



# N.O.W. NEWS

BAY AREA CHAPTER

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Volume XII, Number 7  
July, 1984

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:    A SERIOUS, COMPLEX, SOCIAL PROBLEM!!!



By David Seavey, USA TODAY

PROGRAM TOPIC: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
SPEAKER: VIRGIE JUNOT CHAIR-TEXAS NOW TASK FORCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
TIME: 7:30 PM JULY 5, 1984  
LOCATION: A UNITING CHURCH EL CAMINO REAL & RESEDA DR.  
CLEAR LAKE CITY

The following is from USA TODAY, Dec. 12, 1983. I urge each and every one of you who reads this article to attend the meeting this Thursday, July 5, 1984. We are our sisters, keepers!

Look closely at her. The clues are there.

She can't quite conceal the chin and cheek discoloration with make-up. She often makes those unexpected, unexplained visits to the hospital emergency room. And there are the tearful, contrived phone calls canceling longplanned get-togethers. The evidence points clearly and tragically to a battered wife.

She is one of six million American women trapped by domestic violence. Authorities predict that more than 2,000 of them will die from such beatings next year.

Wife battering, by no means a new phenomenon, is a growing societal problem.

For too long, household violence has been winked at by the law. Police, prosecutors and judges, mostly men, usually consider such cases "family spats." They say there are more important crimes that must be dealt with.

Those women who are dependent on spouses for subsistence too often have taken the punishment in silence. Outside their homes, they have no place to hide. They want desperately to hold their families together. They have no confidence that courts will protect them.

But society must find answers. The law enforcement establishment must be more responsive. This crime must be taken seriously-by police, prosecutors and judges.

In every community there must be a heightened sensitivity to the plight of battered women. Presently there are 700 shelters across the USA where they can hide and receive counseling. But many cities have none.

The YWCA has more than 200 shelters-but the agency reports it is unable to accommodate 80% of the battered women who need help. More than a dozen states now fund programs to aid battered wives. But most state legislatures have failed even to acknowledge the problem.

Many victims of the crime of wife battering report they feel disgraced by the experience. The disgrace is not theirs. It belongs to the society that fails to protect and help them.

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There are 695 shelter beds available in Texas at any one time. At least 2/3rds of these beds must be used by the children that accompany the mother, which means about 232 families can be sheltered at any one time.

According to a 1983 survey of Texas women, at least 60,000 women are physically abused each week, which means there are 260 women in need for each shelter bed available in Texas. Each year in Texas, at least 318,000 women are physically abused by their husband or live-in partner.

"Texas Council on Family Violence,  
July, 1983"

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In every neighborhood, among families of every social and economic class, an alarming number of women are beaten by their mates-frequently, savagely, and for prolonged periods of time-yet they are virtually powerless to act in their own defense.

Almost invariably, they cannot run away because they lack the means to support themselves and their children. Instead, they are made to feel somehow responsible for what they have suffered, and hence can expect little help from the police, the courts, and social agencies.

-Del Martin, Battered Wives (Glide Publications), 1976

RANTINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have two sayings that I really admire and possibly live by. The first "Should I abide by the rules until they're changed, or help speed the change by breaking them?" The second, "Be reasonable demand the impossible!"

The reasons for the above paragraph, the run-off elections, the state Democratic Convention, the passage of two gay ordinances by the city council of Houston and the Gay Pride Parade.

The work, effort, energy and time put in by those of you who fought so long for the election of Lloyd Doggett to win the Democratic nomination for Senate of the state of Texas is something that I will never be able to define my pride. You members of Bay Area NOW are still the best in the country. With all of you putting in long hours, we were able to get up on Sunday morning and find that for the first time in Houston history we have more women running for office than ever before. Thank you members. Thank you from me and all the candidates.

To sit at the Democratic Convention as a delegate knowing that it was because of the encouragement of Bay Area NOW members that I went was a great feeling. However, imagine the feeling when you are looking out and realize that beside you sits your Bay Area NOW sisters. District 11 had 6 of us stuck in their delegation and I assure you that things are going to change in District 11. We were thrilled to be able to look across the hall and hear Bonnie Huval, District 17 speak out wisely and proudly on the reproductive rights resolution. All over the floor were Texas NOW members representing different districts. We may have been a minority but it was a good feeling knowing that big changes have small beginnings. Gloria Sprinkle, Texas NOW President was named as an alternate delegate for Mondale to the National Democratic Convention. Next time I am sure we shall have many more.

The historic and courageous act of city council was something I never expected to see in my life. Read the inside section of your newsletter for more on that issue.

Lastly the thrill of participating in the Gay Pride Parade. It is impossible to relate the feeling as we marched along the street and heard the cheers and applause from the people watching. The long struggle that a number of us have gone through over the years to accomplish rights for all persons was rewarded. We know the struggle isn't over, but for a little while, it was a very great feeling.

Thank you members of Bay Area NOW. We are the greatest!!!

"I am a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. I make that statement proudly, in the full knowledge that, as a black person and as a female person, I do not have a chance of actually gaining that office in this election year. I make that statement seriously, knowing that my candidacy itself can change the face and future of American politics—that it will be important to the needs and hopes of every one of you—even though, in the conventional sense, I will not win."

—Shirley Chisholm, June 4, 1972

Frances (Sissy) Farenthold of Texas received 420 delegate votes for Vice-President at the 1972 Democratic National Convention, second only to Senator Thomas Eagleton.

"When the nurse, who we later found out is an ardent feminist, came to tell my husband that our baby had been born, she startled him by dryly announcing: "You have a possible future President of the United States—if we ever get the good sense to elect a woman!"

—Shirley E. —letter to the editors, Ms., August, 1976

"A few of us sat down and wrote the principles for the (Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party) Feminist Caucus. We used the word 'feminist' upfront—none of this 'womens' crap. There were fourteen principles—the ERA, the choice of abortion, child care, party reform, supporting feminists for posts in and outside the party—everything. The fourteenth was the most controversial, through, because we pledged to support, as a caucus and as individuals, 'only those candidates who support these principles.' But we kept that fourteenth point. Why mess around supporting candidates who don't support your issues? I'd had enough of that in my life."

—Koryne Horbal, "Inside the System," Ms., July, 1977

The run-offs are over and as Bob Dylan sang "the times they are a-changing." We have a number of women who came through the run-offs great. Now we will begin to start mobilizing again and make these winners in the run-offs the duly elected candidate in the November election. Congratulations to:

Michol O'Connor	1st Court of Appeals
Alice Trevathan	127th state District Court
Elinor Walters	333rd state District Court
Carolyn Day Hobson	County Civil Court at Law No. 3
and our feminist males	
Lloyd Doggett	U.S. Senate
Don Buford	Congressional Representative-District 6

(Our special thanks, respect and love to Sheila Jackson Lee, the democratic nominee for Judge of the 215th Civil District Court who attended our June meeting to thank each of you for your support.)



'You definitely could use a woman runing mate, Walter — to toughen up the ticket.'

Houston Post 6-25-84

NOW President Judy Goldsmith:

" 1984 may not be the year for America's first woman president... we are building for 1988. But there is no reason why we should not reasonably look for a woman vice presidential candidate in 1984. Women are ready now. The time for a woman vice presidential candidate is 1984."

Washington Post 10-2-83

Ann Lewis, political director,  
Democratic National Committee:

" The question is no longer whether, but when. In the past six months it has become a real possibility. We have changed the job description. It no longer says 'male wanted.' "

Washington Post 2-20-84

Tuesday, June 19, 1984, was a memorable day for gay rights in the city of Houston. The Houston City Council by a 8 to 7 vote passed amendments to two city ordinances in order to prohibit discrimination against city employees and contractors on the basis of sexual orientation. NOW has long had a policy of support for lesbian and gay rights. Judi Hoffman and Diane Berg, co-chairs of the Texas NOW Task Force on Lesbian Rights, were at the meeting. Although the ordinances passed, the report from Judi on the mood and attitude of the crowd that gathered was frightening. Somehow a crowd that chooses to sing "Onward Christian Soldiers", "God Bless America", and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and then shout over and over... "DEATH TO ALL HOMOSEXUALS" makes one believe that there must be some type of contradiction there. The hate was overwhelming at city hall. Council-persons Ernest McGowen, George Greanias, Rodney Ellis, Dale Gorczynski, Anthony Hall, Elinor Tinsley, Judson Robinson and Mayor Kathy Whitmire deserve our support and thanks. The following letter to the Houston Post says everything so much better than I can.

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*Editor's note: On Tuesday, The Houston Post ran an editorial against city legislation barring city job discrimination based on sexual orientation. The following article is a reply to that editorial.*

By THOMAS J. COLEMAN JR.

On Tuesday, the Houston City Council passed amendments to two city ordinances in order to prohibit discrimination against city employees and contractors on the basis of sexual orientation. The amendments do not affect private employers, but rather are a codification of executive orders concerning city employment that have been in effect since the administration of Mayor Jim McConn. They were carefully drafted to eliminate any possibility that they might be used for the establishment of goals or quotas for gays and lesbians.

These amendments were introduced in December 1983 and were duly reported by the Houston media. They were extensively considered and discussed by the City Council and the public for two weeks.

However, a last-minute, well-organized and well-financed campaign of misinformation, innuendo and vicious attacks against homosexuals was conducted in an attempt to delay and defeat the amendments. A bank president paid for two large newspaper advertisements comparing gays and lesbians with public drunks. The chairman of the Harris County Republican Party dredged up and trumpeted the long-disproved myth that homosexuals recruit

And members of the council, especially those who supported the amendments, were subjected to what Councilwoman Eleanor Tinsley called a "sad and dangerous outpouring of hatred." Indeed, the council found it difficult even to conduct a discussion on the amendments the day of its vote due to the hostile shouts from a crowd constituted primarily of religious fanatics, members of the Ku Klux Klan and others who actively seek not only to discriminate against gays and lesbians, but against other traditionally persecuted minority groups as well.

### Backers carried vote

Despite these tardy but obvious attempts at intimidation, the seven council members who had previously pledged their support for the amendments, along with Mayor Kathy Whitmire, remained steadfast, securing passage.

On the day of the vote, The Houston Post printed an editorial entitled "Pressure Politics," taking the side of those who opposed the amendments. This commentary, like those of the others who opposed the amendments, was based on faulty assumptions and ignored the real problems that must be faced when considering, confronting and dealing with this issue in a truly conscientious manner.

The editorial began by expressing outrage that the Gay Political Caucus could be in a position to influence and persuade the council to secure equality and dignity for gays and lesbians in city government. No attention was given to those who spent thousands of dollars and engaged in a campaign of intentional

distortion and intimidation to obtain a last-minute change in the council vote.

Gays have been active in city politics, working legitimately within the system, for many years. Our program has never been changed: We seek legal protection from irrational discrimination, not special favors. Those council members who pledged their support for legal equality for gays and lesbians did so voluntarily, when they were first questioned on these matters, not because they were "pressured." At one time, council members Christin Hartung, John Goodner and Ben Reyes agreed to support this type of equal protection but, in the end, did not.

The real issue here is not one of "pressure politics" but of political integrity. I find it most hypocritical that someone should gladly seek and accept gay support, in whatever form, in order to be elected and then, once elected, find it more expedient to use deliberate distortion, fear and misinformation to attack that very support. A question that other political groups should ask themselves is

when it will become expedient to attack them.

### The question of choice

However, in the final analysis, this type of political decision stands or falls on its merits. And it is on the merits that The Post made the most fundamental misstatement — that a person may be born of a certain race or gender but "... to become gay was his or her freedom of choice in America." — thus, any anti-gay discrimination is voluntary on the part of the person on whom it is inflicted.

First, the mere fact that someone is born black or a woman rather than "becoming" gay makes no difference as concerns the irrational prejudice that all these groups have historically suffered from. Second, in 23 states, one is not "free" to "become gay." To do so is to attain the status of a criminal. In Texas, we are no longer criminals only because of a recent successful court challenge to Texas' "Homosexual Conduct" statute. This case remains on appeal due to the efforts of two anti-gay groups in Dallas. They have spent at least \$50,000 in legal fees to turn approximately 1 million Texas residents back into criminals and cast us back onto the rubbish heap of second-class citizenship.

Most distressing, however, is The Post's opinion that people somehow "choose" to be gay, as they would choose whether to drink whiskey or drive a foreign car. In fact, the great bulk of scientific evidence holds that sexual orientation is determined before the age of five, long before one has the ability to "choose" much of anything. To make comparisons of this sort is to trivialize a characteristic that is innate and personal, and only serves to encourage further misunderstanding.

Finally, contrary to The Post's stated position, there is a real need for these amendments. The opponents to these amendments intentionally ignore documentation already on file when they assert that there is no discrimination against gays in city government. Indeed, they are actively advocating establishment of legal discrimination in hiring in some departments. Without these amendments, a city employee

is required to make a federal case out of this type of discrimination. In the context of governmental employment, the case of Gary Van Ooteghem is illustrative. Van Ooteghem, a former Harris County employee, sued the county for loss of his job due to the fact that he is gay and publicly supported gay rights.

Despite a clear finding of a violation of Van Ooteghem's constitutional rights of free speech, as determined by dozens of judges who have reviewed the case, it remains in court after nine years of litigation, having been twice appealed to the United State Supreme Court by the county, with another appeal promised.

### Endless court battles

Clearly these claims could be handled more quickly and inexpensively, for the aggrieved party and for the taxpayer — through the local civil service, as provided for in these amendments — than through endless court battles.

In fact, the reason for the long delays in resolving the Van Ooteghem case, as well as the strident opposition to the Houston City ordinance amendments, is the same: It is homophobia — the irrational fear of homosexuals and homosexuality. Regardless of the cause of homophobia — ignorance, religious fanaticism or anxiety about one's own sexual identity — the effect on government employees is the same: justice delayed, justice denied.

Considering the strident hostility encountered by Mayor Whitmire and the council members who supported the amendments, their courageous steadfast support should be appreciated by all who support human rights and human dignity. To fail to recognize the need for this sort of legal protection is unconscionable. To fail to take issue with the bigotry and hatred that is all too apparent from those who support this discrimination, regardless of who they are, is inexcusable.

Coleman, a local attorney, is a board member of the Houston Gay Political Caucus and a member of C-PAC, two political organizations that supported the amendments.

6-23-84

CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

What is it? What will it do for me? How do I sign up? Good questions! Here are some answers:

WHAT IS IT? It is a series of sessions with other women that will explore our life experiences as females living in an anti-woman, sexist world.

WHAT WILL IT DO FOR ME? It will change your perspective on many facets of life; career, marriage, parenthood, daughterhood, sisterhood, plus much, much more.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? The chapter is offering three classes for your convenience, one on Monday evenings from 7-10 PM, Tuesday evenings 7-10 PM, and Sundays from 1-4 PM. Sign up by coming to our next meeting or by calling Donna Berend 409-948-8896, Pat Kuhlmann 488-3278, or Janice Brooks 645-2136 respectively.

Each class requires a ten-week commitment. Classes will start within the next eight (8) weeks based on interest expressed.

New members of the chapter are especially urged to take advantage of this opportunity to acquaint yourselves with NOW, with feminism and with parts of yourselves you never acknowledged before or even knew existed.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU NEED OR AT THIS TIME, YOU REALLY NEED IT!!!

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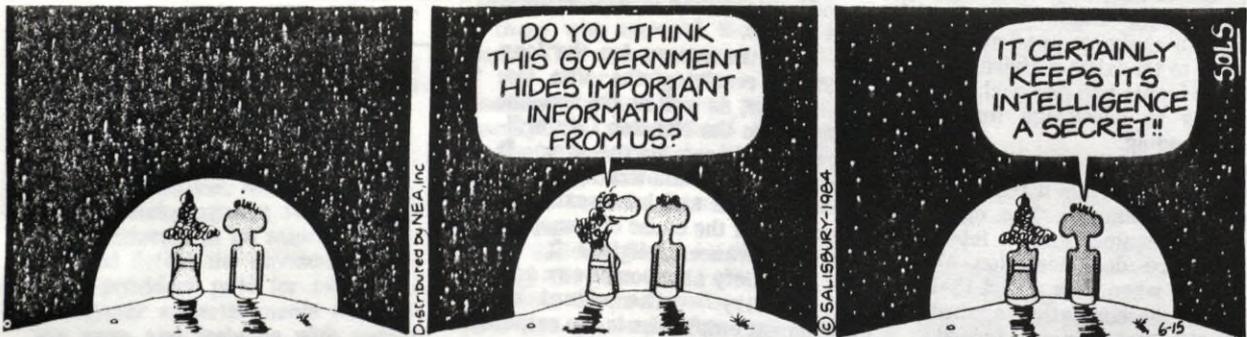
GAY PRIDE PARADE, JUNE 24, 1984

1984 marks the first year that Texas NOW has participated in the Gay Pride Parade sponsored by the Gay Political Caucus of Houston. The theme was "Unity and More in '84."

Forty-six NOW members from across the state marched in the parade. Along the route which spanned Westheimer from Shepherd to Bagby, we garnered many cheers and much support that put smiles on our red, hot faces.

Among the participants we had two National NOW board members, two previous Texas NOW Presidents, most of the elected officers in the state organization, task force chairs, and the entire Texas NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force.

Seven of our own members were present including; Kerry Ellison, Judi Hoffman, Bonnie Huval, Liz Mast, Judy Snyder, Phyllis Tucker and Betty Yancy.



WOMEN'S TRUTH SQUAD ON REAGAN'  
(from a brochure developed by Salem, Oregon NOW)

PRESIDENT REAGAN IS TRYING TO BENCH YOUR DAUGHTER!!!

"No person...on the basis of sex, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance..."

YOUR DAUGHTER IS PLAYING BECAUSE OF TITLE IX

Title IX has provided opportunities for girls and young women to participate in all sports programs. Playing school sports is important because it helps girls to develop an appreciation for hard work, learn self-respect, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a law enacted by Congress to prohibit sex discrimination in schools and colleges receiving federal money. Under Title IX, female and male students of all ages and races are entitled to equal access and treatment.

RONALD REAGAN WANTS TO DESTROY TITLE IX

In a case decided last February 28th President Reagan persuaded the Supreme Court to drastically limit the reach of Title IX. President Reagan's Justice Department successfully argued that Title IX should be limited to prohibiting discrimination only in the specific program receiving government funds, not the whole school. This means that federal money in the form of financial aid to students may virtually allow a school to remain open but that school may refuse to fund women's sports or bar women from certain classes or activities.

Legislation has been introduced to restore the original meaning of Title IX and keep laws that prevent discrimination on the basis of race, age or handicap in schools from being weakened in the same way. But President Reagan opposes this legislation.

WITH YOUR HELP, SHE WON'T HAVE TO HANG UP HER SHOES....

If President Reagan wins a second term, Title IX's protections—and your daughter's future chance of participating in school sports—will be lost.

When you consider President Reagan we urge you to think of your daughter....

# 10 BAY AREA NOW CALENDAR

- July 4 Friendswood 4th of July celebration  
(For the first time Bay Area NOW has been invited to participate. We shall have a float decorated in red, white and blue saluting "Our Foremothers". If you want to participate, contact Anita Marcos 482-6515. We will be dressed as suffragettes and carry ERA banners. We shall also be staffing a booth selling cookies (yes, feminists can cook) balloons and bumper stickers. Stevenson Park in Friendswood 10-8.)
- July 5 Bay Area NOW program Meeting. Topic...Domestic Violence presented by Virgie Junot chair-Texas NOW Task Force. 7:30 PM A Uniting Church El Camino Real & Reseda Dr. in Clear Lake City.
- July 7 Luncheon for Women's Lobby Alliance. Bay Area NOW invites other women's organizations in the Bay Area to meet with members of WLA at the Western Sizzlin' Steak House on Bay Area Blvd. 12:30 PM
- July 18 Bay Area NOW Business Meeting at A Uniting Church 7:30 PM. We expect reports on the National NOW convention.
- Aug. 2 Bay Area NOW Program Meeting. Topic...Pay Equity presented by Bonnie Huval. 7:30 PM at A Uniting Church.
- Aug. 4-5 Texas NOW state council in Dallas. This is where the state organization plans and discusses the business for the state. Every member has a voice. If you would like to attend contact Phyllis Tucker, Judi Hoffman, Pat Kuhlmann or Judy Snyder.
- Aug. 5 "Friends of Marilyn Mieszkuc Picnic". Marilyn Mieszkuc, democratic candidate for state representative, Dist. 130 will meet the constituents in her district. Fun, food and friendship. A number of Bay Area NOW members are supporting and working for Marilyn. To assist contact Pat Kuhlmann 488-3278. Frankie Carter Randolph Park 12-6
- Aug. 15 Bay Area NOW Business Meeting
- Aug. 18 G.O.P. Project. A fundraiser for Houston Area chapters but especially for the NOW/PAC. Judy Goldsmith will be the featured speaker. Contact Pat Kuhlmann 488-3278
- Aug. 26 Women's Equality Day. Houston Area Women's Center will put on an event with council-person Eleanor Tinsley as main speaker.

(And coming up....The Texas NOW state convention, the seminar for high-school women in the Bay Area and the elections in November)

# Bay Area N.O.W. Officers

President	Phyllis Tucker	(713)	944-0033
Vice-President	Anita Marcos	(713)	482-6515
Secretary	Donna Berend	(409)	948-8896
Treasurer	Judy Snyder	(713)	486-5565

## BAY AREA NOW COMMITTEES

Committee to Combat Racism: Caroline Perez 488-4086, Colette Roberts 280-8440, Betty Swartz 337-5308

Education & Title IX: Janice Brooks 645-2136, Dorothy Howard 486-0752, Elizabeth Lorance 559-2882

Legislative/Political: Donna Berend 409-948-8896, Rema Lou Brown 488-1896, Andrea Harry 534-6150, Sara Hindman 338-1196, Dorothy Howard 486-0752, Crickett Ingraham 339-1909, Pat Kuhlmann 488-3278, Rusty Richards 488-5546, Colette Roberts 280-8440, Marie Stimson 338-2009, Betty Swartz 337-5308, Nancy Whitecotton 483-5281

Lesbian Rights: Judi Hoffman 944-0033, Debra Hayden 280-0863, Chris McCarty 280-0863, Colette Roberts 280-8440

Media-Watch: Caroline Perez 488-4086, Colette Roberts 280-8440

Reproductive Rights: Anita Marcos 482-6515, Madeline McGallion 476-5442, Colette Roberts 280-8440

Sexual Harassment: Marion Bowen 333-2620, Cindy Husbands 332-5055, Judi Hoffman 944-0033, Anita Marcos 482-6515, Hedy Salazar 928-5088, Phyllis Tucker 944-0033

Violence Against Women: Donna Berend 409-948-8896, Sara Hindman 338-1196, Judy Snyder 486-5565, Deborah Teasley 480-5565

**WHO CARES ABOUT WOMEN? NOW CARES!!! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**  
 Join NOW, now. Clip and mail to Judy Snyder 16310 Hill Point  
 Houston, Texas 77059

- I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW (\$40.00)
- I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW and can afford dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- (Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$40)
- I am already a member of National NOW and want to join the BAY Area Chapter (\$0.00)
- I am not a NOW member but want to receive the newsletter for one year (\$5.00)
- I am making a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to NOW.
- I authorize my name and address to be printed on the NOW roster for members.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOWN, STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRECINCT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (FROM VOTER REGISTRATION CARD)  
 HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

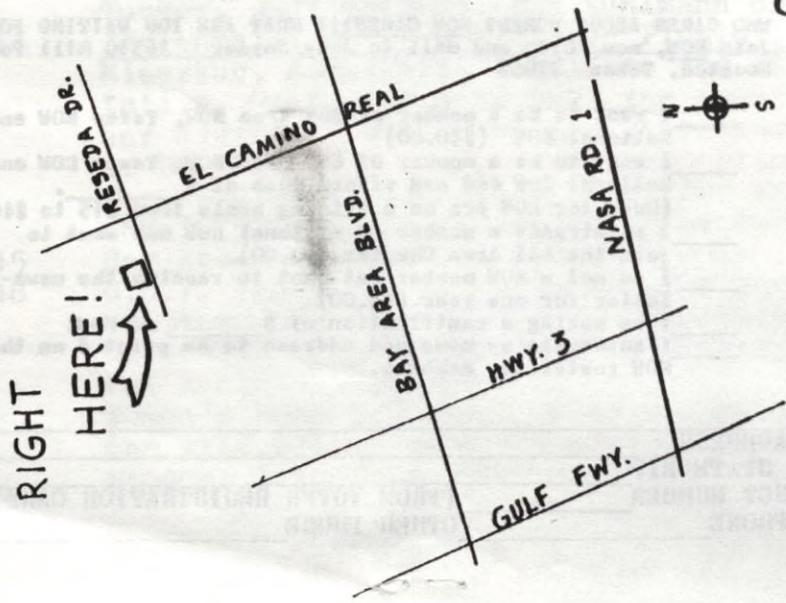
BAY AREA NOW  
BA-M



DAY AREA N.O.M. NEWSLETTER  
c/o PHYLLIS A. TUCKER  
243 EGRESS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

WHERE DO WE MEET?

IN CLEAR LAKE CITY



# TEXAS NOW PAC PARTY

at  
Cody's

3400 Montrose

(one block south of Westheimer, at Montrose and Hawthorne)

Tuesday, July 31, 1984

6 - 9 P.M.

*Tickets: \$10 per person*

*\$25 sponsor*

*\$50 patron*

*Tickets available at the door*

*or by mail:*

*Texas NOW PAC*

*2820 Broadmead No. 816*

*Houston, Tx. 77025*

*Hors d'oeuvres*

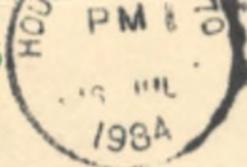
*Cash bar*

*For more*

*information:*

*Ph: 667-4403*

2820 Broadmead No. 816  
Houston, Tx. 77025



Marjorie Randal

