

# N.O.W. NEWS

Bay Area Chapter  
National Organization for Women



Volume IV, No. 4, April, 1976

LET'S GET  
TOGETHER  
for  
APRIL FOOL'S DAY!

No program or business meeting--just come to the Usual Meeting Place and rap with feminists! We feel that it's been too long since we've had time to see each other as friends. Conversations are guaranteed to be stimulating and delightful. Where is "the Movement" going? What should our chapter priorities be? How is your life going? Let's face it: womanspeak is always great, regardless of its image as "gossip."

Come alone or bring a friend. Wine and snacks will be provided. Pre-siding officers are Ann Smith (488-6213) and Linda Eichblatt (488-4382).

Where: The Uniting Church, Reseda at El Camino Real.

When: 8:00 p.m., Thursday, April 1.

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## NOW CALENDAR

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- April 1 Bay Area NOW Chapter Meeting & April Fool's Day Celebration, Uniting Church of CLC, 8 pm. Do something odd - pay your dues!
- April 2-3 "Move, Sisters, Move," play by Stand Up Sisters Feminist Theater, First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, donation \$2.
- April 3 Special election for U.S. representative from this district to fill Bob Casey's position. Look at the issues in this important race between Bob Gammage and Ron Paul and VOTE.
- April 14 "Pageant of American Women" presented by SW Houston NOW for the CLC Branch of AAUW, Rooms C-D, CLC Rec Center, Ramada and Diana, 7:30 pm. FREE.
- April 17 NOW State Council, Public Library, Huntsville, Tx. 10 am. State Convention planning session.
- April 24-25 NOW Southern Regional Conference, Atlanta, Ga. These conferences emphasize learning, sharing of ideas and information with many other chapters. Call Frances Hicks (488-8574) re lodging, etc.
- May 15-16 ERA National Mobilization - people from all over the country will gather in Springfield, Illinois in a national demonstration of support for ERA.
- May 29-30 "Spirit of Equality '76" - State Convention of Texas NOW. Plan to attend; see details, page
- June 12-13 or 19-20. Feminism in Rural America Conference, coordinated by Knoxville, Tenn. NOW. For information, or to offer help, write Judy Goans, 9237 Guyot Dr., Knoxville, Te. 37922.

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Residing Officers for April: Sonia Doty (474-2691) and Jeanne Saletan (471-2862)

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## Summary of March 4, 1976 Program and Business Meeting

Guest speaker Billie Carr spoke on "Feminist Political Involvement, How and Why?" Billie reviewed how she became involved in politics (through the encouragement of female Democratic leader Frankie Randolph), and her role in political organizing at state and national levels. She stressed the importance of political participation by women and particularly by feminists at all levels. The present political situation in Texas and the nation was discussed in terms of the primaries and the candidates.

Business meeting, chaired by Frances Hicks, heard announcements of upcoming events and reports of NOW state and national news, and discussed plans for Women's Day march. Evie Whitsett reported that the Rapè Task Force would give an information session at Clear Lake Hospital. Twiss Butler, Marilyn Kinard and Jeanne Saletan of the Education Task Force reported favorable outcome of the textbook selection process in the Clear Creek and LaPorte school districts. Both districts had been presented with Task Force recommendations on least sexist math and spelling textbook series. The Chapter voted YES to establish a separate escrow account for Bay Area NOW members who wish to escrow national dues.

--Ann Smith

"Cautious, careful people always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standards never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathies with despised ideals and their advocates and bear the consequences."

-- Susan B. Anthony

## International Women's Day Observance Stresses ERA Support

Some 300 marchers representing various feminist interests and united in their concern for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment staged a colorful parade through downtown Houston on International Women's Day, Saturday, March 4. Permitted to pre-empt just half the width of the street ("You aren't the RODEO, you know!" explained a police officer), the group offered bemused spectators in cars and along the sidewalks plenty of consciousness-raising reading on waving placards and fluttering banners, as well as some lively listening in the form of impromptu slogans, enthusiastically chanted, which resonated impressively between the tall buildings. A pleasantly unorganized rally at City Hall wound up the event, with a great variety of speakers and a loudly responsive audience.

Bay Area NOW members marched behind a brave red and white banner that also showed up brightly in next day's Houston Chronicle - along with the flower-trimmed sign, carried by 9-year-old Jeanne Hicks, announcing firmly that "SUGAR AND SPICE IS NICE - BUT EQUALITY IS RIGHT!"

--Twiss Butler

Review: The "Women in Science, 370 A.D. - 1976" presentation at the Museum of Natural Science.

This large photographic exhibition, with accompanying quoted comments, featuring women in engineering, math, physics, chemistry, and the biological sciences will be there through April 7. Some insight into the underlying attitudes permeating (particularly) the Baylor College of Medicine exhibit is illuminating. The hard-to-read guidesheet informed us that this exhibit "was funded by the Guild of the Museum of Natural Science from proceeds of the Annual Home and Kitchen Tour. This group of women is keenly interested in promoting science - especially from the woman's viewpoint."

We see from the exhibit that there are 5 Nobel Prize winners, 3 jointly with their husbands, (at least) five women at NASA worthy of spotlighting, numerous other women pictured working in fields they have succeeded in. This is an excellent place to take your daughter or neighbor girl who seems interested in science but who also feels at this point that she wants a traditional life and could not afford the dedication necessary for a life of science. The Baylor display helpfully points out: "Fulltime women faculty: Total, 127 (19%); Married, 65%; Mothers, 49%". The University of Texas display "Tower of Womanpower", on the other hand, had a very well-done set of photographs fitted together into a tower, one section of which listed female faculty without comment on marital or maternal status.

Also from the Baylor display: "A lot of discrimination goes on in our own heads: 'I don't have to be quite as good; I can quit; I am just dabbling.' Now I have resolved it in my own head that I am not trivial." -- Susanne Eskin, Ph.D., Research Assistant, Professor, Surgery.

"It is up to women to make attitudes change, not just by words but by achievements. Remain feminine and appreciate people who treat you with gallantry - you can function just as well." -- Jacqueline L. Claus-Walker, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Rehabilitation, Physiology, Baylor.

And from the introduction to the Baylor exhibit: "...Appreciating the talents of your co-workers will enrich the work and enliven your own understanding. In your career and in your home, make priorities thoughtfully and reserve your energy for building." That's still the way to do it, folks, because unless women learn to balance the whole home-career thing, it's all down the drain, despite the quote from Plato headlining the whole display: "Nothing can be more absurd than the practice which prevails in our country of men and women not following the same pursuits with all their strength and with one mind, for thus the state, instead of being a whole, is reduced to a half." I expect what Plato meant (and this exhibit too) is that it is good for women to share the man's world but certainly not vice versa.

--Betty Yancey

At latest count, Texas NOW has a total of 685 members statewide.

A committee, of which Helen Cassidy is a member, was appointed to develop criteria for accepting legal cases involving feminist issues as projects of Texas NOW. In discussion, the informal consensus was that cases should be chosen chiefly on the basis of their presumed long-term beneficial effects for women. A fund-raising event will be held at the NOW state convention in May to initiate a legal defense fund to support such litigation.

"Spirit of Equality '76" is the theme of the NOW state convention, to be held in Abilene, May 29-30. Guest speaker Sarah Weddington will open the conference. Committees are: child care and hospitality; credentials - Brenda Lewis, Nancy Kuykendall, Marjorie Randal of Bay Area NOW; elections - Gloria Guardiola, Joyce Reed; resolutions - Poppy Northcutt; by-laws - Helen Cassidy; agenda - Betty Barnes. Workshops will include: Financial Options For Women; Child care and Non-sexist Child rearing; Title IX; Sexism in Education - Textbooks; Employment; Equal Rights Amendment. Frances Hicks, coordinator of the ERA workshop, would welcome help on this project from Bay Area Chapter members who are planning to attend the Convention.

A meeting in Austin on March 14 of representatives of organizations supporting the National Women's Agenda resulted in formation of a coalition of women's groups for the purpose of working together on issues of mutual interest. The aim is to increase effectiveness by cutting down on diffusion of resources. Participating organizations include AAUW, League of Women Voters, WEAL, NOW, Texas Nurses, Zonta, B&PW, and Women's Political Caucus. Twiss Butler (333-4764) would like to hear from people interested in exploring this strategy on a local level. She and Margaret Kemp of LWV are planning a meeting for those who would like to consider it at the Uniting Church, April 22.

--Frances Hicks

#### HAFFCU Holds Annual Meeting

Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, which opened last October 10, held its first annual meeting on March 11. Officers were elected and a financial report was made showing over \$44,000 in share deposits for 306 members. Goals set were increased membership, inclusion of more affiliating organizations, and further education for women in money management.

Rema Lou Brown, Bay Area NOW member and office manager for HAFFCU, received a commendatory "Bread and Roses" award for outstanding service. This included a gold-sealed certificate, a single red rose, and a small loaf of bread, with a copy of the poem "Bread and Roses," which was written in observance of a working women's strike in 1912.

Mini Review: Notes From the Third Year: Women's Liberation  
Available for \$1.50 from Notes From the Third Year  
P. O. Box AA, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10011

The subject of this magazine-sized book is exactly as titled. Twenty-eight articles by feminists are divided into five sections: Liberating History, Women's Experience, Theory & Analysis, Building a Movement, and The Arts. Wherever you are in your own struggle for liberation, there is at least one article here which will speak to you. The contents range from a brief herstory of how a long original list of feminist concerns got narrowed down to the concentration on one issue - the right to vote - to evaluations of the women's movement and on to possible futures for it. A few descriptive titles: The First Feminists, Why I Want a Wife, Getting Angry, Woman in the Middle, A Feminist Look at Children's Books, Speaking Out On Prostitution, Men and Violence, The Building of the Gilded Cage, Marriage, The Selling of a Feminist, Rape: An Act of Terror. Writers include Susan Brownmiller, Mary Daly, Ellen Levine, and Cellestine Ware.

--Betty Yancey



