

# BROADSIDE

## ANITA BRYANT SUCKS ORANGES . . .

. . . so read one of the most popular buttons at the N.O.W. National Conference in Detroit, Apr. 22-24 - and that alone made the trip worthwhile. However, there is more good stuff.

It was, first of all, a good conference with an atmosphere of unity and dedication to feminist goals. Several thousand participants arrived in Detroit to find rainy, cold weather greeting them, but this cold reception was quickly dispelled by the march and rally on Friday morning in downtown Detroit. N.O.W. was very warmly greeted by Mayor Coleman Young and many other stirring speakers, such as Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem and Congressperson Martha Griffiths.

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## RUMINATIONS

In the early days of March, the question of "Who Needs Nikki?" with all its ramifications about the present state and future course of city government was suddenly and not very ceremoniously created. The events of the next three weeks involved a great many people, a great expenditure of energy, considerable time, not a little money, and lots of attention in numerous quarters.

In the early days of May, reflecting upon these events, pondering what they were all about, wondering what the moral of the story is (for surely there must be one), I offer a few observations, drawn from my own distillation of this experience.

Like so many others, I sent telegrams, made phone calls, journeyed to city hall to listen and to speak. I did the things one does as a citizen in a representative democracy when an issue of deep concern arises. So did my friends of like mind; so did a host of others on both sides of the issue. Hues and cries of many tenors were raised, reaching even unto Walter Cronkite. Did any of it make any difference? Very little.

It may be an illusion to think that either cries of outrage or of commendation have much effect on the votes of public officials. They act out of their own biases, as we all do, and they vote according to their own convictions or the lack of them, as we all do. No feminist or civil libertarian punctured the vapor that envelopes Frank Mann or Louis Macey, any more than Suzanne Thomas and company influenced the course of action chosen by the mayor. What mattered most was the cast of mind each official had to begin with.

The moral would thus seem to be that the Rubicon is crossed on election day. If we want our views to prevail, we must elect people who share those views and who will support issues we support. The power of any idea whose time has come is diluted very easily if the votes aren't there when it comes time to count.

*J. S. G.*

## POLITICAL ACTION

Dr. Richard Murray of the Department of Political Science at the University of Houston is conducting a poll to determine voter attitudes toward the idea of women running for local office. He hopes to identify precincts where women candidates would have the best chance of election.

If you have an evening to spare for making phone calls, get in touch with Carolyn Nichols at 528-3919 (home) or 627-0700, Ext. 2051 (work).

## BROADSIDE ACTION

Denise Krause is in charge of the very important job of folding, collating, stapling and preparing the BROADSIDE for mailing each month. The next issue will be assembled on May 26, following the usual schedule of the Thursday evening preceding the first Wednesday of the month. Call Denise at 776-2620 to let her know you'd like to join in. The company is always good and there's usually decent coffee.

## WORD TO WISE SHOPPERS

Let Anita have the oranges, the grapefruit, and most of all, the lemons and the limes. Don't buy Florida citrus products! A fruit from any other state is sweeter.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

(Continued from P. 1)

The delegate system eliminated many of the problems that have beset past conferences and allowed the members to carry on the business of the conference with a speed and efficiency that at times were truly remarkable. In addition, there were workshops of all descriptions on a wide variety of subjects and with something for almost everyone who had registered for the conference. They covered feminist concerns in such areas as minority women, rural women, displaced homemakers, the E.R.A., battered women, chapter development, lesbian women, and many others.

The new officers are: Ellie Smeal, President; Martha Buck, Vice President - Executive; Arlie Scott, Vice President - Action; Sandy Roth, Secretary; and Eve Norman, Treasurer. These women will be leading N.O.W. through the year ahead and ask for our support as we all struggle to defeat the vicious attacks that are daily being launched against the basic rights of American women.

The direction of N.O.W.'s activities for the coming year was set by the resolutions passed by the conference delegates. It is worthwhile to briefly describe just a few of these resolutions:

1. Displaced Homemakers: Delegates voted unanimously that N.O.W., through its chapter, state and national organizations, work for the passage of displaced homemaker legislation pending before Congress and 28 state legislatures. Homemakers who find themselves without financial security because of divorce, death of spouses, or loss of family income must be given help in achieving self-sufficiency.

2. E.R.A.: Having as its top national priority the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, N.O.W. has established a National E.R.A. Mobilization Strike Force, chaired by the President of N.O.W., and charged with planning overall strategy, mobilizing all available resources, and using all necessary tactics to secure the ratification of the E.R.A.

3. Dade County Anti-Discrimination Ordinance: N.O.W. supports the referendum campaign to retain the Dade County, Florida, ordinance which forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference. The same radical right-wing groups and individuals who oppose the E.R.A. and reproductive freedom have launched a serious attack on this ordinance.

4. International Women's Year Conference: N.O.W. will strongly urge the National Commission on I.W.Y. to move its conference site from Houston to another city in any ratified state. One reason for Houston's being selected was the existence of the office of Women's Advocate. The Houston City Council members have abolished this office and have shown their clear disregard for the struggle of women to attain equal rights and to end discrimination. Houston's reputation as a progressive, on-the-move city was given a painful black eye.

These are only capsule summaries of a few of the many resolutions passed at the conference. A full account should be forthcoming in Do It NOW.

The end of the conference was as upbeat as the beginning and left most members with a very warm glow of accomplishment and sisterhood. The many activities of the conference were topped off by the Sunday night performance of the incomparable Lily Tomlin. What more can be said of her than superb, riotously funny, and deadly serious, the perfect ending to our 1977 N.O.W. National Conference.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Committee on Women in Crisis Wants to Know:

Would you be willing to give \$1 a week to support a shelter for abused women?

Call and let us know:

Cathy Livingston, 524-7149

Jo Stewart, 522-5094 (home), 790-2720 (work)

or write to 1818 Fairview, Houston 77006.

## BUSINESS MEETING

The business meeting will be at 8 P.M. on Wednesday, May 11th, at Jo Stewart's home, 2207 Bissonnet.

## PROGRAM MEETING

"Is the Total Woman a Feminist Activist?" No, Maribel Morgan, we aren't talking to you. Integration of the mind and the body will be the topic for the program meeting to be held Wednesday, May 4th, at the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline.

Beth Kendrick, who has been teaching yoga and massage for the past four years, will be presenting the program. We will explore ways to get your body back in shape and still have time to be politically active. There will be some exercise demonstration and tips about how to keep your strength and your health up.

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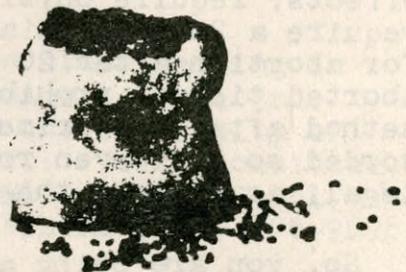
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## ABORTION ALERT

Friends, I know you're tired of writing letters, making phone calls, visiting legislators, and sending Mailgrams on an issue which should have been put to rest 4 years ago. Just think, we could have been using our time, energy and money for the past 4 years to get better abortion services and better birth control methods - but someone out there is working with determination and money to deny women the right to control their bodies and lives.

We can't always identify those who are so rightly frightened of our self-determination, but sometimes we can. We have at least 6 in our State Legislature. Representatives Uher, Hubenak and Ceverha are co-sponsors of House Bills 1636 and 1637, and Representative Von Dohlen has sponsored House Bill 1875. These bills include provisions to prohibit abortion in almost every type of hospital, clinic and doctor's office; to prohibit all public funds to any institution performing the procedure; declare life from the moment of conception and viability at 22 weeks; require written consent of the patient, the husband or father or parents; require written and oral advice to the patient and husband or father or parents of alternatives and unforeseeable detrimental physical and psychological effects; require physicians to submit reports to the state; require a 2nd physician and sophisticated equipment present for abortion after 20 weeks; require burial or cremation of aborted tissue; prohibit the saline procedure (the safest method after 1st trimester); etc. One of the bills is worded so that even routine Cesarean section would be illegal, as well as the I.U.D.

So, you are being asked to write another batch of letters on House Bills 1636 and 1637 to your own representatives and to all members of the House State Affairs Committee, where these bills currently slither: Tom Uher is Chairman, John Hoestenbach, Al Brown, Bob Simpson, Bill Blythe, Bennie Bock, Jimmie Edwards, Gene Green, Don Henderson, Sarah Weddington, Bill Ceverha, Buck Florence, Bob McFarland, David Stubbeman, and Ralph Wallace:

Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

House Bill 1875 has already been voted out of committee and could reach a vote on the House floor. Write your own representative to protest this one.

Senate Bill 585 (Jack Ogg) is scheduled to be heard on May 2 in committee. Members of that committee are: Babe Schwartz (Chairman), Tati Santiesteban, Bill Braecklein, Gene Jones, Max Sherman, Don Adams, Oscar Mauzy, Ray Faraabee, Raul Longoria, Walter Mengden, Bill Meier, Lloyd Doggett, and Carl Parker. They can be written at the same address.

Senate Bill 416 (Mad Dog Mengden) is out of committee and could reach a vote on the Senate floor. Write your own senator to vote against it.

One more. The House Appropriations Bill has had an anti-abortion amendment tacked onto it before final passage. Write your representative to vote against this amendment.

#### TEXAS WOMEN'S MEETING

Deadline for preregistration for the state meeting in observance of International Women's Decade is June 3rd. The meeting will be held June 24-26 at the University of Texas, Austin. To preregister, write to: Texas Committee on the Observance of IWY Decade, Federal Building G-161, 300 East 8th Street, Austin 78701, telephone (512) 476-9098.

#### REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The South Central Regional Conference, the first to be held since reorganization under the new National By-laws, will be Memorial Day weekend in El Paso. The purpose of the meeting is to elect National Board members, one of whom will be selected to be Regional Director. No pre-registration is necessary. Any N.O.W. member is eligible to attend. Call Renee Rabb (862-4091) if you're interested in attending.

## PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE THE E.R.A. IS

A call for economic sanctions against the states which have not ratified the E.R.A. was first raised in February before the Nevada vote, was emphasized again by Betty Friedan after the Florida defeat, and was a key issue at the N.O.W. National Conference in Detroit.

The National Board voted in February to create a special National Committee to Co-ordinate the Economic Sanction, which means booking no conventions, taking no vacations, spending no tourist or recreational dollars in unratified states. The committee plans a series of ads in major newspapers across the country to inform the public. Since the ad campaign will cost a minimum of \$20,000, contributions are urgently needed. Send yours to N.O.W. Economic Sanction Fund, National N.O.W. Action Center, 425 13th Street, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Most importantly, remember the 15 states which have not ratified: Nevada, Utah, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Arizona and Oklahoma.

Spend your money in one of the 35 other states, where full citizenship has been granted to everyone!

### MAY CALENDAR

- 4 Program meeting
- 11 Business meeting
- 20 BROADSIDE copy deadline
- 26 BROADSIDE assembling
- 27-29 South Central Regional N.O.W. Conference;  
State N.O.W. Council meeting

# houston area now folk

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Secretary	Joy Goodman
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NOTE: TO contact persons whose phone numbers are not listed above, call 524-5743 and leave a message.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Houston Area N.O.W. or N.O.W., Inc.

## broad'side

- 1: a sheet of paper printed on one or both sides and folded
- 2: any strong or comprehensive attack, as by criticism
- 3: the simultaneous discharge of all the guns on one side of a ship



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National Organization for Women  
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