

Bay Area Chapter

National Organization for Women

VOLUME 5, Number 10, OCTOBER 1977

N.O.W. NEWS

IWY WORKSHOPS

ARTS AND HUMANITIES
BATTERED WOMEN
CENSUS
CHILD ABUSE
CREDIT
CHILD CARE
DISABLED WOMEN
EDUCATION
WOMEN IN ELECTIVE AND
APPOINTIVE OFFICES
EMPLOYMENT

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
FEMALE OFFENDERS
HEALTH
HOMEMAKERS
INSURANCE
MEDIA
MINORITIES
AGED
RAPE
REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM
SEXUAL PREFERENCE

NOW IWY WORK COMMITTEE - VOLUNTEER FORM

I would like to serve on the NOW IWY WORK COMMITTEE: information booth

NAME: _____ hospitality (in cooperation with
Houston NOW)

ADDRESS: _____ press aide

TELEPHONE: _____ delegate's aide

clerical work

messenger

Please make your choice of assignment and
mail to:

Twiss Butler
18507 Lookout Drive
Houston, Texas 77058
Tel: 333-4764

CALENDAR

11/1/77 - 7 p.m. - Jack Wood (supported N. Van Hightower) Talk Show - KPFT (FM 90) will feature Merylyn Whited and Louis Macey. TEL 526-4000. Plan to listen in and call in with support for Merylyn OR PUT MACEY ON THE SPOT!!!!

11/2/77 - 7:30 p.m. - Fundraiser for Kathy Whitmire - Gypsy Market (University at Morningside) Cash bar - optional buffet \$4.00.

* 11/3/77 - 7:30 p.m. - BAY AREA NOW PROGRAM MEETING - Uniting Church - El Camino Real at Reseda. No scheduled speaker, but we have lots of information to exchange and to discuss.... IWY Countdown - and a chance for a letter writing session.

11/4/77 - AAUW Friends of Kathy Whitmire Fundraiser - 13307 Kingsride (Memorial area) 8 to 11 p.m. Cash bar.

11/8/77 - ELECTION DAY - PLAN TO VOTE

11/9/77 - 12 noon - UHCLC - Womens' Resource Services Advisory Council meeting - Room 1-612

11/9/77 - 8 p.m. - UHCLC, Arbor Bldg, Community Room (reached from south side) - AAUW and WRSA will sponsor a program with speakers Carolyn Waddell (our IWY delegate) and Dr. Jean Quataert who will address IWY issues.

11/10/77 - 3 to 8 p.m. - 2418 Travis - HAFFCU OPEN HOUSE - Mae Nacol is the honoree.

11/10/77 - 8 p.m. - 2418 Travis - Womens' Rights Coordinating Council (WRCC) will meet this one night at the HAFFCU office following the open house.

11/11/77 - 12 noon - WRSA and the Womens' Studies Committee will conduct a pre-IWY program at UHCLC featuring Dr. Nanette Bruckner who will speak on "Why Can't A Woman Be More Like A Man." Check with WRS - 488-9216 for location.

11/16/77 - 5 p.m. - Seneca Falls Torch bearers will cross Texas border at Orange.

11/17/77 - 7:30 p.m. - Uniting Church - El Camino Real at Reseda - Discussion of the status of the Wilmington Ten

11/17-18-19-20-21/77 - IWY IWY IWY IWY IWY IWY IWY IWY IWY IWY

11/20/77 - Deadline for BAY AREA NOW newsletter item submission to Twiss Butler.

Please note: Copies of all newsletter announcements which are pertinent to all women of the Houston area should be submitted to Sonia Carmean for inclusion in the WRCC Newsletter.

BAY AREA NOW has been assigned the task of housing 30-40 NOW members from North Carolina. They are due to arrive by chartered bus on the evening of November 18 (ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON NOVEMBER 17 - AND IF THIS DATE CHANGES HOST FAMILIES WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.) Thanks to the generosity of the UNITING CHURCH (where the bus will be parked), members of the Clear Lake Community, and to our own BAY AREA NOW members we will succeed in placing these women. Please call Dorothy Howard - 486-0752 with inquiries. Uniting Church - 488-0159.

On November 17, the evening before we expect the black women from North Carolina, by coincidence there will be a discussion occurring at the Uniting Church, to which we are all invited, on the subject of the Wilmington Ten, who are also North Carolinians.

These Ten - nine black men and a white woman social worker - were sentenced to long prison terms on trumped-up charges. Now three major prosecution witnesses have admitted to perjury in the original trial, testimony having been manipulated, but the Ten remain in prison.

The leader will be Rev. Prentis Moore of Houston, one of three national consultants to the United Church of Christ. He will show a film segment from "Sixty Minutes" which summarizes the situation.

The disuccsion begins at 7:30 but, if you can, bring a meatless dish and participate in the pot-luck supper at 6:30. - Freddie Chiddix

3 [Oct. 1977]

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
Tentative Plenary Schedule
Coliseum, Houston

Friday, November 18

7:30 - 9:00 PM International Program

Saturday, November 19

9:00 AM Gloria Scott, Presiding
IWY Local Arrangements Chair

Opening Ceremonies
Mayor - Welcome to Houston, Introduced by
Liz Carpenter
Meaning and Purpose of Conference, Bella Abzug
Keynoter
"Faces and Voices of American Women", Presented
by Carpenter
Main Speaker
Explanation of Rules
Report of Credentials Committee
Announcements, Greetings, Etc.

12:30 PM Break for Lunch

2:00 PM Plenary Session
Presentation of Plan of Action and Voting

5:00 PM Break for Dinner

8:30 PM Plenary, Continued Voting on Plan of Action

11:30 PM Adjourn

Sunday, November 20

10:00 AM Free Time
International Hearing
Caucuses

1:00 PM Plenary
Speaker
Continued Voting on Plan of Action

5:00 PM Adjourn

Evening Gala Entertainment

Monday, November 21

9:00 AM Next Steps
Major Speaker

12:30 PM Adjourn

DRAFT: 8/12/77

Interest in IWY is being aroused at all levels. In the past few weeks Rema Lou Brown and Marjorie Randal have been answering the students' question: "What do women want?"

They addressed approximately 90 students in Continuing American History and Sociology classes at Dobie High School in the Pasadena School District.

At the Houston Vocational High School in HISD they were joined by Beverly Hebert, one of the founders of Catholic Feminist Women, and spoke to some 600 students in combined social sciences classes.

We are hoping to have more comments on this at the meeting.

On October 26, Twiss Butler addressed the Womens' Council Meeting of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Nassau Bay. Twiss spoke of the IWY and the history of the ERA from Seneca Falls to the present.

Only after having accepted the engagement did Twiss learn that Suzanne Thomas, Houston's STOP-ERA leader, was to be on the program. Twiss chose to speak first and outlined all the arguments that the anti-ERA group were using. She also touched on the "manipulation of truth" by Senator Sam Irwin in his stance against the ERA. This led to an hysterical outburst from Suzanne who felt it was unfair to attack an old retired senator who was not there to defend himself.

Twiss will give us more colorful details at the meeting.

Coincidentally, on the same morning, Marjorie Randal was listening to tapes of a speech by Diane Edmondson at the Uniting Church. Diane, a long-time anti-ERA worker, formerly doing her thing in San Antonio and now "helping Oklahoma along," spoke to women in a meeting at Tulsa, and announced plans for the ANTI-ERA RALLY to be held during IWY in Houston.

Marge will have the tapes at our meeting.



"I owe my career to my husband who inspired me with these words: As long as I pay the bills around here, you will do what I say."

PAR (People Against Rape) have certified nine new rape victim advocates. They and our five trainers were honored with certificates and a party at the end of 25 hours training. Our next big project is incorporation.

We are available for speaking engagements. To get in touch with PAR for information, speakers, immediate help, or to find out about meetings call CRISIS HELP-LINE at 488-7222. This line is answered 24-hours a day. - Nora M. Mertz

\$

The Bay Area Now garage sale was quite successful. We have realized nearly \$200.00. Many thanks to all of you who donated sale items and your time to this project. Special thanks to Phyllis Tucker whose home and garage were turned into a holocaust for the past month! Special thanks also to Elizabeth Curtis, a friend of NOW, who held down the fort, at times by herself!!!!

Women's Rights Coordinating Council
Minutes of October 20, 1977 Meeting (edited)

About 25 people attended the October WRCC meeting chaired by Laura Oren. Attending from Bay Area NOW were Rema Lou Brown, Sonia Kay Carmean, Dorothy Howard, Judy Ruff and Phyllis Tucker. Brown took minutes for the newsletter. (** = ACTION ITEM)

I. Reports

- A. Treasury - Donna Duerk gave a treasurer's report. It was voted unanimously to put the funds into Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union (HAFFCU).
- B. WRCC dues are due and payable in December.

II. IWY Welcoming Rally Report

- A. Oren announced that the Welcoming Rally is an alliance activity, rather than a WRCC event, as not all member groups have endorsed it.
- B. Pat Cearcy reported on speakers for the Rally. Billie Carr will act as moderator; Betty Friedan will be a speaker.
- C. It was reported that police protection has been promised. Mr. Millam stated to the person reporting that the City Hall site provides better exposure and that there will be "normal" police protection. No walk is planned to the Hyatt.

III. IWY General Report and Announcements

- A. Jo Stewart announced the need for housing for a group of North Carolina NOW women coming to the Conference by chartered bus.
 - **Diana Lawes is a Houston contact person - 524-0982. Dorothy Howard of Bay Area NOW is forming a telephone chain of our members to attempt to house the 30-40 expected women.
- B. All "runner" spots for the Seneca Falls Torch event have been filled.
- C. IWY Keynote speaker, 9 a.m., Nov. 18, will be Representative Barbara Jordan. Liz Carpenter will speak that morning also.
- D. Twenty-one "umbrella issue" workshops have been tentatively planned.
- E. Exhibition Caucus rooms information - 226-5108.
- F. NOW HEADQUARTERS - Hyatt - 8th floor

IV. Announcements (incorporated in Bay Area NOW calendar).

STATISTICS ON MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

Dr. Julian Gold of the Center for Disease Control will be monitoring and investigating cases of morbidity and mortality resulting from criminal and self-induced abortions. He is particularly interested in cases involving women who would have received safe, legal services had federal funding not been terminated. Dr. Gold is willing to accept collect calls, and he is very anxious to know about each and every case. Texas is a key state as it borders on Mexico where unsafe abortions are readily available. Please, notify Dr. Gold promptly as accurate statistics are needed. Citizens for Parenthood by Choice would like to receive this information also for lobbying purposes.

Dr. Julian Gold
Family Planning Division
Center for Disease Control
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
A.C. 404 633-3311, Extension 3131
A.C. 404 874-7238 (home)

Citizens for Parenthood by Choice
711 San Antonio
Aulin, Texas 78701

WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

The Department of Labor has come under increasing pressure to crack down on discrimination against women as it relates to apprenticeship programs. Affirmative action is a proper means of correcting effects of past discrimination and may include setting of goals and quotas for employment of minorities.

Current regulations in the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) "prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin and sex." They also require adoption of written affirmative action programs including the development of goals and timetables. However, there is no provision in the regulations which require that written affirmative action plans cover women. Furthermore, sponsors of apprenticeship programs are not compelled to establish and attain goals for women as is the case for minorities.

In an effort to correct this discrepancy, the Secretary of Labor has announced a proposed regulation to amend BAT's rules concerning equal employment in apprenticeship programs. The amendment would include specific provisions requiring affirmative action for women.

NOW, a chance for supportive public opinion exists. Working women, women in business, women's groups and concerned citizens are urged to complete the enclosed form and (Pass some copies to others) and send everything to the address on the form letter. Time is of the essence--comments on the proposals will be received by BAT until November 14, 1977. If you do not have time to write before November 14, send any comments, questions, or suggestions to the NOW Labor Task Force or to the prime movers on this matter:

Wider Opportunities for Women
ATTN: Ms. Nancy Rigby
1649 "K" Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

From the NOW LABOR TASK FORCE
1324 N. Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20002
Tel (202) 462-1007

rec 10/22/77

OWLS -- Laurie Shields of the NOW OLDER WOMENS TASK FORCE will conduct three workshops at I.W.Y. Check with the NOW offices - Hyatt - 8th floor for more information.

Interested in an OLDER WOMENS CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUP?? Contact Jean Saletan - 471-2862.

JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW! JOIN NOW!

- I would like to join the National Organization for Women \$15.00 _____
- I would like to join the Bay Area Chapter of NOW *(includes newsletter)* \$ 5.00 _____
- I would like to join Texas NOW \$ 2.00 _____
- I would like to subscribe to the Bay Area NOW newsletter \$ 3.00 _____
- I would like to subscribe to the Texas Now Council newsletter \$2.00 _____

NAME: _____ TEL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Special interests: _____

Checks payable to BAY AREA NOW. Mail to BAY AREA NOW Treasurer: Marjorie Randal
1922 Redway
Houston, Texas 77062
TEL: 488-4396

[Oct. 1977]

Mr. James P. Mitchell, Dep. Admin.
BAT, Room 5000
601 "D" Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20213

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

For too long, apprenticeship programs have been beyond the reach of women in the United States. Women have encountered arbitrary barriers to training which would prepare them for employment in the skilled trades. This underrepresentation of women is not only unfair to them, it is also un-American to deprive a citizen of the right to improve their economic advancement.

I am strongly in favor of the proposed regulation outlined in the Federal Register which was published on Friday, September 30, 1977: "Equal Employment in Apprenticeship Programs.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Address)

There are fifteen states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. We would like to initiate an economic boycott of these states and maybe, with us as a beginning, others will follow. We suggest a boycott of the following items. If you have any to add to this list, please let us know.

Bama Food Products	3900 Vanderbilt Rd.	Birmingham, Alabama
Cudahy Co.	100 W. Clarendon	Phoenix, Arizona
Armour Food Co. Food Oils	P.O. Box 423	Helena, Arkansas
W.A. Taylor & Co.	825 S. Bayshore Dr.	Miami, Florida
The Coco-Cola Co.	310 North Ave. N.W.	Atlanta, Georgia
Royal Crown Cola Co.	41 Perimeter Center East N.E.	Atlanta, Georgia
James B. Beam Distilling Co.	500 N. Michigan Ave.	Chicago, Illinois
Cracker Jack Div.	14800 W. 66th.	Chicago, Illinois
Libby-McNeill & Libby	200 S. Michigan Ave.	Chicago, Illinois
Oscar Mayer & Co.	1241 N. Sedgwick	Chicago, Illinois
Swift & Co.	115 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago, Illinois
Blue Plate Foods, Inc.	P.O. Box 60296	New Orleans, Louisiana
Dixie Brewing Co., Inc.	2401 Tulane Ave.	New Orleans, Louisiana
DeJean Packing Co.	P.O. Box 509	Biloxi, Mississippi
Speas Company	2400 Nicholson Ave.	Kansas City, Missouri
Anheuser-Busch Inc.	721 Pestalozzi	St. Louis, Missouri
Banquet Foods Corp.	515 Olive St.	St. Louis, Missouri
Falstaff Brewing Corp.	5050 Oakland	St. Louis, Missouri
Pitt Milling & Elev. Co., Inc.		Lovelock, Nevada
Lance Inc.	Pineville Rd.	Charlotte, N. Carolina
Wilson & Co., Inc.	4545 N. Lincoln Blvd.	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dreher Packing Co.	Shop Rd, Box 66	Columbia, S. Carolina
Supreme Bakers	P.O. Box 1016	Salt Lake City, Utah
Mars Inc.		McLean, Virginia
Eskimo Pie Corp.	530 E. Main	Richmond, Virginia
Roanoke Apple Products Co.	314-A Jefferson St.	Roanoke, Virginia

If you will take some extra time, while your shopping, just to check labels, you will discover many more products which we haven't listed. Why not boycott those products also? If you have some time a short note to the home office stating your reason for not buying their product will help, also. TOGETHER, we can pass the E.R.A.

These states have not ratified:

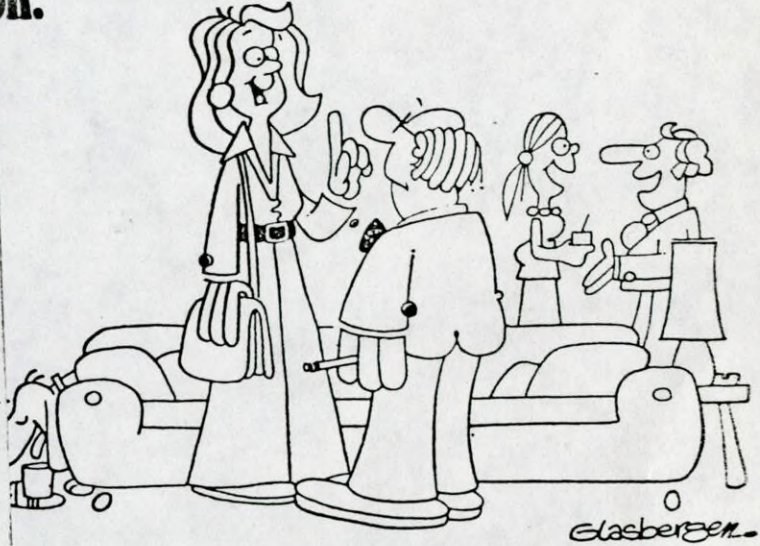
Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia

IOWA IS A RATIFIED STATE!!!

Iowa sends her best Cold Cuts to Houston.



Have a party with Rath's "Hearty Hero."



"...on the contrary, I think men were destined to become homemakers. After all, whoever heard of 'Ms. Clean' or the 'Woman from Glad?'"

States that haven't voted ERA *H-Chron 10/24/77* reportedly losing conventions

Chicago (UPI) — Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) are using a new economic weapon.

The tactic already has cost Chicago \$15 million in revenue, Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau officials said. ERA supporters believe it has had a similar effect elsewhere.

The weapon is a recent agreement among 40 national organizations to keep their conventions out of states which have not ratified the national ERA. The National Organization for Women (NOW) is actively recruiting more groups for the boycott.

Illinois is one such state. Frank Sain, president of the Convention and Tourism

Bureau, said about \$1 million in revenue to Chicago hotels and businesses has been canceled by such groups as the League of Women Voters, National Association of Social Workers, Board of Global Ministers and Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Sain estimated Chicago could have attracted conventions worth about \$14 million from those groups, were it not for the boycott. Among those is the National Education Association, whose convention is worth about \$3 million.

In addition to the convention boycott, a voter pledge drive designed to drum up new support for the ERA was announced by Chicago NOW leaders.

Appeals to a sense of fairness, to conscience, or to reason have failed. This may be the only weapon at our disposal!!!!

- BOYCOTT COORS BEER
- BOY COTT J. P. STEVENS PRODUCTS

Too bad the King Tut Exhibition may bail Louisiana out even if we boycott in all other areas!!!

H-Chron 10/24/77

Feminist leader Gloria Steinem says the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is not in trouble despite a March ratification deadline. She told a sympathetic audience in Kansas City that state legislatures are in trouble because they have not responded to constituents who support passage of the amendment. The founder and editor of Ms. magazine considers Missouri important to the passage of ERA. It has failed to clear the state's General Assembly half a dozen times, but Steinem said the defeats don't matter because she still has "faith in democracy."

Brave words, and hopefully Gloria's assessment on the status of ERA is correct. However, we do not have time to elect sympathetic legislators within our present deadline. Please write to: Barbara Jordan, Jim Wright (a co-sponsor) and to Jack Brooks and ask them to support the ERA deadline extension.

We are finally publishing our membership list. Please phone corrections to Dorothy Howard, 486-0752.

[Oct. 1977]

BAY AREA NOW Membership List

ANDERSON, SANDRA	604 Laura Lane	League City	77573	554-6416 488-9216 wk
BLANCHARD, JUDITH	839 Beachcomber Lane	Houston	77062	488-1718
BOATRIGHT, SHARON	4122 Honey Oaks Drive	Seabrook	77586	474-3543
BROWN, REMA LOU	731 Buoy Road	Houston	77062	488-1896 488-9216 wk
BRUCKNER, NANETTE	UHCLC-2700 Bay Area Blvd	Houston	77058	337-2306 488-9370 wk
BUTLER, TWISS (Newsletter Coordinator)	18507 Point Lookout Dr.	Houston	77058	333-4764
BUXTON, MARY	2111 Dryden	Houston	77030	667-1257
CARMEAN, SONIA K.	1519 Seagate Lane	Houston	77062	488-1431 488-8968 wk
CHIDDIX, FREDDIE (Welcoming Committee)	310 Waco St. #103	League City	77573	554-2437
CHRISTMAN, REBECCA	1603 Wavecrest	Houston	77062	488-7339
DAVIS, ANETA	147 Imperial Drive	Friendswood	77546	482-1439
FOOTE, LORRAINE	10343 Catlett	La Porte	77571	471-0795
FRULAND-SRNKA, RUTH	5426 Apple Blossom	Friendswood	77546	482-2392
GLENN, ELIZABETH	607 Maryann	Friendswood	77546	482-1067
GRAVES, LILLIAN	217 Bayou View	Seabrook	77586	334-2296
HICKMAN, LINDA				
HICKS, FRANCES (Title IX Coordinator)	1407 Seagate Lane	Houston	77062	488-8574
HOSKINS, CHARLES M.	9206 Petersham	Houston	77031	774-3587 483-4831 wk
HOWARD, DOROTHY C. (Message Coordinator)	1529 Bonanza Road	Houston	77062	486-0752 483-2821 wk
INGRAHAM, CRICKET (P.C.)	1210 Bacliff Dr.	BACLIFF	77518	339-1909
JEWELL, KATHRYN	UT School of Nursing, UTMB	Galveston	77550	765-1600 wk 731-2606
JOHNSON, LILLIAN	16401 El Camino Real	Houston	77062	488-2696
KINARD, MARILYN MAY, CAROLYN	725 S. Nugent	La Porte	77571	471-5599
MC FAUL, SHIRLEY A. (Gammage Coordinator)	16303 Parksley	Houston	77059	488-2403
MC KINLEY, MARTHA	708 Wendell	Houston	77009	869-2519
MERTZ, NORA M.	1908 Fairfield N.	League City	77573	554-6738
MIESZKOWSKI, GRETCHEN	4023 Manorfield	Seabrook	77586	474-3836
MORGAN, CAROLYN R.	10006 CARLOW	La Porte	77571	471-5215
NOBLE-WALKER, JULIE	16018 Fathom	Houston	77062	488-3854

OETTINGER, PATRICIA	946 Buoy Road	Houston	77062	488-0476
PRICE, JUANITA C.	1727 Bowline	Houston	77062	488-3685
RAMON, JEANNENE	1515 Richvale Lane	Houston	77062	488-1238
RANDAL, MARJORIE (Bay Area NOW Treasurer)	1922 Redway Lane	Houston	77062	488-4396
RICHARDS, ETTA B. (RUSTY)	16575 Buccaneer	Houston	77062	488-5546 483-5441 wk
RUFF, JUDITH	9150 Gulf Freeway #309	Houston	77017	946-0733 488-9216 wk
SALETAN, JEANNE (Older Women's Task Force Coordinator)	3030 Bayou Drive	La Porte	77571	471-2862
SHAW, DALE M.	2107 San Sebastian #715	Houston	77058	333-3487
SMITH, ANN K.	16011 Brookford	Houston	77059	488-6213
SMITH, CHARLOTTE R.	15714 Seaside	Houston	77062	488-0010
SMITH, DOLORES	16106 Torry Pines	Houston	77062	488-7805
SMITH, ELLEN K.	7329 Brockley	Houston	77087	645-8896 342-8651 wk
STEWART, SALLY	718 Bayview	Seabrook	77586	334-2617
STIMSON, MARIE B. (Welcoming Committee)	111 Casa Lane	Dickinson	77539	534-4724 534-3370 wk
TANGEDAHL, JOANNE	3514 Cedarcrest	Pasadena	77503	473-7732
TUCKER, PHYLLIS	243 Empress	Houston	77034	944-0033 453-5446 wk
VACLAVIK, SHARON	512 S. Illinois	League City	77573	554-7004
WADDELL, CAROLYN	P. O. Box 1275	League City	77573	554-6023 488-9240 wk
WEIDENHOFFER, EDITH	P. O. Box 58483	Houston	77058	488-4266
WEIKSNAR, MELISSA	15722 Parksley	Houston	77059	965-2620 wk
WHITE, JOANNE	UHCLC-2700 Bay Area Blvd.	Houston	77058	488-9290 wk
WHITECOTTON, NANCY C.	18204 Vinland	Houston	77058	333-5204 483-4086 wk
WHITSETT, EVIE	1110 Buoy Road	Houston	77062	488-1777 226-5444 wk
YANCEY, BETTY	4913 31st St.	Dickinson	77539	534-6244

YOUR COMMUNITY	YOUR LOCAL CALLING AREA		National Rep <i>Ads.</i>	State Rep <i>Ads.</i>
Seabrook (474)	Apollo (488) Seabrook (474) La Porte (471)	Kemah (334) (538) Bacliff (339) (559) Houston Metro Zone		
Apollo (488)	Apollo (488) Nassau Bay (333) Seabrook (474) La Porte (471)	Kemah (334) (538) League City (332) (554) Dickinson (337) (534) Bacliff (339) (559) Houston Metro Zone		
La Porte (471)	La Porte (471) Apollo (488)	Seabrook (474) Houston Metro Zone		

I LIKE TO THINK OF HARRIET TUBMAN

by Susan Griffin

I like to think of Harriet Tubman.
Harriet Tubman who carried a revolver,
who had a scar on her head from a rock thrown
by a slave-master (because she
talked back), and who
had a ransom on her head
of thousands of dollars and who
was never caught, and who
had no use for the law
when the law was wrong,
who defied the law. I like
to think of her.

I like to think of her especially
when I think of the problem of
feeding children.

The legal answer
to the problem of feeding children
is ten free lunches every month,
being equal, in the child's real life,
to eating lunch every other day.
Monday but not Tuesday.

I like to think of the President
eating lunch Monday, but not
Tuesday.

And when I think of the President
and the law, and the problem of
feeding children, I like to
think of Harriet Tubman
and her revolver.

And then sometimes
I think of the President
and other men,
men who practice the law,
who revere the law,
who make the law,
who enforce the law,
who live behind
and operate through
and feed themselves

at the expense of
starving children
because of the law,
men who sit in paneled offices
and think about vacations
and tell women
whose care it is
to feed children
not to be hysterical
not to be hysterical as in the word
hysterikos, the greek for
womb suffering,
not to suffer in their
wombs,
not to care,
not to bother the men

because they want to think
of other things
and do not want
to take the women seriously.
I want them
to take women seriously.
I want them to think about Harriet Tubman,
and remember,
remember she was beat by a white man
and she lived
and she lived to redress her grievances,
and she lived in swamps
and wore the clothes of a man
bringing hundreds of fugitives from
slavery, and was never caught,
and led an army,
and won a battle,
and defied the laws
because the laws were wrong, I want men
to take us seriously.
I am tired, wanting them to think
about right and wrong.
I want them to fear.
I want them to feel fear now
as I have felt suffering in the womb, and
I want them
to know
that there is always a time
there is always a time to make right
what is wrong,
there is always a time
for retribution
and that time
is beginning.

"Women were put here for three reasons--to get
into bed, to get up and fix something to eat
and to get back into bed again."-Evel Knievel

"I don't plan to elevate a woman to anything.
I'm very careful on this subject."-George Meany

"I like the idea of being able to make women
pregnant. A man likes to be king. Making
babies gives him power. If you take that
scepter away from him, he feels deprived."--
Marcello Mastroianni

"The idea that you can defend this nation within
the Constitution, under the law, and tell the
truth is still considered a sort of childish,
feminine position."- Walter Mondale

"The only time I take out a chick is when I feel
horny." - Mark Fidrych

1975