be served on weekends. Defending the decision, the Judge said, "Here's a man who was the pillar of the community and suddenly this comes to light.." (Houston Chronicle, 7/28/82) (Ed. note: One man's "pillar of the community" was one child's "destroyer".)

William L. Reinecke, a "law and order" judge who called a 5 year old sexual assault victim "an unusually sexually promiscuous young lady(sic)" and sentenced the perpetrator to a 90 day work-release jail term and probation for the first degree sexual assault conviction. (Houston Chronicle, 5/11/82)

Larry Ingram, state director of Human Services in New Mexico who, faced with a cut in federal funding, ruled that battered but unmarried women aren't eligible for state-funded stays at shelters, despite the fact that over 50% of the women who seek help from shelters are not married. "You have to draw the line somewhere" Ingram said. (Houston Chronicle, 5/1/82)

The Central Conference of American Rabbis, representing 1,400 Reform clergy serving congregations totaling 1.2 million rejected, 179-168, the recommendation by their committee to change the "age-old Jewish rule that a person is regarded a born Jew only if his (sic) mother is of that faith. If the father is Jewish but the mother is not, the child is regarded as outside the fold, under the rule. (Houston Chronicle, 6/30/82) (Ed. Note: Sex discrimination is sin, regardless.)

A bank in Prodenone, Italy, which denied checking accounts to two women because they wrote on the application for that they were prostitutes. (Houston Chronicle, 10/21/82) (Ed. note: Honesty was clearly not the best policy.)

Col. Jerry W. Ginn, of The U. S. Army, who said on the occasion of the end of the four-year practice of combined male-female basic training, "I think it was a proven fact that it worked -- the only thing the female soldiers can't do right now is the same number of sit-ups, push-ups or run as fast." However, some women with athletic backgrounds join the Army. "Some of them, pardon the expression, are jocks." (Houston Chronicle, 10/18/82) (Ed. note: Damned if we don't and damned if we do!)

Raymon Bynum, Texas Education Commissioner, who has directed publishers of health education texts to delete all reference to venereal diseases in elementary and junior high school books. In so doing, according to Michael Hudson, TX coordinator of People for the American Way, Bynum has by-passed the curriculum adoption process in which "...educators from all across the state have spent six months reviewing the books, screening thousands of pages of written comments and many hours in public hearings only to have their decision summarily overturned .. nowhere in the hearing record or in the proclamation issued by the state board is there any basis for this total deletion." (Houston Chronicle, 10/28/82)

U. S. District Judge D. Dortch Warriner, who ruled that the U. S. Education Department cannot investigate the University of Richmond's (VA) athletic department for Title IX sexual discrimination because the athletic department receives no federal funds. Federal officials had argued that the law makes no distinction as to whether the specific program being investigated receives federal funds, but the Judge said the Education Department "should not in the future endeavor to investigate, regulate or coerce" programs at colleges and universities which do not receive direct federal financial aid. (Houston Chronicle, 7/10/82)

## Thanksgiving continued from page 5

for Kathy Whitmire, Mayor of Houston.

for the public pressure that caused James T. Robinson, senior at SMU, to first change the name of his student organization from The Association of White Students to Students for Equality, and on further pressure to disband the group altogether. Let's also give thanks for the SMU officials who when James complained that the golf team was for women only, pointed out that the women did not have a football team. (Houston Chronicle, 10/21/82)

for Naomi Weisstein for writing "Tired of Arguing About Biological 'Inferiority'?: The Truth about Sociobiology" (SEE THIS MONTH'S MS. MAGAZINE)

for the up front feminism demonstrated by Billie Jean King who refused to yield to extortionate demands of an ex-lover, thus publicly acknowledging her affair with a woman.

for the NATIONAL COALITION OF AMERICAN NUNS, (NCAN) which issued a statement opposing the Hatch Act, giving reasons which outlined the irrationality of this infamous act, called for changes in the behavior of men as well as women, and emphasized that "we are likewise convinced that the responsibility for decisions in this regard resides primarily with those who are directly and personally involved. We should be thankful for NCAN not only because their statement shows that no institution is monolithic, but because it shows that any person or group can over come traditional misogynous teaching and dogma if the debate is open and a concern for women as human beings exists. The full statement is available from JAnnEvansgardner.

## ...and still more turkeys

The Harris County District Attorney's Office for plea bargaining with Eugene Coral Watts who by now has admitted killing over 30 women. While they had solid evidence in one case (caught in the act of attempted murder) and grave suspicions in a series of local women's murders, these officials plea bargained the crime he would be formally accused of to burglary, giving him immunity from any charge of murder in exchange for information on murders they suspected he had committed. Compare this treatment of Watts to that accorded Wayne Williams. On very slender evidence indeed, this suspected killer of male children was placed under continuous surveillance and every possibility of incriminating evidence vigorously pursued, ultimately resulting in a conviction of murder. In Atlanta, outrage at the death of black children developed quickly and the black community kept the pressure on until the killing was stopped and a murderer convicted. In Houston, 40+ women have been murdered but there is no public outcry. There is not even any comment that a psychotic, self proclaimed woman-hater and mass killer will go to prison for a comparatively trivial crime.

### Life Expectancy

**T**he life expectancy for men in the U.S.—69.5 years in 1978, when last computed—will break the 70-year mark in this decade and reach

71.9 by 1990. Female life expectancy—77.2 years in 1978—will reach 80 by 1990. The female-male life expectancy gap of about eight years will continue. The figures come from Jim Brown of the Social Security Administration.

## TOWARD A WOMAN CENTERED UNIVERSITY

by Adrienne Rich

There are two ways in which a woman's integrity is likely to be undermined by the process of university education. This education is, of course, yet another stage in the process of her entire education, from her earliest glimpses of television at home to the tracking and acculturating toward "femininity" that become emphatic in high school. But when a woman is admitted to higher education -- particularly graduate school -- it is often made to sound as if she enters a sexually neutral world of "disinterested" and "universal" perspectives. It is assumed that co-education means the equal education, side by side, of women and men. Nothing could be further from the truth; and nothing could more effectively seal a woman's sense of her secondary value in a man-centered world than her experience as a "privileged" woman in the university -- if she knows how to interpret what she lives daily.

In terms of the content of her education, there is no discipline that does not obscure or devalue the history and experience of women as a group. What Otto Rank said of psychology has to be said of every other discipline, including the "neutral" sciences; it is "not only man-made...but masculine in its mentality." Will it seem, in 40 years, astonishing that a book should have been written in 1946 with the title WOMAN AS FORCE IN HISTORY? Mary Beard's title does not seem bizarre to us now. Outside of women's studies, though liberal male professors may introduce material about women into their courses, we live with textbooks, research studies, scholarly sources, and lectures that treat women as a subspecies, mentioned only as peripheral to the history of men. In every discipline where we are considered, women are perceived as the objects rather than the originators of inquiry, thus primarily through male eyes, thus a special category.

That the true business of civilization has been in the hands of men is the lesson absorbed by every student of the traditional sources. How this came to be, and the process that kept it so, may well be the most important question for the self-understanding and survival of the human species; but the extent to which civilization has been built on the bodies and services of women -- unacknowledged, unpaid, and unprotected in the main -- is a subject apparently unfit for scholarly decency. The witch persecutions of the 14th through the 17th centuries, for example, involved one of the great historic struggles -- a class struggle and a struggle for knowledge -- between the illiterate but practiced female healer and the beginnings of an aristocratic *nouveau science*, between the powerful patriarchal Church and enormous numbers of peasant women, between the pragmatic experience of the wise woman and the superstitious practices of the early male medicine.

The phenomena of woman-fear and woman-hatred illuminated by these centuries of gynocide are with us still; certainly a history of psychology or history of science that was not hopelessly one-sided would have to confront and examine this period and its consequences. Like the history of slave revolts, the history of women's resistance to domination awaits discovery by the offspring of the dominated. The chronicles, systems, and investigations of the humanities and the sciences are in fact a collection of half-truths and lacunae that have worked enormous damage to the ability of the sexes to understand themselves and one another.

If this is changing within the rubric of women's studies, it is doing so in the face of prejudice, contempt, and outright obstruction. If it is true that the culture recognized and transmitted by the University has been predominantly white Western culture, it is also true that within black and Third

World studies the emphasis is still predominantly masculine, and the female perspective needs to be fought for and defended there as in the academy at large.

I have been talking about the content of the university curriculum, that is, the mainstream of the curriculum. Women in colleges where a women's studies program already exists, or where feminist courses are beginning to be taught, still are often made to feel that the "real" curriculum is the male-centered one; that women's studies are (like Third World studies) a "fad"; that feminist teachers are "unscholarly," "unprofessional," or "dykes." But the content of courses and programs is only the more concrete form of undermining experienced by the woman student. More invisible, less amenable to change by committee proposal or fiat, are the hierarchical image, the structure of relationships, even the style of discourse, including assumptions about theory and practice, ends and means, process and goal.

The university is above all a hierarchy. At the top is a small cluster of highly paid and prestigious persons, chiefly men, whose careers entail the services of a very large base of ill-paid or unpaid persons, chiefly women: wives, research assistants, secretaries, teaching assistants, cleaning women, waitresses in the faculty club, lower-echelon administrators, and women students who can be used in various ways to gratify the ego. Each of these groups of women sees itself as distinct from the others, as having different interests and a different destiny. The student may become a research assistant; the wife may act as secretary or personal typist for her husband, or take a job as lecturer or minor administrator; the graduate may, if she demonstrates unusual brilliance and carefully follows the rules, rise higher into the pyramid, where she loses her identification with teaching fellows, as the wife forgets her identification with the student or secretary she may once have been.

The waitress or cleaning woman has no such mobility, and it is rare for other women in the university, beyond a few socially aware or feminist students, to support her if she is on strike or unjustly fired. Each woman in the university is defined by her relationship to the men in power instead of her relationship to other women up and down the scale.

Now, this fragmentation among women is merely a replication of the fragmentation from each other that women undergo in the society outside; in accepting the premise that advancement and security -- even the chance to do one's best work -- lie in propitiating & identifying with men who have some power, we have always found ourselves in competition with each other and blinded to our common struggles. This fragmentation and the invisible demoralization it generates work constantly against the intellectual and emotional energies of the woman student.

The hidden assumptions on which the university is built comprise more than simply a class system. In a curious and insidious way the "work" of a few men -- especially in the more scholarly and prestigious institutions -- becomes a sacred value in whose name emotional and economic exploitation of women is taken for granted. The distinguished professor may understandable like comfort and even luxury and his ego require not merely a wife and secretary but an au pair firmly, teaching assistant, programmer, and student mistress; but the justification for all this service is the almost religious concept of "his work." (Those few women who rise to the top of their professions seem in general to get along with less, to get their work done along with the cooking, personal laundry, and mending without the support of a retinue.)

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HAZELWITCH PRODUCTIONS

### SLIDE SHOW BY J E B

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
Slide Show: 8:30 p.m.

Treebeard's  
315 Travis  
on Old Market Square

\$ 10  
(\$5 for slide show only)

We have reserved an entire restaurant just for our women friends, to share each other's company, enjoy a meal together, and experience a very special slide show.

To start, we will chow down on Treebeard's delicious Cajun food. Then, JEB, a photographer from Washington, D.C., will narrate her outstanding slide show: *Lesbian Images in Photography, 1850-1980*.

7:30pm Tuesday, November 23, 1982  
 University of Houston, Central Campus  
 (Location to be announced)

Color film from Cambridge Documentary Films which analyzes one of the most powerful sources in our society. Covers objection of femininity and masculininity, victimizing of children, tyranny of "ideal beauty", limiting of role and career options, glorification of violence against women.

KILLING US SOFTLY:  
 Advertising's Image of Women

NOW at UH presents:

NOW at the University of Houston  
 4800 Calhoun, Box 509 University Center  
 Houston, TX 77004



FIRST CLASS MAIL

November 1982

## Calendar

Day/Date	Time	Event
Tues 9	noon	Brown Bag Meeting - UC Satellite Apollo Room
Wed 10	5:30pm	Action Planning - Tejas Room, UC
Thur 11	noon	"Women Leadership" UH Women's Network - UC Satellite
Wed 17	5:30pm	Action Planning - Cascade Room, UC
" "	4:00pm	movie - <u>NORMA RAE</u> UC Satellite
" "	10:00pm	" " UC Pacific Room
Tues 23	noon	Brown Bag Meeting - UC Satellite Apollo Room
" "	7:30	Chapter program meeting = Movie <u>KILLING US SOFTLY: Advertising's Image of Women</u> (Room to be announced)

WATCH FOR NOW INFORMATION TABLES ON NOV 10 & 16,  
 (11-2 UC front) NOV. 11 & 18 (11-2 UC Satellite)  
 Coordinators are needed. Call Rossann or JoAnn to  
 volunteer. PLEASE STOP BY TO HELP RECRUIT AND INFORM  
 even if you can't coordinate.



JUDY GOLDSMITH, newly elected president of the National Organization for Women, said the ERA failed with three states still needed for ratification because "the system did not work. Legislators cynically refused to support it on the basis of no good reasons. We decided we would not beg anymore. We are not going back there again until there are representative bodies that we can reasonably deal with."