



# BROADSIDE

HOUSTON AREA NOW

BROADSIDE--Vol. 11, No. 6

JUNE, 1980

## MAY 10 ERA MARCH IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS DRAWS THOUSANDS!

BETWEEN EIGHTY AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ERA supporters filled the rally site after the ERA March, in which some fifty thousand, most dressed in suffrage white, paraded from Grant Park along Columbus Drive to the tune of ERA chants and songs.

THE TEXAS DELEGATION of about one hundred men, women, and children wore white cowboy hats (we ARE the "good guys") and sang "The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You," adapted to the ERA situation in Illinois.

SPEAKERS AT THE RALLY INCLUDED Ellie Smeal, President of NOW, Mayor Jane Byrne of Chicago, Norman and Frances Lear, Betty Friedan, Marlo Thomas, Jean Stapleton, and too many more to name here.

MORE THAN 260 ORGANIZATIONS took part in the March; among them were the AFL-CIO,

the United Auto Workers, Catholics for the ERA, NAACP, and the United Methodist Church.



A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIT SHOULD GO TO THOSE TEXANS who took the time and spent the the money to get to Chicago for the March. The people who went on the Texas NOW Bus rode for some 23 hours; the group of 35 who went by the 2:30 am plane went some 44 hours with little or no sleep.

BUT JUST ASK ANY OF THEM if it was worth it--to a person they'll say YES!

See the related stories on the Leafleting Days and the Springfield Lobbying which took place in the four days after the March.



COALITION OF GREATER HOUSTON NOW CHAPTERS

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

HERIZONS--Vol. 5, No. 6  
JUNE, 1980

## THOUSANDS STAY OVER IN ILLINOIS FOR ERA LOBBYING EFFORT

A REPORT FROM JAN STEVENS

Thousands from all over the country, including several from Texas, stayed in Chicago Sunday for the Leafleting campaign; many stayed for the Monday leafleting, and at least 1,000 managed to get down to Springfield for the Tuesday rally at the Capitol.

Little did I ever think I would find myself standing on a street in downtown Chicago, handing out flyers, and asking passersby to sign cards in support of the ERA.

The most negative response I received was from the few who said "no thanks," or "I'm not for it," and some of those still accepted our literature. Many people expressed interest, and wanted to know how they could help.

In addition to facing the public to ask for support, the ERA supporters participated in telephone work, sorting mail to be taken to Springfield, and various other tasks around the ratification office.

THE TUESDAY RALLY AT THE CAPITOL in Springfield drew about 1,000 ERA supporters; the Capitol rotunda was jam-packed. The United Steel Workers of America were well represented, demonstrating once again that ERA truly has the grassroots support.

The rally featured about eight speakers, including again Ellie Smeal, Norman and Frances Lear, Betty Friedan, and several labor leaders. After the rally, mail was taken to the Illinois legislators; 559 pieces of mail were carried from the Houston area.

TWO PEOPLE FROM THE HOUSTON AREA managed to stay over for Wednesday, when the Stop ERA people were holding their little rally, and when the ERA was expected to come up for a vote. Jeanne Saletan and I, still wearing our Texas hats, got to see what the Stop ERA forces, and Phyllis Schlafly, are really like.

Their rally consisted of a small cluster of perhaps thirty or forty, and one speaker, Her Highness of the Plastic Smile herself. (Well, who else could they get?) The Stop ERA people were spoiling for a fight; and I mean physically. I saw two of them shove one of our young women who was holding an ERA banner. "Ladylike" they were not. They carried on their rally with no interference from the ERA supporters; but when we had a singer following their rally, they attempted to shout her down, get in the way, and generally disrupt our rally. We actually had to guard the electric cord to the singer's microphone so they would not pull the plug.

The Stop ERA people must

have a motto which says, "If all else fails, resort to lies." I overheard Stop ERA people telling others that women already have equal pay (ignoring Department of Labor statistics), that the ERA will lead to abortion, and that the ERA supporters were each paid \$10.00 by NOW to show up. One of them told Jeanne that it was illegal for Texans to be in the Illinois Capitol.

The Stop ERA people went around waving their little red stop signs in everyone's face; they became so annoying that Schlafly even had to push stop signs out of her face because her devotees were so anxious to block the faces of those ERA supporters who might appear on camera near Phyllis.

For people who are trying to emphasize their home craft abilities by bribing legislators with little loaves of homemade bread (with little stop signs on them), they sure had some lousy banners. Most of their signs, other than the stop signs which Phyllis had printed, were scrawled on poster paper, and were often unreadable, giving the Stop ERA people the appearance of an unruly mob, rather than an orderly group dedicated to an ideal. Texas had some beautiful banners; Jeanne Saletan was responsible for the purple and gold banner which led the Texas delegation in the March;

the Unitarian Church made a colorful banner which some of their representatives carried.

True to their unfailing ability to resort to lies, Schlafly is now saying that ERA supporters are bribing Illinois legislators. This delaying tactic is a sure sign that she realizes we are winning the battle. ■

\* \* \* \* \*

RAFFLE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE--HURRY AND GET YOURS WHILE YOU STILL CAN--CALL MARGI TUFTS, 665-8494; KATHY DUNCAN, 977-7297; OR B.J. LANCON, 481-2806. TICKETS ARE STILL JUST \$10.00. YOU CAN WIN \$500.00.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONGRATULATIONS TO PHYLLIS TUCKER, NEW TEXAS NOW STATE COORDINATOR. PHYLLIS WAS ELECTED AT THE STATE CONVENTION IN HUNTSVILLE MAY 17. Bonnie Huval, Bay Area NOW, was elected Communications Coordinator, and Chrisan Hooper of Gregg County NOW is our new Treasurer.

Come to the Houston Area NOW program meeting June 12 for reports on workshops and resolutions passed.

Sandy Roth, National NOW Secretary, was the keynote speaker. THANKS, SANDY!!

## BOOK REVIEW---LESLIE RESTON

FRANCES PERKINS: "THAT WOMAN IN FDR'S CABINET!" by Lillian Holmen Mohr.

This is a superb brief biography of the first woman ever to be a member of a U.S. President's Cabinet. Perkins served as Secretary of Labor for 12 years between 1933 and 1945. Madam Secretary faced problems not unlike those of today-- job opportunities, job safety, and fair labor standards. She was a prime mover in winning Social Security for the elderly, unemployment insurance, abolition of oppressive child labor, minimum wage laws (25¢ per hour at that time), the right to bargain collectively, and other progressive programs. Frances Perkins hated being praised because she was a woman in what was then considered a man's job. Often, when asked whether her sex made a difference, she replied, "Only in climbing trees." She preferred winning recognition on the basis of her work. She was an intelligent and experienced person, well equipped for the position of Secretary of Labor.

Mohr does a good job of compressing Frances Perkins' 85 years of life into less than 300 pages; she makes several references to the distinguished Alice Hamilton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and other fascinating women.

Frances Perkins is being honored by the issuance of a postage stamp bearing her likeness and by naming the building that will house the Department of Labor for her.

The Social Security Act of 1935 was probably the most enduring contribution Perkins made as a government official. As a member of the Committee on Economic Security, she worked tirelessly to create a practical Social Security program which could both pass the Congress and help the people. Her leadership, and the dedicated work of many others, helped remove the threat of starvation, eviction, and destitution from workers. If Social Security was Perkins' pride, the Fair Labor Standards Act must have been her joy. She had long advocated minimum wage and maximum hour legislation, which finally became law on June 25, 1938. Perkins indeed had become an important historical figure. Yet with all her accomplishments, she never lost the basic qualities which made her an extraordinary person: her courage, her vibrant personality, her gift for friendship, her sense of propriety and privacy. These qualities formed the core that touched everyone she knew and those for whom she worked. □

BROADSIDE/HERIZONS IS NOW  
ACCEPTING ADVERTISING--  
GET YOUR MESSAGE TO THE  
FEMINISTS OF HOUSTON--

BUSINESS CARD SIZE--\$5.00

CALL THE EDITOR, 445-2220

OR MAIL YOUR AD & PAYMENT

BY THE 15TH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.



12 Things You Can Do to Support  
the Equal Rights Amendment

1. Become informed--start an ERA file. Collect both pro- and anti- materials (avoid buying anti-ERA material). Clip articles from papers and magazines.
2. Get a copy of the U.S. Constitution and familiarize yourself with it.
3. Check the Government Printing Office Bookstore on the Gulf Freeway for helpful statistical and other info.
4. Discuss the ERA with family and friends, with your clubs and organizations.
5. WRITE to public officials and let them know your support of the ERA. Ask them to let you know their position.
6. Let your state legislators know you oppose any re-cission attempt.
7. Support the Economic Boycott of unratified states. Write to officials in those states and let them know why you won't spend money in their states; assure them you will stop boycotting them when they ratify the ERA.
8. Encourage any organizations to which you belong to endorse the ERA, and to participate in the Economic Boycott.
9. Write letters supporting the ERA to newspapers, magazines, TV stations, radio stations.
10. Work with your local ERA Action Team; help make phone calls, write letters, donate money.
11. Participate in rallies and public forums.
12. Work with other organizations who are involved in the ERA ratification effort.

AS OF THIS WRITING, THE LEGISLATURE OF ILLINOIS has not yet voted on the ERA. YOU CAN WRITE TO THEM and let them know we're all from an unratified country--we're looking to Illinois to help us.

WRITE TO:

Mayor Jane Byrne  
121 N. LaSalle  
Chicago, Ill. 60602

Governor James Thompson  
207 State House  
Springfield, Ill. 62706

JUNE						
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JULY						
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27	28	29	30	31		

# CALENDAR

JUNE, 1980:

- 1--Dinner Party Closing, UH/CLC
- 3--Women and Power, First Unitarian Church, 7:30 pm
- 3--Lesbian Feminist Caucus, Political/Cultural Joint Meet. 7:30 pm, 529-1973
- 5--Houston Area NOW Action Meeting, 7:30 pm, World Trade Bldg., 1520 Texas Ave.
- 7--Runoff elections--VOTE
- 10--Lesbian Feminist Cultural Meeting, 7:30 pm, 529-1973
- 12--Houston Area NOW Program Meeting, 8:00 pm, World Trade Bldg., 1520 Texas Ave. Reports from Texas Convention
- 14--Kay Gardner Concert, Fitzgerald's 8:00 pm
- 19--Houston Area NOW Rap Session Continuing discussion of Women's rituals
- 21--BEER BASH AT BASTIDAS', 7:30 pm 25¢ Beer, 1818 Binz #2

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207 ELLIOTT © 1979, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cartoon submitted by Leslie Reston

LISTEN TO BREAKTHROUGH ON THE AIR  
every Wednesday at 6:30 pm

ERA ACTION TEAM CONTACT--

JAN STEVENS--445-2220

6726 DESERT ROSE, Hou. 77086

21--Lee McCormick, Metropolitan Comm. Church of the Resurr. 8:00 pm

28--FIRST ANNUAL FEMINIST FUN RUN, spons. by Friends of HAFFCU, Memorial Park, 8 am \$6.00 fee includes shirt; see entry blank in this issue--SEND IN TODAY!

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**\*\*INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION** in the next BROADSIDE/HERIZONS newsletter should be submitted by the 15th of each month for the next month's issue. Material may be mailed to Jan Stevens, 6726 Desert Rose, Houston, Tx. 77086, or you may give it to Jan at the HANOW Program meeting, 2nd Thurs. each month.

Views and opinions expressed in BROADSIDE/HERIZONS are those of individual authors and do not necessarily express those of any NOW chapter or National NOW.

**Now is  
the Time...**

HOUSTON AREA NOW  
 P.O. Box 66351  
 HOUSTON, TX. 77006

President	Aileen McMurrer	524-0439
Vice-President	Patricia Bastidas	528-0296
Secretary	Leslie Reston	776-9827
Treasurer	Jan Stevens	445-2220

**to join  
NOW!**

MONTROSE AREA NOW  
 1803 FAIRVIEW  
 HOUSTON, TX. 77006

President	Peggy Hall	522-4468
Vice-President	Kay Whyburn	667-8556
Secretary	Peggy Mazeika	981-1074
Treasurer	Burnet Oliveros	526-0664

NORTHWEST HOUSTON NOW  
 1031 ARROWHILL  
 HOUSTON, TX. 77077

President	Susan Blanchard	376-5486
Vice-President	Elaine Oliver	468-7348
Treasurer	Marilvn Hannahs	496-2136

I wish to join \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of NOW.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose dues: \_\_\_\_\_\$30.00 Regular \_\_\_\_\_\$16.00 Hardship

I wish to pay either of the above in two installments and I enclose  
 \_\_\_\_\_\$15.00 Regular \_\_\_\_\_\$8.00 Hardship

This is my first installment \_\_\_\_\_ This is my second installment \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to the chapter of your choice, and send to the appropriate address as listed above. Dues include membership in the local chapter, Texas NOW, and National NOW.

May 27, 1980

Dear Sisters,

Houston Area NOW is facing an immediate challenge. We have been asked to vacate our office space, as the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, from whom we sublet the office space, is moving. They are having difficulty and cannot afford to keep the office. And we cannot afford the full rent.

Houston Area NOW needs your full support right now! Our chapter has been growing. We have a healthy active membership. We have been involved in several projects and actions including: a major press release commemorating Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on abortion; several Class Factory classes on the ERA; we've started CR. groups going again; we picketed the Bush and Reagan forum and we helped organize to send approximately 50 people from the Houston area to the Chicago ERA march May 10<sup>th</sup>. Oh yes, and we contributed a generous \$500.00 to sponsor the Sojourner Truth plate of "the Dinner Party," which depleted our treasury. Right NOW we need you, your creative energy and your resources. First: If you have not contributed your \$5.00 towards the Sojourner Truth plate, get out your check book and if you haven't bought a raffle ticket for the \$500.00 prize, don't forget to include that \$10.00. This, in itself, will be a major help. Second: if you have any ideas about a CHEAP office space, hopefully centrally located, get in touch w/ Jan Stevens or me. Third: come to our next business mtg, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and bring your ideas and energy and share them with us. The women's movement is alive and well in Houston and you are a part of it. Come join us, We need you, NOW!

in sister hood,

Aileen McMunn  
pres. HANOW



HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER  
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

HANOW  
P. O. BOX 66351  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

BULK RATE  
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PAID  
Houston, Texas  
Permit No. 9902

10:

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.



National Organization for Women

INSIDE:

- \*May 10 ERA March
- \*Activities in Ill. after the March
- \*Book Review
- \*12 Things YOU Can Do For the ERA



Defend a Woman's Right to Choose!