



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)

January, 1982

Volume 2, #1

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

NOW at the University of Houston, Founded 1981.
M. J. Sommerfeld, President
E. G. Feld, Treasurer
R. Daumas, Membership
J. Evansgardner, Public Relations
S. Forschler, Action Team Coordinator

CELEBRATION

ANATOMY IS NOT NECESSARILY DESTINY

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court decided the case of Roe v. Wade. The result guarantees to women the right to early abortions under the constitutional right to privacy (although it allows states to regulate in the interests of the pregnant woman in the second trimester and holds that states may have a compelling state interest in prohibiting abortions to preserve the fetus' life during the third trimester.) The decision represents a monumental step forward for equality between the sexes. Until women have complete control over their reproductive lives, they will never have control over their destiny as individuals.

However, the far-right led by the Catholic Hierarchy and religious fundamentalists, has coalesced on this issue and bitterly fought to eliminate/reduce this choice and many others available to women now. They have produced and disseminated large quantities of propaganda and misinformation on the subject. Several groups are holding film programs, etc. on this campus.

To help maintain the rights recognized by Roe v. Wade and to counter the anti-choice propoganda, we are organizing a workshop to be held on Saturday, January 23rd. But we intend to cover the field of reproductive health broadly rather than limiting our attention to abortion, since each woman's control over her destiny requires knowledge and understanding of both the reproductive processes and the medical empire that has grown up around it (and is still virtually entirely in the hands of traditionally sexist persons.)

According to Virginia Woolf, it is necessary for a woman "to have five hundred a year and a room with a lock on the door if you are to write fiction or poetry." This statement holds true as well for visual arts, dance or theatre, and scholarly endeavor. Unfortunately, it holds as true now as it did in 1928. (Too many of us know this fact through experience.)

So this month's program meeting will be a celebration of women's art and a reception. There are two aims to having a reception celebrating women's art. The first is to provide a forum in which to display feminist art and to celebrate the striving and the success in the production of this art. The reception will enable us to introduce NOW to the campus and let people know what our organization stands for. If you would like to help in the planning, organizing and production of this program, PLEASE call me, 521-2824.

Some of the suggested workshops include:
Legislative Outlook (Local, State and National)
Pros and Cons of Available Birth Control
Midwifery
Women's Self Health
History of Reproductive Rights in the United States

Other possibilities might include:
International Reproductive Rights
Reflection on Art Produced by Women
Relating to Their Reproductive Processes.

The holiday and between term break have slowed down work on this project. WE NEED HELP. To make your contribution in making this important project a success, call me, (521-2824) or JoAnn (741-4009.)

Jeanne Sommerfeld & JoAnn Evansgardner

IT'S STILL TRUE:

**DON'T
AGONIZE
ORGANIZE!**



Wednesday, December 16, 1981

Pope rejects pleas to reconsider ban on birth control

Chronicle News Services

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II rejected requests from American bishops that he reappraise the Roman Catholic Church's ban on artificial birth control or the church's prohibition against giving the sacraments to divorced Catholics who remarry.

However, John Paul said that some Catholics who have been divorced and remarried can receive the sacraments of the church — provided that they refrain from sexual relations with their new spouse.

In rejecting the request from the American bishops Tuesday, John Paul said the truth "is not always the same as the majority opinion."

The papal statement was part of a response to 43 secret recommendations made by the church's world synod of bishops last year.

During the month-long meeting, some of the American bishops asked for a reappraisal of the contraception policy, saying those who violate the ban on artificial methods are often conscientious Catholics.

They cited surveys indicating that 76.5 percent of Catholic women in the United States use some type of artificial birth control method and only 29 percent of the Catholic priests in the United States believe such contraception is immoral.

John Paul, however, rejected granting his approval to such a reappraisal. He said use of artificial contraception, such as the birth control pill, "degrades human sexuality" by permitting couples to act as "arbiters of the divine plan." He reiterated the Catholic Church's stance that the only birth control favored by the church is the so-called rhythm method of sexual abstinence during a woman's fertile period.

On a related topic, John Paul said that the Catholic Church condemns "as a grave offense against human dignity and justice all those activities of governments or other public authorities which attempt to limit in any way the freedom of couples in deciding about children."

He added: "Consequently any violence applied by such authorities in favor of contraception or, still worse, of sterilization and procured abortion, must be altogether condemned and forcefully rejected."

The 167-page document also made these points:

- "Trial marriages" are unacceptable because they amount to "an experiment with human beings."
- Pastors should not turn down couples asking to be married in church for motives which are social rather than religious unless they reject "explicitly and formally what the church intends to do."

6B./The Houston Post/Sun., Dec. 20, 1981 ★

Sex bias claimed

Girl, parents sue Cub Scouts for throwing her out of troop

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — The parents of a 9-year-old girl who "needs to be a survivor" go to court this week to press a suit over her ouster from the Cub Scouts.

The parents of Marystephanie Constantikes — "Toffie" to friends and family — filed the federal sex discrimination suit against the Boy Scouts of America when she was booted out of the group after nearly a year.

"She won all the main awards and even got the Silver Arrow for outstanding achievement in the Cub Scouts," said her mother, Joy Constantikes.

When Marystephanie won the Pinewood Derby, in which the scouts carve cars from wood and race them down an incline, "that really cemented her place in the troop," said Mrs. Constantikes.

The ouster came when Marystephanie wanted to go with her brother, who also was a Cub Scout, to summer day camp this year.

"We filled out the papers and sent them in along with the money," said her father, John Constantikes, an attorney. "Then we got a letter from the Scouts and our money back. The letter said they hadn't known that Marystephanie was a girl."

When she joined she filled out three sets of papers with her name on them. One went to the national, one to the regional and one to the local. They are trying now to say they didn't know she was a girl."

Her father filed the \$250,000 sex discrimination on Marystephanie's behalf against the Boy Scouts of America, the Cub Scouts of America and the Last Frontier Council.

The Boy Scouts don't see it as sex discrimination.

"The issue from our point of view has nothing to do with sex discrimination," said Scout spokesman Brantly Hudson. "We are a private membership

organization and as such are able to determine our membership requirements."

Hudson said the decision to bar Marystephanie was not a matter of local judgment but "is based on national policies and decisions."

He said girls are permitted in the Explorer program, which is open to youths from high school through age 20. There are programs for younger girls similar to the Cub Scouts, he added.

"The Cub Scout program was started in the 1930s as a program designed to meet the emerging emotional, psychological and physical needs of young boys," Hudson said. "It's been constantly updated and modernized with the help of nationally prominent psychologists and educators who have advised us the emerging emotional, psychological and physical needs of boys differ from those of girls."

Marystephanie was in the Bluebirds, a girls' organization, for a year. "But I didn't like it," she said. "All we did was learn to keep house, to cook and sew. I know how to do that."

Her mother said Marystephanie got interested in the Cub Scouts because she liked the activities her brother was involved in. Both her mother and father said Scout leaders on the local level had no objections to Marystephanie's participation in the Cub Scouts.

Her mother and father say they are not out to break down all sexual barriers, but that they feel the old male-female stereotyped roles are outdated.

"We really believe Marystephanie needs the things she could learn in the Cub Scouts," Mrs. Constantikes said. "She needs to be taught to be a survivor. There are many one-parent families, and she needs to know how to do the things that girls traditionally aren't taught."

Friedan's New Book

Dear Spokeswoman:

Recently, the *New York Times Magazine* published a substantial excerpt from Betty Friedan's new book, *The Second Stage*, which "critiques feminism and calls for new directions."

I view much of what she wrote as an insult to most feminists, as matronizing and as too conciliatory to patriarchy and the so-called "moral majority" (which is neither).

The *New York Times Magazine* did not choose to publish my letter to the editor, but I hope you will publish it in *Spokeswoman*.

Wilma Scott Heide

Editor's Note: Spokeswoman publishes the following letter because it clearly presents some of the limitations of Friedan's words, which are considered by many readers to be inaccurate and damaging:

Editor

New York Times Magazine
229 West 43rd St.
New York, NY 10036

Dear Editor:

This letter is for the Letters Section. Please publish.

In Betty Friedan's recent critique of feminism and call for "new directions," I think she projects her own earlier relatively limited

understanding of the implications of feminism onto the thousands of other feminists who have long understood what feminism portends.

We always knew that "sexual politics" never meant man, meaning males per se or all males, were "the enemy" as she alleges. It was and is patriarchal values, androcentric practices, dominance of "masculine" principles over "feminine" principles and the institutionalized oppression and privatization of women in politics, education, religion, media, health care, family, just for openers.

It was and is a male-oriented and dominated society that sanctions: rape of all kinds, pornography, women-beating, unequal economic opportunity and pay, sexist language, unshared child care, medical (patriarchal) models of so-called health care, religions where God is characterized as male and therefore the male is God, politics that characterizes "women's issues" as separate and unequal instead of

Sen. Schmitz did lose the Chair, JAN. 1982

the accurate central, integral human issues, compulsory heterosexuality and pregnancy (bedrocks of patriarchy).

Betty should accurately use the word *I* (meaning B.F.) instead of *we* to characterize what she interprets as the "first stage."

Betty is premature about the "second stage" because she almost implies that the "first stage" is accomplished. For hundreds of thousands of us, feminism always meant that what she calls the "second stage" was an integral prerequisite to feminist transformations.

This means we insisted not only in changes in casts of characters in the world that is our home, but changes in scripts in employment, in law, in politics, in international affairs, in health care, in media, in art, in sexuality, in conflict resolution, in re-definitions as well as distributions of power.

Finally, feminists have never eschewed families in the generic sense of social units and environments where people nurture and are nurtured.

We reject the white patriarchal model of family which oppresses women and children and represses the "feminine" potential of men (and oppression is not to be equated with repression).

Most feminists: never saw women's liberation only as individual freedom to be and become, though that is vital; always realized feminism could liberate men from stereotyped limitations; and crucially realized feminism's imperative and potential to move beyond the terrors and destructions of patriarchy and androcentricity militarily and in all social institutions of society.

We always knew "the personal is political and vice versa." Betty states that "men may be — must be — at the cutting edge" of what she calls the "second stage." Wrong.

Men may share in the "cutting edge" of what are still the first and abiding stages but *only* on feminist terms that include the power of love, in the sense of caring about ourselves and others, exceeding the love of power.

These are not "new directions," but continuing values transformations always affirmed and portended by feminism. I would like to hope that Betty and the men come to know this.

Wilma Scott Heide
Professor, Women's Studies and
Innovative & Experimental Studies
Sangamon State University
Springfield, IL 62708

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We think Betty Friedan's latest work, *The Second Stage* is controversial - here is one comment from NOW's third national President and founder of Pittsburgh NOW. It was published by *SPOKESWOMAN* November, 1981. There is also a lengthy review by Catharine Stimson in the December 1981 issue of *Ms. Magazine*.

AGONIZE...

No Comment

According to a widely distributed "confidential memo" written by David N. O'Steen, Director of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, for consideration by key "pro-life" leaders, a two amendment strategy will ban abortion:

"The two amendment strategy almost follows the old adage to 'walk softly and carry a big stick.' The first amendment, which is the key to destroying the abortion establishment, is phrased 'softly' and will be virtually impossible for the opposition to attack using their 'stop HLA' game plan. By the time they have recovered from the disaster

ray this strategy will cast them into, we will be well on our way to passing protective legislation to literally put them out of business by destroying both their financial case [base?] and their place in American society. By contrast the HLB strategy may result in more headlines and controversy, but is very vulnerable to the pro-abortion courts and is likely to result in nothing for the children.

"Further, the HLB strategy seems to be a diversion away from the amendment process and is likely to stop serious progress towards any constitutional amendment until it is struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court."

ORGANIZED!

Statement attacks pro-abortionists DEC. 1981

Comments could cost senator chairmanship

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (UPI) — State Sen. John Schmitz, R-Corona Del Mar, could be removed as chairman of his Committee on Constitutional Amendments for his description of pro-abortion forces as Jews and homosexuals.

Schmitz on Tuesday described recent committee hearings on his anti-abortion proposed constitutional amendment in a press release headlined, "Senator Schmitz and his Committee Survive the 'Attack of the Bulldozers.'"

Senate President Pro Tem David Roberti, D-Los Angeles, said in a statement: "Sen. Schmitz's injection of religion and sexual orientation into his official statement on hearings of his Constitutional Amendments Committee is shocking and distressing. I will bring up the matter of his continued tenure as chairman of that committee at the next regular meeting of the (Senate) Rules Committee."

Roberti is chairman of the five-member rules panel, which approves all committee chairmanships.

Schmitz is no stranger to controversy and extreme statements. He recently suggested that a military coup might be required to save the nation if President Reagan's policies fail.

His Constitutional Amendments Committee held four hearings this month on the legislation proposed by Schmitz, who is a leader of the John Birch Society and

a hopeful for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate next year.

"With the exception of the Calexico hearings — which were held in Catholic, and therefore somewhat civilized territory — the committee was greeted (at Fresno and San Diego) by pre-organized infestations of imported lesbians and anti-male and pro-abortion queer groups in San Francisco and other centers of decadence," Schmitz said.

"At Los Angeles, the front rows of the state auditorium were filled with seas of hard, Jewish and (arguably) female faces whose general countenance reassured those of us on the Committee dias that had we somehow fallen from the stage we would have been devoured as so many carcasses thrown to the piranha."

"At Los Angeles, the chairman was molested by a slick butch lawyeress, Gloria Allred, who threw a chastity belt at me in a crude propaedeutic (sic) to the mass abortions which continue in California at a cost to the state taxpayers of over \$100,000 a day."

Ms. Allred said: "It's the kind of statement I would expect to come from a Nazi. It's anti-semitic and anti-human rights throughout. It confirms my suspicions that Sen. Schmitz harbors these beliefs."

Ms. Allred mockingly gave Schmitz a chastity belt, she said, because the Schmitz measure would ban intrauterine devices and some other methods of birth control.

NOW Calendar - January, 1981
When - Where - What: This Month in NOW at University Of Houston

Mon 11	7:00 pm - 7:00 pm	UC* - Chapter Business Meeting
Thur 14	7:00 pm - 7:00 pm	UC - Planning Session for Reproductvrts Wrkshop
Wed 20	7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	UC - Planning Session for Reproductvrts Wrkshop
Fri 22	7:30 pm - 7:30 pm	World Affairs Room UC Underground - Program
Sat 23	9 am - 4 pm	World Affairs Room and adjoining rooms
Sun 24	9 am - 5 pm	Seismic Acoustics Lab Rm 18 call 741-4009
Wed 27	7:00 pm - 7:00 pm	NEMSWLETTER Collating, Folding, Stapling, etc. and planning for PROTEST ACTION
Fri or Sat	29 - 30	PROTEST ACTION

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THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (Complete Text)



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN, NOW, Inc.
NOW at the University of Houston
4800 Calhoun, Box 509 University Center
Houston, TX 77004



Photo by John E. Verrett, Chronicle Staff

FIRST FEMINIST MAYOR OF HOUSTON

What is important about Kathryn J. Whitmire is not that she is the first female mayor of Houston, but that she is the first recognized feminist* mayor of Houston and perhaps of any major city in the United States. Feminists who are newcomers to Houston may not be aware that she was a founder of the Houston Feminist Federal Credit Union, was an early and active member of the Texas Women's Political Caucus and an effective speaker for Texas Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Jo Ann Evansgardner

* Dictionaries define a feminist as a person who advocates such changes as will result in political, social and economic equality between women and men.