



N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter

NEWS

National Organization for Women

Volume VI Number 8

August, 1978

GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS As seen in the Houston Post...



'Executive Director Alice Lockwood, this is the Lord speaking. Because of your exceptional executive ability I have chosen you to lead the movement to get women out of the job market and back in the home where they belong.'

The Complete Text Of 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.

Pepper... and Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



"No, I'm not a career girl. Are you a career boy?"

5-18-78

AUGUST PROGRAM MEETING: ERA FUNDRAISER:

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY

Thursday 3 August 1978 7:30 p.m. Uniting Church. El Camino Real at Reseda CLC
(details on last page...)

1/6

Area Women March On Washington

↳ "Lifestyle" has coined generic women!

Five Bay Area residents traveled to Washington D.C. the weekend of July 8 and 9 to show their support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) People from Galveston, Nassau Bay, Seabrook and Clear Lake City joined more than 100 other Texans in the Sunday march to the Capitol, and most stayed to lobby their elected officials on Monday.

The march and lobbying urged Congressional support for H.J. Res. 638, a bill which extends by seven years the period to ratify the ERA. The amendment bans discrimination on the basis of sex.

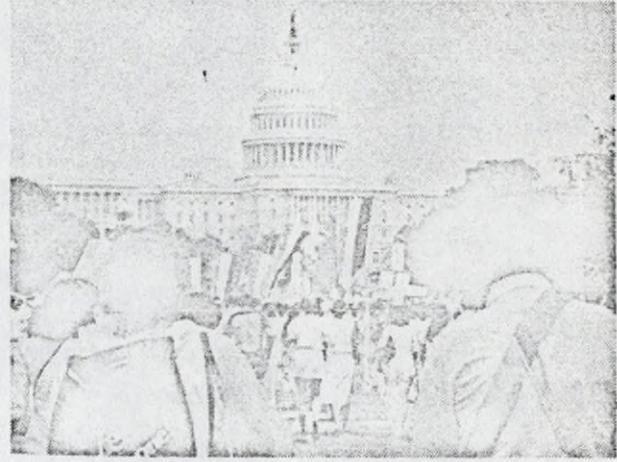
Texas ratified the Amendment in 1972, in addition to passing a state ERA, which remains in force today. Since the seven-year

limit is not part of the actual Rights amendment, but rather appears in a resolving clause, some constitutional experts say that Congress may extend the time period. Several

congressmen, among them Galveston County Rep. Jack Brooks, remain uncommitted. The Texans registered their support with Representative Bob

Gammage, Bob Krueger, Barbara Jordan, and Sen. Lloyd Bentsen. Sen. John Tower, although a supporter of the ERA in 1972, does not support efforts at extension.

Patrick
The local Texan making the trip included Pat and Twiss Butler of Nassau Bay, Sonia Doty of Seabrook, and Melissa Weiksnar and Frances Hicks of Clear Lake City.



Area women joined those from all over the nation in a march on Washington to promote passage of an extension for state ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Seen with Senator John Tower (center) are Beth Hudman (left) and Frances Hicks (right) both of the Bay Area.

BAY AREA LIFE STYLE, Wednesday, July 19, 1978

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE : UPDATE EXTENSION

- James J. Delaney, New York
- Richard Bolling, Missouri
- B. F. Sisk, California
- John Young, Texas
- Claude Pepper, Florida
- Morgan Murphy, Illinois
- Gillis W. Long, Louisiana
- Joseph Moakley, Massachusetts
- Lloyd Meeds, Washington
- Shirley Chisholm, New York
- Christopher Dodd, Connecticut

- James H. Quillen, Tennessee
- John B. Anderson, Illinois
- Delbert L. Latta, Ohio
- Del Clawson, California
- Trent Lott, Mississippi

It is now up to the House Rules committee to define the terms of debate and amendment for the extension legislation. Since H.J. 638 has passed out of the Judiciary committee, it's time to concentrate on this committee.

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Melissa M. Weiksnar
15722 Parksley Dr.
Houston, TX 77045

965-2620 days

Eyes of Texas and the ERA

A first-hand report on area people who marched in D.C.

BY FRANCES HICKS

My sunburned nose is peeling and the blisters on my heels are healing.

And anyway, they were well worth the excitement of taking part in the big Washington, D.C., rally to urge Congress to extend the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

After spending most of the night helping a Baltimore cab driver navigate a route to Alexandria, Va. (where my friend Susan Blair had opened her home to a throng of delegates), I was up bright and early Sunday before last to join all the other people dressed in white at the Washington Monument.

The weather was hot and clear, and the excitement was tinged with a little anxiety, wondering whether enough people would show up to make an impressive showing. We weren't disappointed.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) had spent three months planning the march to demonstrate broad based support for the extension.

It was heartening to me to see the banners of the American Association of University Women, Catholics for ERA, the AFL-CIO and the Democratic national committee.

Melissa Weiksna of Clear Lake City and I arrived with a group from Indiana who had also spent the night at Susan's house, and we found the crowds gratifying, but confusing. It wasn't easy to find our respective delegations when there were people packed solidly over five blocks.

Finally we spotted the

Texas NOW banner and joined the lines 24 persons wide, ready to start marching.

Many other Texas people were still searching, so we started singing loudly, "The eyes of Texas are upon you/ To pass the ERA." They homed in on the tune in a hurry.

In addition to the Clear Lake NOW chapter, the Texas group included delegations from San Antonio, Lubbock, Dallas, Houston, Galveston and Austin — more than 150 people altogether.

From the Clear Lake chapter, in addition to Melissa and me, there were Patrick and Twiss Butler from Nassau Bay and Sonia Doty of Seabrook, who marched with her daughter and granddaughter.

Helicopters buzzed continuously as we stood in the July heat four hours, waiting for our turn to march down Constitution Avenue to the Capitol. Parade marshals were scattered along the route to keep order, encourage chants, and provide welcome drinks of water.

We marched for an hour in straight lines 24 abreast. As we passed the National Archives which house the Constitution we saw people on the steps holding up a huge blue and white banner bearing the words of the ERA, "Equality of rights shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex."

As we marched we chanted "Hey, hey, what do you say? Ratify the ERA" and "What do you want? ERA! When do you want it? Now!" Also we sang some more choruses of "The eyes of Texas are upon you/ To pass the ERA."



Melissa Weiksna of Clear Lake City and Twiss and Patrick Butler of Nassau Bay are holding up the Clear Lake NOW banner in the foreground of the crowd gathering at the Washington Monument to urge Congress to extend the deadline for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

By the time the Texas marchers arrived at the Capitol (we were far down on the route because states were lined up in alphabetical order), all available shade was occupied by people listening to speeches urging the ratification time extension.

There were rousing words from Bella Abzug, presidential assistant Midge Costanza, and NOW president Eleanor Smeal, among others.

I had just collapsed to rest my burning feet and dehydrated body when I jumped up to greet Goldie Chou from New York. I had met her in Houston last November when we ran with the IWY (International Women's Year) torch. We hugged and shared our parade experiences.

After the formalities were over we passed many marchers wading in the outdoor fountains to cool off. Melissa and I opted for a little air conditioned culture and struck out for the National Gallery of Art.

Then we limped to the bus stop, rode back to Alexandria and slept a few hours before attending a party given by

the Alexandria NOW chapter in honor of out-of-town visitors.

At 8:30 AM Monday we headed for Capitol Hill via the new Washington subway for a 30-minute briefing on lobbying techniques before visiting legislators from our home states.

U.S. Rep Bob Gammage, who has been very supportive of the ERA extension, let us use his office as a resting place and his telephone to make appointments.

U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks said he still had some constitutional questions to be resolved, but he and an aide denied a report that he had prepared amendments to the extension bill which would provide for states to rescind previous ratification and for passage (of the extension bill) by two thirds vote instead of the usual simple majority.

We presented Brooks with a petition signed by 900 of his constituents endorsing the extension. He said mail to his office was running about 50-50 for and against the extension. And he added that mail from his district would carry more weight with him than any other factor.

Brooks' congressional district includes Friendswood; Gammage's includes the Clear Lake area and the Pearland area.

Beth Hudman of Galveston and I had a chat with Sen. John Tower. Although he supported the ERA, he felt that the extension is unconstitutional.

We advised him that the extension would be a election issue this fall and pointed out that his Democratic opponent, Bob Krueger, has supported the extension.

After the lobbying expedition we limped back to the subway, rested briefly in Alexandria, then caught a 1:30 PM flight that brought us back to Houston at 1:30 AM Tuesday. We felt that we had packed a lot of action into little more than 48 hours.

I believe the march was effective in showing Congress that the ERA extension is a question that cannot be buried in committees, but must be decided this year.

Frances Hicks, who lives at 1407 Seagate in Clear Lake City, is active in NOW and the Harris County Women's Political Caucus. She formerly lived in Friendswood.

3/6

Anyone whose fuse is lit by this topic is urged to read "Words & Women" by Miller & Swift (\$2.50 PB Doubleday) ISBN: 0-385-04858-0

PAUL REVERE THE MINUTEPERSON AND OTHER RED HERRINGS

OR

WHAT TO DO ABOUT MASCULINE GENERIC USAGES,

June, 1978

Marjorie Randal

Reader's Digest in November of 1975 contained an article by Jacques Barzun entitled "Was Paul Revere a Minute-person?" Barzun, author of House of Intellect (1959) and former professor of cultural history at Columbia, had become exercised by the refusal of a secretary to type the words "chairman" and "spokesman." The short article is full of ridicule and vitriol, and Barzun lists numerous combined forms (man-of-war, brotherhood of man, Frenchman, etc.) in which a substitution of -person would appear awkward. A key sentence is, "Obviously, the reason for using person was to avoid man, now felt to be the sign of an arrogant imperialism." The article ends with, "I conclude, on the source of history and etymology, that 'Madam chairman' is a correct and decent appellation. The man in it denotes either sex, and therefore the key word means precisely chairperson. For my part, I shall continue to use it unless stopped by the chair herself---or a chair itself."

This kind of learned intemperance and obfuscation is still going on. Tom Wicker, an associate editor of the New York Times, has recently used line space for an article entitled "His or Her Problem's a Serious One" (reprinted in Houston Chronicle, May 13, 1978). He begins facetiously, "So let us put aside small questions about Panama Canal treaties...It is past time to deal with the His or Her problem...fraught with significance for everyone who has to use the language...It is, moreover, akin to shouting 'Fire!' in a crowded theatre to write 'him' instead of the all-inclusive 'him or her.'" Wicker's extravagant phrases describe the supposed situation among scholars who "must" make some attempt to avoid sexist usages. "Ponderous syntactical consequences," he says, and "virulent 'chairperson' and 'first baseperson' controversy." He writes disingenuously, "One suspects that the chauvinists of either gender are not seeking semantic unisex so much as sexual hegemony." Wicker would have writers solve the problem by using the pronoun referring to their own sex, after a ceremonial first use of the his/her form. I do not think this suggestion is offered in a disinterested or conciliatory spirit.

What are we to conclude from such male use of the heavy artillery of argument: ridicule, purblind scholarship, deliberate misrepresentation of feminist aims, avoidance of the very words "feminist," "sexist or non-sexist," "generic he," etc.? Avoidance, in fact, of any serious discussion of this issue? I think we can conclude that the matter of reforming sexist language is very important politically. Men are resisting this change because it will indeed reduce the power of masculine imagery in all our minds. Feminists have claimed, and experiments in education have confirmed, that young minds in particular perceive "he" and "man" as quite literally male-only, and that such usages do exclude females from thought.

Women: A 'Mounting Rage' NEW YORK TIMES

To the Editor:
I would like to tell you about the chronology of my experiences today. First, I read on The New York Times editorial page of your continuing resistance to use of the word "chairperson." I found that mildly annoying.

Then, I heard on a TV news program that a young woman allegedly murdered by a former boyfriend whom she refused to see again was really murdered by "affection which she didn't return." That made me very angry.

Then, I heard on a radio news program of a policewoman whose charge of sexual harassment by male colleagues was countered with a reference to the clothing she wore while off-duty — T-shirts and dungarees. That lit the fuse.

It is not the word "chairperson" which is grotesque, gentlemen — not in the real world which women inhabit today. What is grotesque is your (and the world's) continuing unwillingness to accord women the status of persons. Do you understand now why I and many of my friends have to spend so much of our energy simply trying to deal with our mounting rage?
FRANCES A. BOCK
Chairperson
Department of Psychology
Wagner College
Staten Island, N.Y., June 22, 1978

What strategy might we use in seeking linguistic reform to reduce sexism? It may be argued that now is the time to make bold demands, as the changes we seek are called unreasonable and disquieting. We could insist that generic "she" and "woman" replace "he" and "man" as Wilma Scott Heide suggested years ago. The longer feminine forms contain the shorter masculine ones... Such a demand is very consciousness-raising and difficult to oppose, particularly to minds camouflaged as liberal.

Another strategy might have more practical chance of success, however. It is suggested by a very relevant change which occurred in Middle English, when the second singular form thou was replaced by what had previously been only the plural form, you. According to Oxford English Dictionary (p. 3299), thou was, toward the end of the period of change, used only to address an inferior. (A parallel may exist in related languages, as ODE also has a quote from "Daily Chronicle, 16 Feb. 1905" as follows: "Among the concessions...is that the men shall be addressed in the second person plural, not as is usual throughout Russia in the case of the working classes, in the singular 'thou' (a mark of inferiority).") I suggest that the use of generic masculine forms is retained and defended because they demarcate superior and inferior groups, specifically men and women, and that this goes far to account for the widespread emotionality about possible changes which is illustrated in Barzun's and Wicker's articles.

Generic he, man, etc., are formal and literary usages. The spoken language has most often a straight plural phrasing, or else such utterances as, "Everyone got their vote," and "People used to hunt the cave bear," rather than the supposedly grammatical generic masculine forms. A little attentive listening will confirm this observation. Furthermore, this habit of speaking is not of recent origin---it appears in old quotation in dictionaries. The intent of this spoken use of they, them, their as third person singular is exactly ours---to indicate the presence of both genders (gender reference can be retained for individuals). It seems logical to extend the usage to written materials in order to avoid sexist imagery. Let us use it and explain our position in a footnote wherever and as long as necessary.

As for generic man, men, perfectly good substitutes are also already in use. Here are the places to use person, people, human, humankind, etc. Barzun, Wicker, and all their tribe have failed to mention such usages, common in writing everywhere...

The National Association of Parliamentarians has recently voted to retain chairman for "presiding officer," on the Barzun-like ground that its use is ancient and honorable. Of course some members of the Association will continue to advocate chairperson, chairwoman, and chair-one. A practical way out of this conträmps would seem to be once again the adoption of an existing form, in this case chair. I do not think the elimination of all suffixes would cause much loss of clarity in parliamentary proceedings.

Linguistic change in English has long been in the direction of simplicity of construction. Masculine generic forms are not only pompous---they are anachronistic. Let us advocate simple and natural changes, motivated by a sense of justice.

Aug. 1978

SELF-MADE PEOPLE

An article in the morning's paper a few days ago caught my eye. It concerned one of the female astronaut candidates, Judy Resnik, and was headlined "FEMINIST CAUSE NOT A FACTOR, ASTRONAUT HOPEFUL SAYS." I wasn't sure which annoyed me more - the headlines and the focus of the questions, or her response to them.

Just why every woman entering a non-traditional field has to be queried on the impact of the feminist movement on her career, I don't know. Many women, particularly those who have not been politically involved, do not know the answer. The question, to them, probably sounds more like, "Are you here as a token who has been forced in only because you are a woman, or are you here because you really have something to offer in the way of job qualifications?" Those who are politically unaware easily get sucked in on the question and vehemently proclaim that they alone are responsible for their own success.

I guess I have always sort of envied people who can look you in the eye and say, "I've gotten where I am, strictly on my own." I have to ask myself, do they really believe that? If so, what an ego trip it must be, not to have to give credit to anyone, or anything, else. Of course, this only seems to apply if one is successful. I've never really talked to any self-made failures.

At any rate, for those straining their arms patting themselves on the back, I have to ask, was there no one who helped you along the way, no parent who encouraged you and perhaps provided vital financial resources? No teacher who took a special interest in you? No mentor who had faith that your talents could be developed?

Were there no lucky breaks? Being in the right place at the right time? Meeting the right person? Entering the job market during the right economic and political climate?

Dr. Judy Resnik, do you think that your life has not been affected by the thousands of women who marched and demonstrated so that they and those of us lucky enough to come after them could have the bare minimum of citizenship, the right to vote? Was it of no consequence to you that under extreme pressure from civil rights groups, a federal law was passed in 1964 prohibiting discrimination in employment and that that act was amended in 1972 to cover government agencies like the one you work for?

Has the fact that women across this country have, individually and in groups, fought battle after battle to see that women were given equal access to an education and to jobs, had no impact whatsoever on your life?

Ultimately, of course, we all have to make it independently. But merit is of little consequence when you are rejected out-of-hand because of your sex, or race, or religion.

It is indeed painful, knowing that the "Do Not Apply" signs have just barely come down, to hear someone deny that they were ever up. But then, how else can one be a "self-made" woman?

Commentary by Dr. Nikki Van Hightower
KTRH Radio, Houston, Texas July, 1975

ANNUAL MEETING, HARRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Frances Hicks and Melissa Weikensar attended this gathering on Saturday July 15. A new officer, Ms. Brink, can be contacted at 723-2967 or 723-2968 for further information on Caucus activities.

Caucus member Lea Moskowitz mentioned that an inter-faith group, "Woman-to-Woman", meets the 4th Wednesday of each month, at the Presbyterian Church on Main Street, near the Art Museum. This group discusses feminist books.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA by D.M.

has always fascinated me.
Don't you know that Princess---ah,
hand to brow, ah---
Suffering so from the pea under all
the mattresses
Must have gotten damned fed up
More than anybody else did, really
thoroughly fed up
At her own gorgeous bruise-a-bility
Don't you know that she, more than
anybody
Was bored witless
At that same old, recurrent, silly
mark
The familiar pain in the backside,
That kept making all the difference?
Especially with the world as it is
Cleated-boots, bulldozers, wrecking
balls and trip-hammers
Rather daily, actually,
Smashing away at most of us.
Oh, she must have been disgusted with
herself for letting
Something so insignificant---always
the same something, too---
Keep making that old, tell-tale,
familiar, lousy, purple, blue,
and yellow
Swollen, indelible place
And keep her awake again, all the
long night long?
How she must have hated her own hemo-
philiac, pathological, fat butt end.
So what use is it, for every male on
earth
In chorus, in unison, a capella, or
on a telephone
To say, "Snap out of it, honey."
Already she has said that to herself,
now hasn't she?
Through gritted teeth, yet:
"Not again."
I also wonder if that princess did
not get weary
Looking and looking and looking
From mattress to mattress
For one without so much as a single
pea, underneath.
Well. As the boys are fond of saying:
"We are hung as we are hung."
Are we not?

from The Other Paper
published in Galveston, 1975/6.

WHEN I WAS A CHILD I PLAYED WITH THE BOYS by Mary Mackey

when I was a child
I played with the boys
and (because I was only a girl)
they made me
be
the Indians
my name was Fox Woman
and they hunted me
like dogs
my name was
White Bird
and I flew to escape them
my name was
Last Star
the last
of my people
my name was
Sunset
for they caught me
and burned me
my name was
Won't Talk
for I never
betrayed us
time after time
the boys shot me down
and I came back
Red Witch
wild and chanting
came back
Ghost Dance
came back
Bad Dream
came back
Can't Forget
and Crazy-With-Grief
I know where they went
those boys with their guns
they're still hunting Indians
look
you can see
their names are
Spills Blood
and Kills-Without-Mercy.

from Split Ends, by Mary Mackey
© 1975

5/6

[Aug. 1978]

- Aug. 3 - BAY AREA NOW ERA FUNDRAISER WINE & CHEESE PARTY - 7:30 p.m. - Uniting Church - El Camino Real at Reseda - Bring wine and cheese or bread - \$1.00 donation. If you prefer not to bring wine and food - \$5.00 donation. ALL FRIENDS OF ERA ARE WELCOME!!!!
- Aug. 16 - 18 - TEXTBOOK HEARINGS in Austin. Please notify Twiss Butler, 333-4764, if you plan to attend. Check with her about housing.
- Aug. 17 - Women's Rights Coordinating Council (WRCC) meeting - 7:30 p.m. - World Trade Center - Texas at Crawford.
- Aug. 18 - Deadline for newsletter input
- Aug. 26 - Houston Area NOW ERA Fundraising Picnic - 4:30 p.m. - Memorial Park - for more information call Linda Jones, 524-0951, or Aileen McMurrer, 524-0439.

JULY PROGRAM: Here and Now--Women and Dying

- ***Evie Whitsett, program chair, announced that the July business meeting would be held Friday July 21st at Dorothy Howard's.
 - ***Janice Blue of Breakthrough reported bad financial straits. A subscription sign-up sheet was passed around. The goal is for each member to enlist at least 4 new members. Breakthrough is the only newspaper speaking for women in the Houston area. It would be a shame to lose it.
 - ***The N.O.W. National Conference will be October 6-9 in Washin ton D.C. People are asked to sign up for that so that rooms can be reserved, etc.
 - ***Evie Whitsett reported that Gigolo's "Eat for E.R.A." raised \$1404.81. Fantastic!
 - ***We were asked to send mail-grams and/or letters to members of the House Judiciary Committee asking them to vote to extend the E.R.A. ratification deadline.
 - ***Dorothy Howard reported the need for a phone number for people wanting to get in touch with feminist organizations. Newcomers and visitors don't know how to find us.
 - **Judy Nicholson conducted a Seminar on Women and Dying which was really excellent.
- Marie Stinson
Secretary, Pro Tem

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Houston 77062.

_____ I would like to become a member of Bay Area NOW and National NOW. (\$22)

_____ I am already a member of National NOW and wish to pay local dues. (\$ 7)

_____ I want to join but can only afford \$_____.

_____ I am not a member but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for a year. (\$4)

_____ I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ to NOW.

_____ As a NOW member, I authorize my name and address to be published on the chapter roster.

NAME _____ Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ City and Zip _____

Occupation _____

Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to Bay Area NOW projects:

