

ALERT ALERT

March 1, 1983

This is an update put together at the last minute from information presented at the Texas NOW State Council meeting held February 26 & 27. If you have a question or would like more detailed information, please call me at 726-9828(h) or 799-1234x591(w).  
Jeanne Sommerfeld

At the suggestion of the TX NOW lobbyist, G.K. Sprinkle, TX NOW has set six legislative priorities for this session. They are:

- SUPPORT 1) Child Support Enforcement                      OPPOSE 6) Anti-Choice Legislation  
2) Domestic Violence Statute Changes  
3) Amendment to HB 292\*  
4) Child Care Interim Study  
5) Memorialization of ERA\*  
(\*Those marked with an \* are discussed in this alert.)

\*\*\*\*ERA MEMORIALIZATION\*\*\*\*

This is the process whereby state legislatures request that the National Congress pass an amendment. It is valuable for two reasons:

- 1) to put pressure on the Congress to pass the ERA
- 2) to give us a vote count in the state legislature good for both the chances of passage of the ERA ratification and for use in the next round of elections.

To pass this bill we must find sponsors and do extensive lobbying. If you'd like to gain some grassroots political experience and increase the odds for passage of the ERA, please contact:

G.K. Sprinkle, TX NOW Lobbyist  
5405 Chevy Circle; Austin 78723  
512/926-7745(h); 512/928-4733(w)

Lauri Schneidau, TX ERA TF Chair  
2810 McDuffie, #49; Houston 77098  
713/527-9321

\*\*\*\*RAPE LEGISLATION\*\*\*\*

We are supporting HB446/SB349 which would eliminate the marital exception for rape provided that the parties are living in separate residences and have filed for divorce. This is a narrow clause, but it is a step in the right direction. Rep. Debra Danburg and Sen. John Whitmire are sponsors.

So far the bills developed by Michol O'Connor have not been filed. (See article on p.7) G.K. is checking into it.

\*\*\*\*HB 292\*\*\*\*

This bill seems to have the support of Gov. Mark White. It would prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, creed, color or national origin and would set up an enforcement agency. TX NOW voted to lobby for inclusion of the term 'sexual orientation' in the list and actively support the bill only if it is included.

\*\*\*\*SB 27\*\*\*\*

This bill concerns textbook review. TX NOW supports it as amended to include that the review process require fair and equitable hearings of all sides. See article on p.7 for more on the review process.

more - more - more - more - more - more-more - more

(continued)

\*\*\*\*SB 475\*\*\*\*

This is the first anti-choice bill to be filed this session. Because of the recent filing date, information is scarce. But it does concern parental notification. Watch for more details and DON'T FORGET that you can call 1-800-252-9693 to get up to date reports on Texas legislation!

\*\*\*\*\*

These are just brief highlights. Please call me if you have additional information or if you'd like to work on a particular issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

We (NOW at UH) are beginning a project to computerize the NOW membership listings in this area in order to create a legislative alert system. Call me if you'd like to work on this.

\*\*\*\*\*

National NOW has scheduled a nation-wide WALKATHON for July 9th! Walkathons are a lot of work (just ask Jo Ann) and if we are going to do it, we need to get started ASAP to be sure to make money at it. PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

\*\*\*\*\*

We have never done a newsletter that we didn't find ERRATA after it was printed. This time, 2 things got omitted and there is a (serious) typo. Please note:

At the top of page 1, we intended to incorporate the volume & issue # for Montrose NOW, from whom we got our new name. One way to do this would have been to put the following just under the Herizons logo:

March 1983

NOW at the University of Houston  
Montrose NOW

Volume 3, Number 3  
Volume 8, Number 3

-----  
On page 3 in the last paragraph of the article on Women's History Week, the date should have read "... during the week of March 7-12, 1983" (instead of "March 16")

-----  
On page 4 the following got omitted from the piece on INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:

... ..  
-----  
SISTERS ORGANIZED FOR SURVIVAL SISTERS ORGANIZED FOR SURVIVAL  
-----

Note: The following is a flyer distributed by Feminist Women for Peace, who include among them, Wilma Scott Heide. The ideas in the flyer constituted a major part of her presentation here on February 15th, and stimulated much discussion. For more information write SOS 6 Durham St, Boston, MA 02115.  
-----

Special  
HQ  
1101  
.N684



NOW at the University of Houston

March 1983

Montrose NOW

Volume 3, Number 3

## President's Column

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOW IN HOUSTON/TEXAS

March 1983 marks the 13th anniversary of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in Houston. Since this was the first chapter formed in the state, we can also celebrate 13 years of NOW in Texas.

Dr. Sally Hacker held a public meeting in February at Autry House. Newspaper reporting announced another meeting to be held in March at her home. At this meeting, ten people joined NOW and we formed a new chapter, just in time to send Bart Hacker to Chicago as our Delegate to the third National Conference. The ten charter members were:

- Dr. Sally Hacker, TRIMS president Ardine Sindo
- Dr. Bart Hacker, NASA secretary Barbara Lane-Farley
- Cathy House vice president
- Dr. Milton Lower, UH Ann Lower
- Dr. Donna Fox, UH treasurer Peggy Hall
- Barbara Settle

One of the very first actions the chapter undertook was to testify before the newly created Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). The intent of the Commission in traveling around the country documenting patterns of racial discrimination was to correct a long-standing ill. The law included sex as a category of prohibited employment discrimination, but there had previously been little testimony on discrimination against women. In June, 1970, the commissioners got an earful!

August 26th, 1970 was the "golden" anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. We in NOW thought it would be appropriate to celebrate 50 years of suffrage. --WRONG-- When we held a demonstration in front of the Federal Building we were greeted by a counter-demonstration, guerilla theater-like, organized by a group calling itself the Harriet Tubman Brigade. The Brigade was a brainchild of Space City News staffers.

Several of the early members led the way back to school. They were part of the effort at the University of Houston that resulted in the provision of day care services for the children of students and faculty. The University of Houston was the site of our first celebration of International Women's Day. Joreen was our featured guest.

NOW members were primarily responsible for a series of lectures at the College of the Mainland. The interest generated by these discussions led to the formation of the Bay Area Chapter.

We also helped the first woman candidate for the school board in Spring Branch, Joan Hanlon. Her supporters and campaign workers went on to form the Northwest NOW chapter. Houston NOW members helped start the Rape Crisis Coalition. The City Health Department created and eventually funded several new positions for the Detection, Prevention and Treatment of Rape. This department has developed a widely used evidence kit, opened up many more hospitals to the treatment of rape victims and maintained a continuing liason with both the police department and the district attorney's office.

Welcome to our new members, Rob Applegate & Lynn Campbell. Our membership continues to grow and this is very positive. I encourage all our members (new & old) to attend our monthly meetings to help make this chapter, which you already support, an effective source for changes in the status of women on this campus (and nationwide).

Wilma Scott Heide was on UHCC as our guest speaker honoring Susan B. Anthony's birthday. She was an inspiration to our feminist spirit. We were delighted to have her share her knowledge and humor as a grass-roots feminist organizer. I would like to thank Jo Ann Evansgardner and Gerry Gardner for their support in making this event possible. We had a good audience (140+) but we did not make back our costs for the reception afterwards. Worried about the low ticket sale, we invited people to come and "make a donation they could afford." More hopefully, the sale of T-shirts is encouraging. (see advertisement)

At our February 22nd NOW at UH business meeting, we discussed plans for Women's History Week, March 6 - 12, coordinated by Cindy Funderburke. We hope you will join us in celebrating by attending the daily lectures (see Calendar). Come by the NOW office (UC underground) to pick up flyers and help us post them throughout the campus and at off campus locations.

At our March 29th NOW at UH meeting, we will be voting on whether or not to renew our membership in the Women's Lobby Alliance (WLA) for 1983. Please attend to voice your opinion on this matter (and others) which have a great effect on all of us.

Rossann Daumas  
President, NOW at UH

Houston and Texas NOW members were instrumental in the early (March 30, 1972) Texas Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The Seventh National NOW conference was held here in Houston in 1974. That Houston had a strong feminist history, was centrally located, southern, and in an ERA ratified state were all important in choosing Houston as the site for the 1977 United States Conference on International Women's Year.

This brief review of our history leaves out so much more than can be included that it is painful. But our perhaps most important achievement has not been recorded. I refer to what has occurred in the minds and hearts of millions, many of whom are not even NOW members and some of whom undoubtedly say, often, "I'm not a feminist, but ---." Before NOW, most people had not even heard the term feminist. We have educated ourselves and our generation on the meaning and injustice of sexism, and recruited thousands to action to end it, in and out of NOW.

In Texas there are 7,593 NOW members according to the latest report from national. There is still work to be done.

Peggy Hall

REFLECTIONS

On February 7, 1983, Dr. Nan Bruckner committed suicide. Dr. Bruckner was a professor of Psychology and Women's Studies at the University of Houston at Clear Lake, a feminist therapist and an active member of the Houston feminist community for the past seven years. I don't want to use this space to talk about Nan's personal past nor to eulogize her roles and participation in feminist causes.

What I want to communicate is a resolution that I have made as a result of Nan's death. Nan was very good at being supportive of women, helping them through trials, encouraging them to achieve. It would be presumptuous of me to say that she was not as good at reaching out or accepting support. I did not know her that well.

What I do know too well is that we are all guilty of not supporting each enough - of not making a phone call or not writing a note to let someone know that we appreciate an action they have taken or effort they have made. Sometimes it is because we assume they already know they did well. Sometimes maybe it is because we are afraid that we will be asked to help and already feel guilty about not being able to do more. Whatever the reason, in retrospect, it may not be good enough. Most of our members are testing their limits - we go to school, hold jobs, try to maintain personal relationships and want to change the world. None of us can give all the time, energy and money to feminism that we would like to. But we all have enough time to let the people who have the time to take to be active that we are there in the background cheering their successes, supporting their efforts. If you do not have the time at this period of your life to actively fight for feminism, don't feel guilty. But do remember to be supportive of those who can be active.

Jeanne Sommerfeld

WE ARE NOT ALWAYS

Melanie Perish

We are not always the wise woman  
the stanch healer, the constant midwife,  
the one who culls the herbs  
into the magic poultice

We are not always mother and daughter,  
the strong hands, the nipple's sweetness,  
the arms that rock and rock  
and give when need demands it.

We are not always earth and water  
nor two sheaves of wheat  
nor shells wet with repetitious waves,  
the salt rim fresh on the thin smooth lip.

Sometimes we are the spinsters  
who turn the wheel, but do not spin,  
the mother's nag, the daughter's wanton anger.  
Sometimes you are the runaway river,

the river that threatens my field;  
I am the wave that hurls its crest  
like rocks  
against your clapboard beach house.

Like atoms  
we move,  
owning weight, mass, momentum.  
We are not always anything but ourselves.

Sinister Wisdom V 20

Long-time feminist and disarmament activist Alva Myrdal of Sweden has received the Nobel Peace Prize. The 80-year old Myrdal, who is campaigning for nuclear-free zones in Europe, says she hopes the award will encourage other peace activists around the world.

-Hersay

NEW STRUCTURE FOR ACTIONS BY NOW AT UH

At the February 22nd business meeting, we discussed establishing four committees. The new committees would provide channels for members to get involved in specific areas of interest or get information they need. The following committees received support, each being represented by a chairperson with responsibilities as follows:

1. Outreach and Education Committee, (possible chairperson, Rossann Daumas). This committee would focus on programs, information tables and scheduling monthly programs (lectures) on campus.
2. Action Committee, (possible chairperson, Jeanne Sommerfeld). This committee will focus on legislative alerts, protests, Guerilla theatre, etc.
3. Organization Facilitation Committee, (possible chairpersons: Sherri Forschler, Jo Ann Evansgardner). This committee is necessary to keep the chapter in operation in an organized way and will focus on updating membership, keep updating records with national and state, chapter records and accounting.

Existing chapter structures not under consideration for change include the offices of Public Relations, Helen Wilma Ortiz, and Public Affairs, Lucretia Copeland, which is not to suggest that they don't need helpers also. At our next meeting we should continue these discussions on how to support, facilitate, recognize and reward involvement in chapter actions by old as well as new members.

Jeanne Sommerfeld

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

NOW at the University of Houston  
&  
Montrose NOW

(Please check blanks as appropriate for you.)

1.  I wish to join the National Organization for Women, NOW at the University of Houston Central Campus or  Montrose NOW chapter. (Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$11 to \$35. (This amount is divided among Chapter, Texas NOW, and National NOW. Please send an amount for your dues according to your circumstances.)

2.  Enclosed are my dues in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Make your check payable to  
NOW at U.H. or Montrose NOW  
and send to:

NOW at U.H. Box 509,  
University Center,  
4800 Calhoun  
Houston, TX 77004

Montrose NOW  
1803 Fairview  
Houston, TX  
77006

3.  I do not want to join NOW at this time, but I would like to subscribe to this newsletter. Enclosed is \$5.00 for one year's subscription.

4.  I would like to talk to someone to get more information about NOW. Best time to call is \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PRECINCT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (from voter registration card)

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (hours) \_\_\_\_\_

UH Campus Mail Address & ext. \_\_\_\_\_  
(This can be mailed free via CAMPUS MAIL to campus address above.)

## WHY MARCH 8?

On March 8, 1857, women from the garment and textile industry in New York staged a demonstration protesting low wages, the 12-hour workday, and increasing workloads. They called for improved working conditions and equal pay for all working women. Their march was dispersed by the police, some of the women arrested, some trampled in the confusion.

• Three years later, in March of 1860, these women formed their own union and called again for these demands to be met.

• On March 8, 1908, thousands of women from the needles-trade industry demonstrated for the same demands, plus some new ones: legislation against child labor and for the right of women to vote.

• In 1910, the German labor leader Clara Zetkin proposed that March 8 be proclaimed International

Women's Day in memory of those earlier struggles of women for better lives.

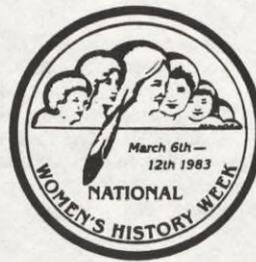
• Over the next 60 years, March 8 was celebrated mostly in socialist countries. By 1967, the day began to be celebrated by some groups in the United States.

• In 1970, owing to the growing women's liberation movement, events were planned to celebrate the day in most of the major cities of the United States.

• In the past five years it has become a widely celebrated day for most women's organizations and groups. Rallies, forums, panels, conferences, demonstrations, radio programs, media shows, and school programs will all be part of the 1983 celebration of women's rights and their contributions to the history and culture of the world.

—Berkeley Unified School District

Women's Studies Program



## Women's History Week

"Women's experience encompasses all that is human; they share - and have always shared - the world equally with men."

Gerda Lerner

Throughout the history of our world women of all races, ages, cultures, and religious faiths have made innumerable contributions to the advancement and civilization of people. Many of these efforts have gone unrecognized because history has been recorded from a masculine perspective. This interpretation of history leaves us with only half the picture of an experience which includes both women and men.

Women's History Week, March 6-12, has been set aside to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women in history. The idea of celebrating Women's History Week was first initiated by members of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women (Santa Rosa, CA) in 1978. By 1981, the week which includes International Women's Day was proclaimed by a joint resolution of Congress an official observance. For 1983 Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D.- MD) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R. - UT) introduced the following resolution which became law.

"... Whereas American women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of our nation's life by constituting a significant portion of the labor force in and outside the home

... Whereas despite these contributions, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history:

NOW, therefore, let it be resolved ... that the week beginning March 6, 1983, is designated "Women's History Week" and the President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

On Monday through Friday during the week of March 16, 1983, NOW at UH will participate in Women's History Week by presenting a series of lectures beginning at 12 noon at the A. D. Bruce Religion Center at the University. The complete list of speakers and topics will be found in our FEMINIST CALENDAR FOR MARCH. See also the enclosed flyer.

Cindy Funderburke  
Helen Wilma Ortiz

### HISTORY? HERSTORY? OURSTORY!

Some sage has observed that those who do not know their own history are condemned to relive it. When one thinks about women and "history", it is clear that for millenia we have, women and men, "relived" a history that excluded women from consideration. More specifically, those of us who are feminists have historical origins which we ignore at great peril. The bibliography that follows is culled from a much longer list I would have liked to include. Each entry is "a good read" as well as essential to our understanding. I suggest choosing from the early part of the list first.

Jo Ann Evansgardner

Eleanor Flexner, Century of Struggle - The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States (Revised edn) Belknap Press, Harvard University Press Cambridge, 1975 (originally 1959)

Ellen Carol Dubois Feminism and Suffrage Cornell University Press, Ithaca NY 1978

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan Brownell Anthony and Mathilda Joslyn Gage History of Woman Suffrage (6 volumes containing speeches, letters, essays, published 1881- 1922) A good selection from this massive work is available in a volume edited by Mari Jo & Paul Buhle, The Concise History of Woman Suffrage, University of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1978

Gerda Lerner Black Women in White America - A Documentary History Vintage Book, Random House, NY 1972

Elinor Rice Hays Lucy Stone: One of America's First and Greatest Feminists Tower Publications, MCMLXI (Originally Morning Star: A Biography of Lucy Stone, 1818-1893)

Inez Haynes Irwin Up Hill With Banners Flying - The Story of the Woman's Party. Traversity Press, Penobscot, ME 1964 (republished as The Alice Paul Story Denlinger's Publishers, Fairfax, VA 1977)

Carrie Chapman Catt & Nettie Rogers Shuler Woman Suffrage and Politics. (1923) pb edition University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA 1956

Blanche Weisen Cook (Ed) Crystal Eastman - On Women & Revolution Oxford University Press, Oxford 1978

Midge Mackenzie Shoulder to Shoulder (the TV Documentary on the English Suffragettes, in their own words, with pictures) A. Knopf, 1975

Gerda Lerner The Grimke Sisters from South Carolina - Rebels Against Slavery Houghton Mifflin, Boston 1967

Mary Beth Norton Liberty's Daughters The Revolutionary Experience of American Women, 1750 -1800 Little, Brown & Co. Boston, 1980

Gerda Lerner The Majority Finds its Past - Placing Women in History. Oxford University Press, NY 1979

Jo Freeman The Politics of Women's Liberation David McKay, NY 1975

Judith Hole & Ellen Levine Rebirth of Feminism Quadrangle Books, NY 1971 (revised 1977)

# Judge bars 'squeal rule' enforcement

NEW YORK — A federal judge, saying teen-age pregnancies would be certain to rise, Monday barred the government from enforcing a rule that clinics must notify parents when their young daughters get birth control help.

The controversial regulation covering health clinics that get federal funds was scheduled to take effect Feb. 25, but U.S. District Judge Henry F. Werker enjoined the Department of Health and Human Services from enforcing the rule until a trial is held.

"The parental notice requirement is invalid because it contradicts and subverts the intent of Congress," Werker said. "Common sense dictates but one conclusion: the deterrent effect of the regulation will cause increased adolescent pregnancies."

Werker also said that as a result, "many maladies, including venereal disease, will not be prevented, detected or treated."

The regulation — branded a "squeal rule" by its foes — has been attacked by family planning and medical groups and state agencies that have argued it would discourage teen-agers from seeking birth control.

The requirement orders clinics receiving federal funds under the family planning law to tell parents within 10 working days when their daughters age 17 or younger get prescriptions for birth control pills, diaphragms or intrauterine devices.

The Reagan administration says parents have a right to know what their children are doing and says the rule is justified by Congress' declaration it wants to encourage "family participation" in birth control decisions.

Claire del Real, a Health and Human Services spokesman in Washington, said officials would have no comment until they receive the New York judge's order.

Asked if it would be obeyed, she replied, "We're very law-abiding citizens."

At the Justice Department, there was no immediate word on whether there would be an appeal.

The New York state Health Department, various health groups and state Attorney General Robert Abrams argued that the regulation would reverse progress made in reaching adolescents who need family planning services and in "stemming the tide of unwanted adolescent pregnancies."

Werker agreed and said statistical and medical evidence shows the requirement would deter youths from obtaining family planning services.

Even without birth control, he said, "adolescents will not abstain from sexual activity."

About 5,000 clinics nationwide would be covered by the rule, and family planning officials say the regulation could affect more than 400,000 teen-age girls.

ODESSA (AP) — By one vote, the City Council has rejected a proposal to require notification of parents when their minor children receive prescription birth control pills or devices.

Following the lengthy, emotional debate between ordinance supporters and opponents Tuesday, the council voted 3-2 to turn down both the proposal and an attempt to place the question on the April 2 city ballot as a referendum.

Planned Parenthood, which has a rent-free office in a city building, says that the notification law would violate constitutional rights to privacy, discriminate against females, and deny potential clinic clients access to services.

## Getting ready for Rosson

Before Gov. Mark White nominated El Paso housewife Peggy Rosson to the Public Utility Commission, the PUC, perhaps in anticipation, proposed some changes in its rules. One change would delete "sexist" language, such as the pronoun "he" and the word "chairman" from the rules. According to the Texas Register, the public benefit of the proposed rule "will be assurance that no section of the rule implies sexual discrimination toward any job in the commission."

## NOW leader extradited to Louisiana

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. George Deukmejian ordered Ginny Foat, the president of the state chapter of the National Organization for Women, extradited to Louisiana to face charges of murdering a man in 1965. Ms. Foat, who has been held at a California prison, has said she is innocent of the charges.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NOW AT UH MEMBERS

Laura Linn, recently appointed to the Committee on the Status of Women at the University of Houston.

Sammie Cohen, recently appointed as TARAL's Houston Coordinator.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

#### A Feminist Call to Action

As women, as feminists, we abhor violence and we intend to share our perspective on violence against people, particularly women, and our planet. Sexism, a learned and unnatural phenomenon, is one of the root causes of violence.

The use of violence is an acknowledgment of impotence, and war (organized violence) is collective impotence disguised as strength. Militarism is not human nature but habit patterns inherent in patriarchy which intrinsically results in dominant and subordinate groupings.

The male 'leaders' now have the technology and the obscene irreverence for life to risk and plan total destruction in the name of 'national interest.' Feminists know there are dynamic, life-affirming alternatives.

Those who have nurtured life and cherished this good earth know that most boys and men have learned how to dominate and control; now all of us must learn to nurture. Feminism affirms the feminine, which is the more humane in both sexes, in private and public policies.

Feminism denies that a war economy is healthy, that militarism creates security, and that peace is possible without justice. Feminism is the most radical critique of our time, going beyond change in casts of characters to rescripting our lives and creating the very dynamics of peace.

In this most critical time we call our sisters to action:

- \* to resist the militarism of patriarchy
- \* to resist the involuntary servitude of the draft for women or men
- \* to inform ourselves about tax resistance as a way of keeping our dollars from doing what our bodies refuse to do
- \* to oppose nuclear madness

WOMEN HAVE SERVED. WOMEN MUST ALSO LEAD.  
TOGETHER WE HAVE THE POWER!

The Daily Cougar recently ran ads sponsored by Finger's Furniture, Maxell Tapes and Columbia Pictures. This picture in the ad, which appeared most recently on February 20, showed only part of a young woman's body, that between the waist and the knees. (That in itself suggests that the woman is to be seen only as a sex object, since it is obviously not a bathing suit ad.) The ad depicts four men penetrating the woman's body with a flagpole, as if to conquer or more precisely, suggestive of gang rape. It had appeared before in the Cougar on February 4th and 11th, and the Cougar received several complaints about it, both verbally and in the letters to the Editor section. As a result of these complaints, NOW at UH received a letter from the Associate Dean of Students, Julius Gordon, stating that "The Cougar is sensitive towards the needs of the entire campus community" and inviting NOW members to a meeting February 18th. On Friday, four NOW members, Deborah Bell, Effie Feld, Laura Linn, and Madeline Mauk, met with Julius Gordon, Wayne Scott, the manager of Student Publications, and several Daily Cougar staff members.

At this meeting NOW members explained their distress with the type of advertising that the Cougar accepts and tried to raise the consciousness of those present concerning advertising that depicts sexual abuse and relegates women to an inferior status. At the end of this meeting, Julius Gordon expressed his opinion that he saw nothing wrong or "offensive" about the ad and questioned NOW members' (and therefore the University community's) "right" to "dictate" his responsibility (to him) concerning the issue.

We argue that it is not only the right but the responsibility of every student, faculty, and staff member to question the role of any administrator of the University in regard to assaults on the human dignity of members of the University community, and to try to correct any failures in judgment that we perceive. The argument really is over whether these ads demean women. As women and feminists, we find such ads to be dangerous to women, because they communicate the notion that it is OK to misuse women's bodies as objects, and damaging to men who are made less human as they are subtly indoctrinated with this ideology about the proper use of women.

The University of Texas Guidelines used by the Daily Texan were introduced by NOW members for consideration by the Daily Cougar staff when deciding on the acceptance of future ads. Included in the general standards which govern the acceptability of advertising by Texas Student Publications (TSP) are: 1) The TSP does not accept advertising which, in its judgment, contain attacks of a personal, sexist, racial or religious nature; 2) no advertising will be accepted which subjugates either sex to an inferior role; 3) the authority in determining whether or not an advertisement or series of advertisements is acceptable is delegated to the general managers of Texas Student Publications. Advertisers and/or interest groups have the right to appeal the decision to a review committee.

Wayne Scott agreed to look at these guidelines and take them into consideration. Although not everybody saw the problem in the same light, he said that after it was brought to his attention by NOW members, he saw how the ad is offensive. Some Daily Cougar staff said they feel they cannot please everyone or avoid offending anybody every time they publish an ad.

As someone deeply concerned about this issue, I believe that the least the University should do is to formally adopt guidelines that

- a) prohibit advertising that contains "attacks of a personal, sexist, racial or religious nature" or which "subjugates either sex to an inferior role" and
- b) defines the rules for responsibility and decision making when there are complaints or challenges about particular ads.

I encourage all who share this view to express their opinion to the Daily Cougar and to me.

Madeline Mauk  
Committee for Non-sexist Advertising in the Daily Cougar



GUIDELINES:  
HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO PROTEST AN ABUSIVE IMAGE

(The following is excerpted from Write Back/Fight Back! a packet produced by Women Against Violence in Pornography & Media(WAVPM)\*)

Taking time to write a letter of protest means you want your opinions to be understood; you want to produce a change - therefore, as angry as you may be, your letter should present your ideas reasonably and as non-threateningly as possible. Some helpful tactics:

1. Use the business letter format
2. Identify yourself as an authority - e.g. "Because I am a woman, I know this ad misrepresents women's true feelings"
3. Be specific - describe the offensive image and enclose a copy if possible. State why you object - e.g.
  - it perpetuates the myth that women want to be objects;
  - it has implications for our real lives: it increases the likelihood that we will be raped, battered, sexually assaulted or treated in discriminatory and sexist ways because it portrays such treatment and abuse as normal and acceptable;
  - it is degrading and humiliating to women, and trivializes women's unequal treatment in society, making it harder for us to achieve justice in economic, legal or political spheres;
  - it glamorizes the use of children as sexual objects, and teaches men that child sexual abuse, incest and child prostitution are acceptable forms of entertainment.
4. Demand personal and corporate responsibility
5. Use economic threats - you can make the company aware that you will boycott them personally and publicly which will at least raise apprehension about their public image
6. Suggest positive alternatives - share your vision of what non-sexist non-violent media is like.
7. State your demands explicitly - e.g. remove a billboard, stop an advertising program, publish an apology;
8. Send your letter to all concerned - e.g. "cc" at bottom and list individuals and organizations you send a copy to - the more the better!
9. Involve friends, neighbors, family and colleagues in your effort. They can sign your letter, or better, write one of their own.

ANY LETTER WRITTEN IS BETTER THAN NO LETTER AT ALL!

\* This packet is worth its price of \$3.50, or you can join for \$15/yr, support the organization, and get the Media Protest packet and a subscription to WAVPM Newspaper. SEND your money to WAVPM, PO Box 14614, SF, CA 94114

Founders say:

# It's high time to mainstream Women's Studies

BY MATT SEIDEN

©1983, The Baltimore Sun

WHEN SARA COULTER and Elaine Hedges were getting their Ph.D.s in English in the 1960s, most of the literature they read was written by men. They didn't think there was anything strange about it.

That's just the way it was: Most of the world's great books, like most of the world's great works of art and most of the world's great scholarly, scientific and historic accomplishments seemed to have been created by men. Virtually no one questioned it.

When Professor Coulter suggested creating a course in women's literature, a male colleague said, "The next thing you know we'll be teaching a course in children's literature!"

But in the late '60s and early '70s Women's Studies programs began springing up all over the country. Among the first was the program at Towson State University here, which was organized by Professor Coulter and Professor Hedges. It included a course on women's literature.

Students could now learn something about women in history, art and books. The rest of the university, however, could continue to go about its business, virtually untouched by academia's concession to the women's movement.

Now, more than a decade later, with Women's Studies well-established here and at more than 400 other universities across the country, with feminist scholars re-evaluating the contributions of women in almost every field of human endeavor, women like Coulter and Hedges say Women's Studies programs are no longer enough.

They say the time has come for "mainstreaming." Mainstreaming means taking the results of a decade of scholarship in Women's Studies and putting some of the new information into mainstream college courses. In effect, this means re-writing most of the basic liberal arts courses in the university. It means re-educating the professors who teach those courses. And it means requiring all undergraduates to learn something about the accomplishments of women.

This is no small order, but Coulter and Hedges say Women's Studies is already being "mainstreamed" successfully at a growing number of universities, and they are about to take the first step in that direction at Towson, Md. The first step will be a series of voluntary workshops for history professors this semester. The workshops will suggest ways of putting women back into history. Similar workshops will follow for teachers in other disciplines.

Some examples of the new perspective:

We've always taught the American Revolution as the dawn of an era of new freedom, but that freedom was mainly for men," Hedges says. "Women actually lost freedom. Before the revolution, under British common law, there was more flexibility for women, but statutory law as it developed in America discriminated

against women. More women owned their own businesses and worked outside the home before the revolution than after the revolution. We've learned this by checking historical and legal records. The records have always been there, but no one ever looked before.

"Or take pioneer women. We have always read about the pioneer men 'taking their wives and children out West.' No one ever talked about pioneer women. Now we know that pioneer women actually did more work than pioneer men. Absolutely. It's been quantified from letters and diaries. Women did indoor and outdoor work, but men never did indoor work. Men relaxed after supper, but women worked five or six more hours before they went to bed."

"In psychology, 90 to 95 percent of all research in human behavior has been done on males, and that research has been used to define what's 'normal.' If women behave differently they're considered 'deviant.' The new research focuses on the psychology of women.

"In art, the major art history text used in most universities for a generation or more covers 2,000 years of art history without including a single woman artist. Why not? For most of human history women were not allowed to study human anatomy. So instead of painting nudes, they had to do still life paintings and textiles and quilts, and the critics, who were men, defined those art forms 'minor genres'.

"Similarly in literature, the critics defined diaries and letters as minor genres.

but diaries and letters are all most women had time to write. Now we are discovering some great writing in those forms.

"In economics, they never even measured the economic value of housework, child care and volunteer work, which effectively wrote most women right out of the gross national product.

"And in science, for years we accepted Freud's theory that all women envied men, and we accepted Darwin's belief that male attributes like courage and brute strength were better adapted to survival than female attributes. But new research suggests that it took a lot more than just going out and killing to survive.

"In primitive hunting-gathering societies, for example, modern research has now established that male hunters waste a lot of time waiting to make a killing and end up bringing in only about 20 percent of the protein, while the female gatherers bring in 80 percent of the protein in the form of roots and nuts. And all this time we've been fooled by the chest-beating and bravado of the hunter-killers."

I asked Coulter and Hedges if the chest-beaters of academia were likely to accept the idea that they've been teaching their students wrong all these years.

"It took thousands of years to get to where we are now," Hedges said. "You're not going to change everything overnight. You work with those who are willing to work with you, and you wait for the others to retire."

I think they call that evolution.

Women's Studies was one of two issues raised by NOW at UH members at the Student Association (SA) Officer Candidates' Review. Ms. Phillips' (candidate for VP) response to our question about developing Women's Studies at UH: "I definitely feel that 'we' (SA and NOW at UH) should work to implement more Women's Studies at UH. She added that she was aware of the disadvantages of being a woman and being a black woman. Cheryl and Steve Parker were elected with 1200 votes. Coming in second were Karen Whitney and Rudy Neil with 600 votes.

Rossann Dumas

NEW YORK (UPI) — Five U.S. companies Thursday were awarded plastic pigs for advertising campaigns a feminist group considers insulting to women.

Women Against Pornography also bestowed the Ms. Liberty "Libby" award to three other companies whose ads were deemed to be favorable.

Group spokeswoman Francis Patal criticized some advertisers for "consistently ignoring or ridiculing older women, women of color, disabled women, large women and lesbians — those women who do not conform to the limited and biased feminine ideal of advertising."

Plastic pigs went to:

■ Cotler's Pants for an ad showing a fully clothed man standing over a scantily clad woman.

■ Hane's stockings for ads showing men ogling women's legs.

■ Maidenform for ads portraying undressed women in public places next to fully clothed men.

■ Guy Laroche for Fidji perfume ads depicting a woman's neck encircled by a snake.

■ Christian Dior for ads featuring two well-dressed men named Oliver and The Wizard and a scantily clad woman called "The Mouth."

Receiving the Ms. Liberty awards — a framed plaque — for non-sexist advertising favorable to women were the Ford Motor Co., Multifoods and the Eastman Kodak Co.

Ford received Women Against Pornography's award for excellence for its ads showing a confident, middle-aged black woman welder.

Multifoods took second place for its Kretschmer Wheat Germ ad showing an active athletic older woman.

Eastman Kodak was in third place for its ad of a young black woman hurdler.

NOW at UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON OFFICERS		
President:	Rossann Daumas	924-5177 am
Secretary:	Sherri Forschler*	645-5213 M-F
Treasurer:	Gerry Gardner	749-7336 (o)
Newsletter Editor:	Jeanne Sommerfeld	726-9828
Public Relations:	Helen Ortiz*	928-7075
Fund Raising:	Debbie McKenna*	781-3017
Univ Grp Liaison:	Penny Gutierrez**	441-4413
Membership:	Jo Ann Evansgardner**	741-4009
Public Affairs:	Lucretia Copeland**	496-9984

\* elected 1/25/83 \*\* appointed to fill vacancies.

#### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION!

During the last session of the Texas Legislature, feminists had to use their energies just to maintain the status quo - to defeat anti-choice legislation. This session a more offensive position is possible. Some feminists have developed their own bills to present to the legislators. Attorney Michol O'Connor has proposed a package of changes which is being presented during this session. These changes will probably need our active support if they are to pass. Therefore a brief outline of her proposals follows. If you would like a complete copy of these proposals call Jo Ann at 741-4009. If you have an opinion on them (re: chapter action) or need additional information please call me (Jeanne) 726-9828.

- Places rape in the assault category of the Penal Code. The advantages to this are that it re-enforces rape as a crime of violence, not of passion, and combines it with other forms of sexual abuse. It would also eliminate the current Texas language which makes it impossible for a husband to rape his wife and would make the law non-gender specific.
- Abolishes Alienation of Affection as a just cause for legal suits. It would prohibit the marriage partners filing suit against a third party for loss of the spouse.
- Abolishes fault grounds for divorce. This would add Texas to the list of sixteen states which only permit no-fault divorce. Theoretically, this makes divorce laws more fair, but it is of concern to some feminists because they fear that women have received even less than usual in divorce settlements guided by no-fault principles.
- Create laws governing "palimony" in an effort to provide an "equitable way of establishing rights and responsibilities between co-habiting adults."
- Repeal Section 21.06. This section of the Penal Code makes sexual intercourse between two people of the same sex illegal. It has been held unconstitutional by one federal district court in Texas but that ruling is only binding in that district. Therefore, 21.06 is still technically enforceable in other areas of Texas. There are 22 states which have already de-criminalized homosexual intercourse between consenting adults.

Representative Debra Danburg is among the co-sponsors for these bills. They are believed to have a good chance for passage. If you agree with these stands, go ahead and get involved. We will be discussing them at our next meeting.

Jeanne Sommerfeld

#### GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS CONCERNING TEXAS TEXTBOOKS (sequel to "BETTY JUDGE TO THE RESCUE ...!")\*

The bad news is that *Civics: Citizens and Society*, (published by McGraw Hill) has been adopted by the Texas State Board of Education after all. Apparently the Board would have had to reject all five of the civics books in order to remove this one from the adoption list. Though there was a valiant effort to reject them at least temporarily, the motion failed. Only seven books in the last 11 years have been changed or deleted as a result of appeals to the State Board. It appears that the Board relies on the Textbook Committee to make the decisions and then hesitates to make changes. Joe Kelly Butler, chairman of the Board for the last eight years admitted that he hadn't read but two pages in any one of the books.

It is interesting to note the progression of interest McGraw Hill displayed regarding this petitioner's case. Their July response to the bill of particulars (objections) indicated a certain amount of underestimation. At the hearing before the Textbook Committee in August only company representatives were present and they relied on their written response. At the November hearing before the State Board, covered extensively by the media, even international press, two company representatives and the author appeared and actually used their rebuttal time. The author claimed the quotations (objected to in the petition) were taken out of context. He used as his defense the fact that he got them from a Texas newspaper. At the February Board Meeting, the usual male representative introduced a female representative to Board members. She made it clear that she would be staying for the entire three days and confronted Dr. Virginia Currey, a board member, in the women's room to let her know that the section on the female president\* was put there to favor women and that one of the writers of the book was "a member of the NOW organization." Dr. Currey, though stating she was dissatisfied with the books because of the absence of women, added that "in all politics, I guess in all the decisions we make there's often trade off. I'm not satisfied with these books completely but I am even more concerned that the kids will have to read books that are probably already 10 years out of date."

The good news is that some big changes are being made in the selection process. Due to pressure from the People for the American Way and others such as the Texas Council for Science Education, petitioners will be allowed to write bills of particulars in favor of books and will be able to criticize other petitioner's objections. Just as important is the change which allows lay persons to be advisors to the Textbook Committee. The Committee is required by law to vote according to the recommendations of their advisors for the first ballot. Until now, these advisors were experts in a subject concerned with curriculum. Now lay persons concerned with general sections of the proclamation\* such as those regarding discrimination and stereotyping, will also be advisors, and there is a minimum requirement of one per subject area. It is a source of consolation that Board members who observed November hearings became concerned with their results enough to recommend changes in the process to address issues previously ignored or overlooked.

Betty Judge

\* See story in February issue of Horizons.

The effort reported here and in the last issue did not come cheap. Betty has invested countless volunteer hours and over \$700 in expenses to help end the mind-crippling sexism taught our children in the public schools. We all owe her a great debt, of gratitude at least, and if any members share her concern but can't contribute time, help with her expenses would be a real contribution to the struggle.

Jo Ann Evansgardner

**Support NOW at UH**      **BUY**

**T-shirts and buttons**

**are now available!**

**Two selections \$7.50 & \$8.00 ea**



APRIL NEWSLETTER PLANNING CALENDAR  
(all NOW members welcome)

March

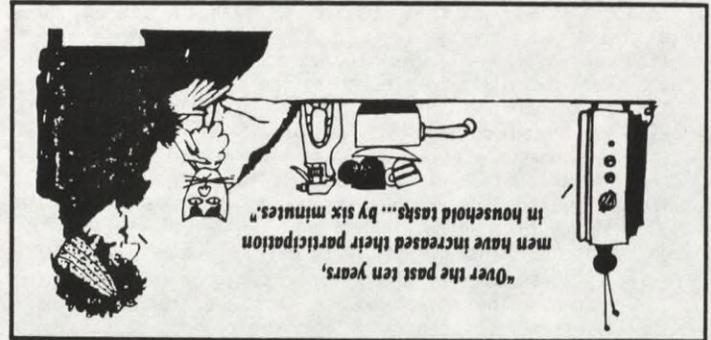
Fri 18 3 pm Creating and helping each other write, UC

Tue 22 5:30pm Articles due at Chapter Business meeting, UC

Fri 25 9am-3pm Typesetting - call Jo Ann (741-4009) to schedule your typing.

3pm Layout, final decisions, Jo Ann's house.

Wed 30 7:30pm Collating, Matting, issue discussions - open to all. Jo Ann's house.



N.O.W. Horizons  
Box 509, U.C.  
University of Houston  
4800 Calhoun  
Houston, Texas 77004



MARCH 1983 FEMINIST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun 6	9:45am	Dr. Wanda Mott - Women talking with a woman doctor about their bodies. 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin (at Southmore)	Sun 13	9:45am	Sue Verso, "Love, Addiction and Relationships" 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin
Sun 6	2pm	Gay Pride Week planning - Kindred Spirits	Tue 15	5:30	NOW at UH Business Mtg., UC
Sun 6	24 hrs	KPFT - 90.1 FM Feminist Programming	Thur 17	8pm	Delores Hayden, "The Grand Domestic Revolution: Feminist Designs for American Homes" 110 Rayzor Hall, Rice University.
Sun 6	1-6pm	Open House Women's Day at KPFT Radio, 419 Lovett Blvd	Sat 19	10am	The Pageant of American Women: From Colonial Times to the Civil War, 1st Unitarian Church 5210 Fannin. For more information call Deborah at 681-9507 or Peggy at 522-4468.
Every Sunday	1-4:30	A Place for Women's Health in the Community, The Montrose Clinic at 104 Westheimer, for more information call Lynn at 528-5535.	Sat 19	6pm	Hazelwitch Productions: Dinner at Treebeards Restaurant + films "A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts" & "The Pit of Loneliness" Tickets at Wilde & Stein and from producers. \$10
Mon 7 through Fri 11		Women's History Week at UHCC, Daily Brown Bag Lunches and Lectures. All meetings at A.D. Bruce Religion Center	Sun 20	9:45	Michol O'Connor, Atty, Legislation on a redefinition of rape as an assault. 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin (at Southmore)
Mon 7	noon	Steven Mintz, History Dept. UH, "New Directions for Women in History".	Tue 22	5:30	NOW at UH Program Mtg., UC (to be announced)
Tue 8	noon	Nancy Edwards, Anthropology, Houston Community College, "Women Before History".	Wed 23	noon	NOW at UH Program Mtg., UC (to be announced)
Wed 9	noon	Pauline Kolenda, Anthropology Dept. UH, "Women in the History of Anthropology".	Fri 25	8pm	Catherine Stimpson "Cricket's Laughter, Thunder's Tongue" 301 Sewall Hall, Rice
Thu 10	noon	Betty La Duke, Professor of Art at Southern Oregon State College, "Latin America: Women, Art and Social Change".	Sun 27	9:45am	Denise O'Doherty RN, "Women and Choices Concerning 'Psychotherapy & Mental Health'", 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin
Fri 11	noon	Dianna A Redburn, Dept of Neurobiology and Anatomy, and Naomi Kraus-Friedmann, Physiology and Cell Biology, UT Medical School, Houston. "History of the Association for Women in Science"	Wed 30	11am	NOW at UH Information Tables, UC Front
Fri 11	8 pm	Jan Radway, "Women, Domestic Fiction, and The Romance" 301 Sewall Hall, Rice	Thur 31	11am	NOW at UH Information Tables, Satellite, IF INTERESTED IN STAFFING INFO. TABLES PLEASE CALL ROSSANN AT 749-4142 AFTER 6PM.