

N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter

NEWS

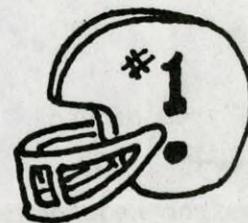
National Organization for Women



Volume IV, Number 7 - July, 1976

SUCCESS

(FEAR)



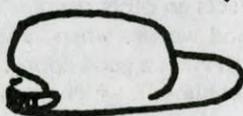
(PRESSURE)



POWER

"MEN'S LIVES"

MONEY



(RESPONSIBILITY)



(STRESS)



STRENGTH

Program/Business Meeting

8 p.m.

Thursday, July 1, 1976

Uniting Church

El Camino & Reseda

Clear Lake City, Texas

Craig Roberts of Houston will show a documentary film titled "Men's Lives" and lead the discussion afterwards. Filmed at a football game, an amusement park, and a fraternity party, in a high school locker room, a barber shop, and inside and outside city and suburban homes, the movie listens to men of all ages evaluate their own lives, telling how it feels to be male in our culture.

"At a certain point, I think, you realize that the final qualification is not being male or female, but whether they've joined the middle. That is -- whether they have started from the male or the female side -- they've gone toward the center where they are working toward combining the healthy aspects of so-called male and female characteristics. That's where I want to go and that's what I'm beginning to realize I respond in other people." (From an interview by Anne Koedt quoted in A Male Guide to Women's Liberation by Gene Marine)

"Men are learning to be strong enough to show weakness. It takes strength to show softness, hurt, anxiety, doubt, fear - too many men bear the burden of their masculinity. They do not accept the feminine traits that exist in all men." -- Kirk Douglas

"A feeling human being is the most attractive and appealing regardless of sex. I believe most men hide their softer selves and thus rob themselves and others of the best part of their being." --Rod Gilbert

"What we owe men is some freedom from their part in a murderous game in which they kick each other to death with one foot, bracing themselves on our various comfortable places with the other." -- Grace Paley

Four Types of Men by Fay Levine

Taken from Redstockings

The following represents a condensed picture of four types of men we have had to deal with (and have loved) which grew out of a spontaneous and intense consciousness-raising breakfast in Massachusetts. We have already found it to be a useful tool in discussing what we hope men are and what they turn to be in fact. So we thought other women might like to try and use it as a systematic shorthand for the same purpose.

Sociologists with foundation grants generally study the groups the establishment is afraid of to defuse their threat. Now it's our turn to begin studying, from our point of view, the male.

Stone

The Stone is the archtypical husband. He is most interested in preserving conventional appearances, but has difficulty with feelings. In times of difficulty he simply gets angry at his woman, and with such an air of righteousness that she promptly feels guilty and assumes internal blame. Though his wife may be seeking to avoid responsibility by turning to him, he is not, in the deepest sense, sensitive to her needs. He is attuned to the needs of society, and is usually successful in establishment terms. Work is his major love. He is generally punctual and does what he says he will do.

In his most harmless form the Stone is professor of history or government at Harvard—or even a commercial artist. At his worst, the Stone's inner deadness seeks to expand itself—and he is Nixon, the bomb-dropper.

Chrome

There's something parasitic about the Trickster; he's jealous of anyone with emotions. But he also sees emotions as vulnerabilities and fears being made a fool of, or tricked, as his single emotion. So what he does is construct artifices, for his private entertainment, out of the real emotions of other people, which he taps. He is always conscious of what he is doing, i.e. his game, and because he is pre-eminently concerned with attractiveness, style, presentation, and per-

formance, his is the most immediately attractive character type. Curiously, he will admit to his sins freely, under certain circumstances, but the naive Liberal, his perfect mark, adamantly refuses to believe even the self-admitted worst about his fascinating "friend." He will also pretend to far greater virtue than he supposes himself to possess, should he think it opportune.

Silver

The Liberal trusts that his best friend the Trickster will not trick *him*. Naively, he acts out some of his innermost needs (to be a baby, to have gone to a "good" school) without consciousness of their effects on other people. But he wants and values to be liked, and worries when he sees, at times, nothing likeable in himself. He is a good appreciator of others. To avoid emptiness in himself, which he identifies with the Stone character-type, he indulges the aspect of Chrome in himself. He believes in good, but not evil, an illogical position. But he prides himself on argument and rationality. Thus, at the extreme of the type, having come to some degree to the zen (Clay) awareness of his own illogic, he despairs and seeks to purge the good-in-himself and as-belief altogether. He is not conscious of the Clay alternative; it is an unscalable barrier to him. To Clay, he is, at best, sloppily compassionate. The Liberal laughs at the idea that the Empire State Building might fall. The Trickster uses the Liberal's laughter to entangle him.

Clay

The Passionate man, the authentic human. Sees other people in all their aspects. Strives to keep himself non-blind, non-persnickety, to encompass, to take in new fact. Compassion is a natural by-product of his search for truth; he therefore encompasses the Liberal sensibility without being encompassed by it. Subordination of humans to one another, and their destruction, is for the integral man immediately, personally painful. Respectful of the organic processes of the aesthetic soul, he hesitates to meddle with his friends' psyches, and he abhors officiousness and the prestige-machine. Mellow, almost too mellow. He is capable of some striking extremes of virtue, i.e. martyrdom. Ultimately enjoyable to be with. Has trouble taking action. He recognizes the Trickster at first scent, and avoids him totally. He is not afraid to use the word "evil" or to judge. He enjoys the light-hearted Liberal, though does not become an intimate companion. He devotes his life-work to combating the dead soul bombs of the Stone.

NOW CALENDAR

- July 1 Regularly scheduled meeting
- July 3 Houston Bicentennial Parade - Come with your sign, red, white and blue crepe paper, and dressed as your favorite feminist. 9:00 a.m., Rice Hotel. Contact Jeanie Coon, N. W. NOW, 667-2019
- July 6 Feminist Study Group, 7:30 p.m. - University Boulevard Bookstore, 2437 University Blvd.
- July 11 "Herstory: Pageant of American Women" - Jungman Library, 5830 Westheimer, 3 p.m.
- July 17 NOW Council, Austin. Contact Frances for ride, info.

Presiding in August: Rachel Reed (488-4261), Betty Yancey (534-6244)

ERA UPDATE

Word has come from Ellen Mendoza, Houston, that the John Birch Society and the American Party are warming up for an all-out attack on ERA in the 1977 legislative session.

Such efforts can be counteracted and diffused if action is begun now by: (a) seeing that other organizations you belong to (PTA, church groups, civic clubs, etc.) schedule an ERA program this fall or winter. They plan now for programs, so ACT NOW. (b) Find out the positions of legislative candidates and make sure they are correctly informed about ERA. Let the candidates know that there are thousands of informed, registered voters in Texas who are supporting the ERA and are interested in how the candidates view the Equal Rights Amendment. (c) Monitor the media! If an article or program on radio and T.V. present ERA favorably, write or telephone approvals immediately. An anti-ERA presentation should elicit an immediate protest and a request for equal time.

Almost all women's magazines are planning pro-ERA articles in July, 1976, issues. Phyllis Schlafly, anti-ERA head of Eagle Forum, has urged 40,000 Forum members to pressure these magazines into canceling or modifying plans. NOW is the time to write to one or more of the magazines and enthusiastically approve their ERA support.

- WOMEN'S DAY, 1515 Broadway (10019); FAMILY CIRCLE, 488 Madison (10019);
- GOODHOUSEKEEPING, 959 8th Ave. (10019); LADIES' HOME JOURNAL, 641 Lexington (10022);
- COSMOPOLITAN, 959 8th Ave. (10019); MC CALL'S, 230 Park Ave. (10017);
- REDBOOK, 230 Park Ave. (10017); MADEMOISELLE, 420 Lexington (10017);
- GLAMOUR, 350 Madison (10017); COED, Scholastic Magazine, 50 West 44th St. (10036);
- SEVENTEEN, 850 3rd Ave. (10022)

These three steps can be taken by any person who believes in the basic guarantee of individual equality. Playing the game of "catch-up" next year will be futile -- NOW is the time to act!

An article titled "How Would ERA Affect Your Life?" written by Bess Myerson is printed in Redbook Magazine, April, 1976, and subheaded "Does the Equal Rights Amendment mean mixed rest rooms? Being drafted into the Army? Loss of Social Security benefits or alimony? An outspoken defender of human rights gives straight answers to the questions that have grown out of the emotional battle over ERA." Texans for ERA believe the article to be a reading "must" for all those for and against ERA. As a service to its readers, Redbook has reprinted the article, and for 35 cents in coin (no stamps) and a stamped, business-size, self-addressed envelope to Department B-101, Redbook Magazine, 230 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017, you may have one to pass around to those friends (and enemies) who need it.

STATE NOW CONFERENCE

Frances Hicks, Nora Mertz, Dorothy Pearson, Marge Randal, Jeanne Salatan, Betty Yancey, and BANOW Booster Jerry Yancey all attended the state NOW conference May 29-30 in Abilene.

Officers elected were: Barbara Duke, of Austin, State Coordinator; our own Frances Hicks, Membership Coordinator of the southeast Texas chapters; Tommie Brandt, Beaumont, State Communications Coordinator; and Terry Chandler, Dallas, State Treasurer.

The speakers, Sarah Weddington and Martha Gaines, among others, were excellent, the workshops first-rate. Marge Randal coordinated the textbook workshop, which drew a larger attendance than any others. Several people made tapes of the various parts of the conference. If you're interested in borrowing cassettes of workshops on Women & Health, Title IX, and Chapter Growth & Development, call Betty Yancey, 574-6244, Dickinson. Some of the quality is poor, but the content is worth hurting your ears for.

From the Women & Health: we need to have a state task force on Women & Health, and plans are being made for such to consider ways of sharing information concerning health problems, issues and resources, to cooperate with other women's organizations in organizing a state conference on women's health, and to develop health education workshops to consider personal and community health problems of concern to women. Materials obtained include an annotated bibliography and a bibliography of health education materials.

From Chapter Growth: Lubbock pairs a visitor with someone with similar interests who will be responsible for making the visitor welcome (followed by lunch date the next week). They then follow the program and break (for coffee, buying things, and joining) with an "Exciting Action" period, during which all upcoming actions are announced (nothing depressing at all discussed here). A "Business Action" meeting takes place the following week, and a different person is asked to take minutes, etc. each time, so that new people are drawn into chapter activities. This meeting is held in someone's home so that all members get to know husbands, children, etc. of their feminist friends. Would this be worth trying in Bay Area?

From Title IX: Carol Holgren, EEOC Investigator for the Elementary and Secondary Education Branch of the Office of Civil Rights, Dallas, told us: "Hair has caused more complaints than anything else. The men who come under Title IX have responded to Title IX, have sent in more complaints and had more action taken on their complaints than women have." Unless we get busy and insist that school boards carry out the law in our own schools, and back up that insistence with action through Carol's office, females will be in the same place in 1986 as they are in 1976.

JIMMY CARTER UPDATE

This past week Jimmy Carter, leading Democratic candidate for President, and Robert Strauss, Chair of the National Democratic Party, failed to endorse proposed changes to the Democratic Party Rules which would call for 50% representation of women in all delegations to the national convention. In their opinion, this should be left up to the discretion of each state. They claim to oppose a quota system in matters of sex but favor it in instances of minority representation. This is just another example of the more-than-51% of the citizens of this country having to fight the battle for equal representation in this year of our bicentennial. If this concerns you, write or wire:

(1) Democratic National Committee
c/o Robert Strauss
1625 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

(2) Campaign for Election of Jimmy Carter
1795 Peachtree Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA. 30309

--Frances Hicks

[July 1976]

AREA COUNCIL UPDATE

Remember when we discussed the advantages of having an Area Council, but we wanted to do it as simply as possible with little or no bureaucracy? A solution is now in sight. Simply and clear by-laws were approved by representatives from Innercity, Southwest, and Bay Area chapters at a meeting held on June 21. Your representative was Jeanne Salatan. Frances Hicks participated as Area 2 Coordinator, her new post. Now the by-laws go back to each chapter for its approval. Houston Area, Northwest, and West University chapters will also be asked to join. Article 2 of the By-Laws states that: "The purpose of this Council shall be to open channels of communication among the NOW chapters of Greater Houston for the sharing of ideas, to alert chapters early to the need for local action involving the whole community of chapters, and to establish a definite procedure for obtaining 'use of name' approval and support among all the involved chapters, so that Houston NOW chapters may speak with one voice and act in unison where clear agreement exists."

TITLE IX UPDATE

The deadline is approaching, July 21, 1976, for each school district to complete a self-evaluation on compliance with Title IX. Check with YOUR school district and ask to be a participant in this evaluation or ask to see a copy of the completed evaluation. The hardest area for a school to take a long, hard look at is the area closest to home, employment practices, especially if the Title IX Coordinator is the Personnel Director. Most complaints of violations at HEW are now centering on employment practices. If your district has no or few women school administrators, you need to examine the practices for finding administrators, for announcing administrative vacancies, and for spelling out qualifications. Texas Education Agency furnished excellent guidelines to catch certain malpractices. Is your school using the TEA guidelines? The June issue of School Board Journal had an excellent article on ways in which women are discriminated against when they are candidates for school administrators.

--Jeanne Salatan

TASK FORCE FOR OLDER WOMEN

At the State Conference in Abilene before a largely young crowd of NOW members, Laura Shields annointed us all "Honorary Older Women". She didn't have to annoint me. I have spent four months looking for work in a competitive job market, which experience has aged me beyond my 48 years. Laura has sent two kits of material on older women's concerns. Who is interested in an active task force?

The displaced homemaker bill, legislation now under consideration by Congress, is popular both with women and legislators. If we had a speaker's bureau on this subject, we could get good reception from women in the community.

--Jeanne Salatan

FROM OUR VARIOUS CORRESPONDENTS:

Evie Whitsett: Bay Area Task Force on Rape (BÀTFOR) and Helpline how have information about going about getting an abortion. Call 488-7222.

Marge Randal: Textbook Review: A number of Bay Area, Southwest NOW, and Houston NOW people have turned in rather superior review and others are reported to be in progress. There are some on hand for last-minute work, so don't put up your typewriters just yet. Call 488-4396 for info.

Nora Mertz: An article in the Houston Post reported that the Merchant Marine Academy had 25 female students, one of whom was asked to resign after being found in bed with a male student at the academy. The male student was not penalized at all. Are we to assume, therefore, that its okay for boys to sleep around but it's not okay for girls? And if that is so, who are the boys supposed to sleep with?

