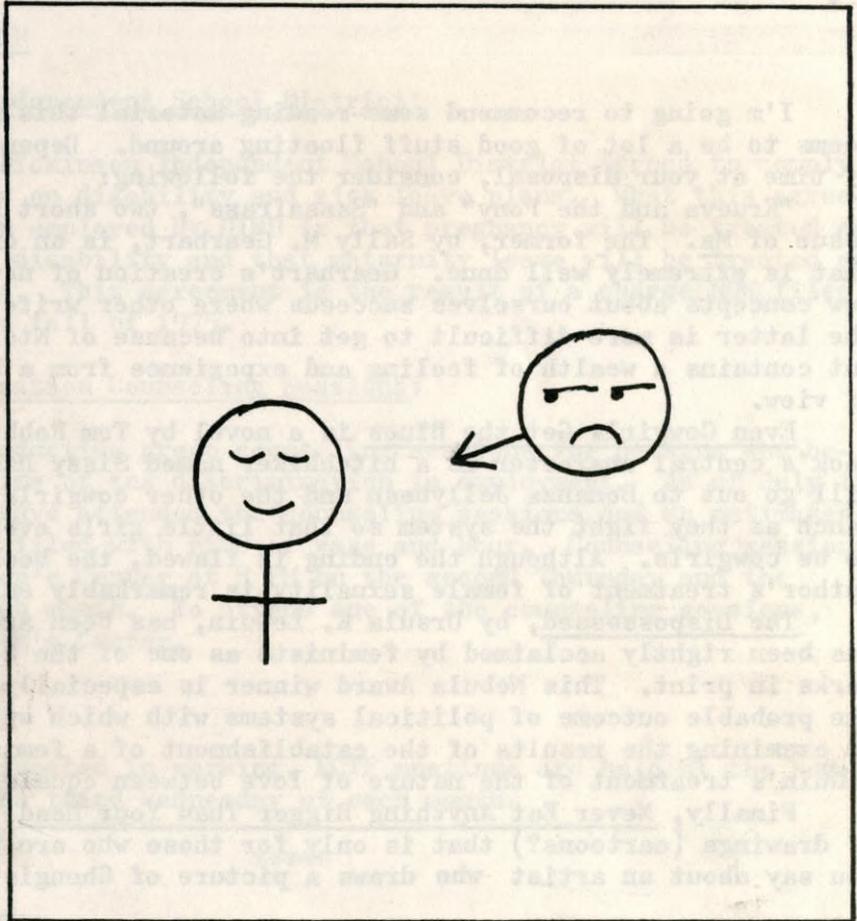


BROADSIDE



SEX + VIOLENCE

p.5

Vol. 7, No. 8

Houston Area NOW

August 1976

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point of view

I'm going to recommend some reading material this month because there seems to be a lot of good stuff floating around. Depending upon the amount of time at your disposal, consider the following:

"Krueva and the Pony" and "Sassafrass", two short stories in the August issue of Ms. The former, by Sally M. Gearhart, is an excursion into fantasy that is extremely well done. Gearhart's creation of new words to express new concepts about ourselves succeeds where other writers have failed badly. The latter is more difficult to get into because of Ntozake Shange's style, but contains a wealth of feeling and experience from a black woman's point of view.

Even Cowgirls Get the Blues is a novel by Tom Robbins. Although the book's central character is a hitchhiker named Sissy Hankshaw, your heart will go out to Bonanza Jellybean and the other cowgirls on the Rubber Rose Ranch as they fight the system so that little girls everywhere can grow up to be cowgirls. Although the ending is flawed, the book's a delight. The author's treatment of female sexuality is remarkably enlightened.

The Dispossessed, by Ursula K. LeGuin, has been around since 1974. It has been rightly acclaimed by feminists as one of the best science fiction works in print. This Nebula Award winner is especially good in presenting the probable outcome of political systems with which we are all familiar and in examining the results of the establishment of a feminist/humanist society. LeGuin's treatment of the nature of love between equals is very moving.

Finally, Never Eat Anything Bigger Than Your Head, by B. Kliban. A book of drawings (cartoons?) that is only for those who are truly bent. What can you say about an artist who draws a picture of Ghengis and Sylvia Khan?

Jan

broad'side

- 1: a sheet of paper printed on one or both sides and folded
- 2: any strong or comprehensive attack, as by criticism
- 3: the simultaneous discharge of all the guns on one side of a ship

task force reports

EMPLOYMENT COMPLIANCE

NOW vs. Dickinson Independent School District:

In June 1976, Dickinson Independent School District agreed to comply with EEOC guidelines on disability and sick leave plans. What this agreement means for women employed by DISD is that pregnancy will be treated as any other temporary disability and that maternity leave will be treated as any other sick leave. This agreement is the result of a charge NOW filed with the EEOC in the fall of 1975.

Employment Discrimination Counseling Sessions:

The ECTF is conducting group counseling sessions for persons who believe they are victims of sex discrimination in employment. As of July 15, seven complainants have attended the counseling sessions and an estimated six charges will be filed with EEOC or Wage and Hour. Counseling sessions are held at the Women's Center at 8 PM on the second Thursday and the fourth Monday of each month. To attend one of the counseling sessions, please call the Women's Center.

ECTF Meetings:

If you are interested in working, ECTF meetings are held at the Women's Center at 8 PM on the third Wednesday of each month.

SUPREMES HAVE NEW HIT!

Part of the rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court on July 1 are (1) that a state law requiring a husband's consent for a wife's abortion is unconstitutional; (2) that a state may not require all women under 18 to have parental consent for an abortion; and (3) that a state may not ban saline amniocentesis to induce an abortion after the 12th week of pregnancy.

NO PROGRAM MEETING

In keeping with our policy of taking it easy this summer, there will be no program meeting in August. The regular business meeting will be held August 11.

FORD FUMBLES AGAIN

We are appalled that President Ford ordered HEW not to restrict father/son, mother/daughter events. What is wrong with insisting that school events be parent/child? Insisting on single-sex social events is definite discrimination against those of the other sex. What about children with parents who are single? How left out does the daughter with no mother or the son with no father feel? Write President Ford and tell him that he's made a mistake.

CONTEST WINNER

Cora Yang, a student at Kinkaid School, has won Houston Area NOW's American Women's Bicentennial Essay Contest. Yang wrote about the contributions of three American women: Phillis Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, and Barbara Jordan.

Twenty-five dollars and Salt and Bitter and Good, a book donated by Mary Ross Rhyne of the University Boulevard Bookstore, have been mailed to Yang. Her essay has been forwarded to the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. They will select a national winner.

Judges Nikki Van Hightower, Norma Lee, and Betty Barnes enjoyed reading the numerous entries and were unanimous in their selection of Cora Yang's essay as the best one submitted.

SISTER, CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

Cynthia Millis, Linda Jones, Poppy Northcutt, Jan Dilbeck, and Jan Pierce volunteered at the July business meeting to act as a fund-raising committee. The committee has had one meeting and is investigating the possibility of a feminist picnic. Anyone with ideas who is willing to work on planning a picnic should contact one of the committee members. The committee is also considering suggestions for a major fund-raiser to be held this fall.

Our treasury is again very low and we must raise money to pay our bills and support our actions. All donations will be welcomed, no matter how small.

NO SENSE OF HUMOR, EH?

Ivy Bottini, a feminist comedian, will do her thing at the University of Houston on Thursday, August 5, at 8 PM in the Houston Room of the UC. The performance is free. We hear she's good, so everybody try to make it.

Happy August birthdays to Poppy Northcutt, Betty Barnes, Nancy Kuykendall and the Fairest and Most Objective Reporter Of Them All. From Jan Dilbeck

NEW LOW IN BAD TASTE

The Rolling Stones have a new album called "Black and Blue." For any of you who have not seen the advertisement for this album, I will try to describe it verbally.

Picture a young, beautiful woman in an inverted "Y" position. Her wrists are bound together with rope and her arms are stretched above her head as she is suspended from the ceiling by a rope. Other ropes are bound about her neck, across her chest, around her waist, crotch, thighs, calves and ankles. The ropes around her ankles are stretched to each side, thereby providing maximum crotch exposure.

She is clad in what appears to be a slip or a short nightgown that has been ripped to expose most of her breasts. There are bruises on her thighs, her arms, and her face.

Carefully placed between her spraddled legs and immediately below her crotch is the album cover, featuring the faces of Mick Jagger, et al.

I have a copy of the ad if you'd like to see it. Words really cannot convey the full effect.

To look at this ad and to understand its implications is to understand why we have a sexist society. No wonder our society tolerates, and even condones, sexual assault upon women. Sex and violence have become an integral part of our culture.

By that I do not mean Sex, period. And I do not mean Violence, period. I mean Sex & Violence, together. It is a constant theme in our literature, our cinema, and in advertising. But it is usually more subtly done.

Perhaps this particular ad has done us a service by being so blatant. Perhaps the outrage generated by this ad will alert our dulled senses to those more subtle manifestations of masculine hostility toward women.

But first things first. Let us begin with this particular case. This album is distributed by Atlantic Records, a division of Warner Brothers. Let us boycott this album in particular, and all records produced and distributed by Atlantic in general. A petition to that effect is available for your signature at the Women's Center.

In addition, let us write to Bob Greenberg, Atlantic's West Coast General Manager, 3300 Warner Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024, and tell him how we feel about this ad. Closer to home, let us write and telephone the local Atlantic representative. He is John Dunaway, 6425 Skyline, Houston 77057 (782-5054).

We must rise up together and put a stop to this.

Jan Dilbeck

August

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1 Closed	2 Pam Hamilton	3 Renee Rabb	4 Alice Shrader	5 J.E. McNeil	6 Closed	7 Marion Friedman
8 Closed	9 Linda Smith	10 Donna Duerk	NOW Business Mtg. 8:00 p.m.	11 Bette Anne Knoll	12 Betty Barnes	13 Closed
15 Closed	16 Cindy Millis	17 Debbie Ryan	18 Nancy Kuykendall	19 Norma Lee Ann Robinson	20 Closed	21 Charlotte Poole
22 Closed	23 Paula Felker	24 Catherine Curtis	25 Chris Meave	26 Jan Dilbeck	27 Closed	28 Jan Pierce
29 Closed	30 Alice McCarthy	31 Nancy Landau		All Meetings at Women's Center unless otherwise noted.	WOMEN'S CENTER 3602 Milam 524-5743 Mon-Thur 7-10 PM Saturday 12-3 PM	

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGE

The following proposed bylaws change was discussed at the July business meeting and will be voted on at the August business meeting:

"Section 13. Voting. To be eligible to vote at the annual election of officers, a member must have paid in full local and national dues to the chapter treasurer at least 14 calendar days prior to the election."

Also discussed at the July meeting was a proposal to have the following language incorporated into the bylaws:

"Officers shall be elected by secret ballot."

Much discussion ensued about the secret ballot issue, with the result that summary arguments from those in favor and those against were to have been submitted for publication in the BROADSIDE. The argument in favor was not submitted, so you'll have to come to the August business meeting to hear the arguments verbally.

FEMINIST RETREAT

Yes folks, once again it's time for our annual trek into the wilderness of New Braunfels. In keeping with tradition, our annual feminist retreat is scheduled for the weekend of September 17-18 at Camp Warnecke. Eight cabins have been reserved. Each cabin is air-conditioned and sleeps eight people.

Judy Anderson is coordinating the retreat and you should call her at 528-7707 or 661-6751 to reserve space in a cabin.

Editor's Note: Last year, several merry pranksters reserved spaces in two full cabins with no intention of actually going, just to keep others from attending. Anyone who tries that this year will be shot.

PLAIN BROWN ENVELOPES

We need some plain brown envelopes, both letter and legal size, for use at the Women's Center. If you can provide envelopes or other office supplies for us, please leave them at the Center.

GET INVOLVED

The Democrats have nominated Jimmy Carter and the Republicans will soon select their nominee. In November we will elect the next President. Have you been paying attention to the campaign? Do you know where Carter, Ford and Reagan stand on issues of vital concern to women?

Once you have reached a clear understanding of the candidate's position on issues which concern you, what then? You can vote in November, of course. But you can do more.

If you really believe your candidate will make a difference, why not consider working in the campaign? Women are more visible in politics than ever before but we are still under-represented.

The reception Barbara Jordan got at the Democratic Convention is a clear indication that our time is at hand. Women are needed in the political process at every level. If we are to become a viable political force in this country we must get involved.

Consider it.

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BROADSIDE STAFF:

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Jan Pierce
Marion Coleman
Bert Clapp
Debbie Ryan
Carolyn Elliott
Nancy Kuykendall
Renee Rabb

ABORTION INFO

* EMPLOYMENT COMPLIANCE

LEGISLATION

MASCULINE MYSTIQUE

MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC RELATIONS

* SEXUALITY & LESBIANISM

SPEAKERS BUREAU

* UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

* WOMEN'S CENTER

Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152
Pamela Hamilton 526-5050
Linda Smith 222-3281, 529-2156
Betty Barnes 487-2489
Craig Roberts 524-6517
Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152
Helen Cassidy 524-3009, 748-5369
Pokey Anderson 526-7828
Ann Robinson 528-7454
Beverly White 782-1768
Nancy Landau 783-8547
Renee Rabb 524-5743

*denotes active task force

Note: To contact those persons whose phone numbers are not listed above, call the Women's Center, 524-5743.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Houston Area NOW or NOW, Inc.

SPECIAL THANKS to Renee Rabb & Glynn Wilson for repairing the steps at the Women's Center; to Alice, Bert & Betty for scratch pads, and to Ann Robinson for her magnificent yard work.

WANTED: Help with sewing, quilting, bike maintenance. Will trade typing, bookkeeping, child care, storytelling. Alice Shrader, 523-3987 or 523-2521

POETRY

Wendy Stevens, a lesbian feminist poet from Washington, DC, will visit Houston the first week in August. She has been traveling around the country this summer and she has news about feminists to share with us as well as her poetry.

Wendy will be doing a pair of readings here. The first will be at "Just" Marion & Lynns (Fairview at Converse) Wednesday, August 4 at 9 PM. The second reading will be at a fine old Montrose house, out by the pool if weather permits. This reading will be Friday, August 6, at 8 PM at 214 West Moreland (near Garrott). Both readings are presented by Pointblank Times and they are free. Donations are welcomed for Wendy's car expenses.

SITTERS NEEDED

One of the most important things you can donate to the women's movement is your time. Three hours a month is all it takes to be a Center Sitter. Answering the telephone and greeting visitors is an important way in which we interface with our community. If you'd like to try it but haven't yet volunteered, call Renee Rabb at 523-5970 and get on the schedule.

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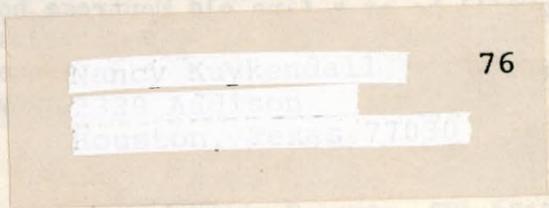


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