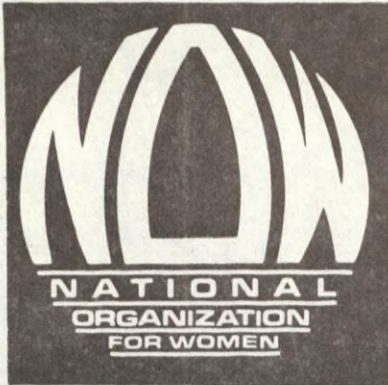


NEWSLETTER

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PREMIER ISSUE

VOL 1 NO 1

CHAPTER at the UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

UH chapter of NOW meets, passes program resolution

DOREY ALBERT

UH Student News Service

A unanimous resolution was passed during the Monday meeting of the UH chapter of the National Organization for Women to develop programs addressing the concerns of UH students.

Of particular concern to UH NOW is security on campus. Nancy George, tentative Public Affairs officer for NOW, said, "our ability to obtain an education is being hampered by the lack of campus security during the evening hours. Women are just afraid to go to the library alone at night," she said.

Another concern of UH NOW is a "gender-free world," said Jo Ann Evansgardner, local organizer of UH NOW and past national board member of NOW. "Individuals should be judged by their qualities and not by their sex," she said.

Evansgardner moved to Houston over a year ago from Pittsburgh, PA where she served as local president of a NOW Pittsburgh Chapter.

"It's been easier to organize here than it was to organize a chapter in Pittsburgh because UH students seem to be more aware of current issues," said Evansgardner.

All the national requirements for a NOW charter have been met and it's just a matter of weeks before the student organization has a national charter, said Evansgardner.

Evansgardner's husband, Dr. Gerry Gardner, a UH Professor of Electrical Engineering, is the UH NOW chapter advisor. He has served as president for a Pittsburgh NOW Chapter and has also held national office as treasurer.

Evansgardner said she "married

a feminist." "There are many men interested in becoming members of NOW," she said.

Jeff Basen, a graduate student in Psychology, said he joined NOW because he "wanted to belong to an organization that works against discrimination."

Sharon Leber, Acting Spokeswoman for UH NOW, was attracted to NOW because of the "new conservative swing in government," she said.

Leber said she is primarily interested in fighting the current 20 bills before the state legislature which prohibit or restrict a woman's access to reproductive freedom.

NOW's next business meeting will be April 20 in the UC. Information regarding any of NOW's special programs can be found posted on bulletin boards and in **The Daily Cougar's** etc. column.

Next Chapter Meetings:

Monday, June 15, 7:30 pm
Tejas Room
University Center

Tuesday, July 7, 7:30 pm
Tejas Room
University Center

COME JOIN US AT OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS.
MUCH ACTIVITY NOW WITH RENEWED EFFORTS
FOR ERA AND THE CONTINUING BATTLE FOR
PRO-CHOICE IN REPRODUCTION RIGHTS.

***** TEXAS STATE NOW CONVENTION *****

June 26 - 28 the state convention will be held in Dallas, Texas at the Hilton LBJ. State convention workshops will include: ERA (with an address from the Oklahoma State NOW Coordinator); Lesbian rights, history of the women's movement; reproductive rights; women and religion; how the Texas legislature works; Consciousness-raising; Title IX; feminist rituals; nuts and bolts of communicating; examining prejudice; homemakers; women's health.

For more information call Jo Ann Evansgardner 741-4009

U of H NOW New Members, First List
5/27/81

#	Name	Address	City	St	Zip	phone
1.	Kathleen Kimler Altobelli	5124 Claremont	Houston	TX	77023	928-6063
2.	Jeff Basen	6233 Gulfton #1096	Houston	TX	77081	995-9716
3.	Katy Campbell	2109 Banks	Houston	TX	77098	521-9593
4.	RossAnn Daumas	4407 Jefferson	Houston	TX	77023	924-5177
5.	Gaynelle Dewan	9011 Pontiac	Houston	TX	77096	777-9513
6.	Susan M. Feagans	4611 Gaelic Court	Houston	TX	77084	463-0748
7.	Melanie Harrow	2414 Steel #B	Houston	TX	77098	524-5743
8.	Brigid Lackey	3305 Bluebonnet	Houston	TX	77025	665-3722
9.	Sharon Leber	14113 Maple Lane	Humble	TX	77338	590-6358
10.	Sharon Mehrhoff	6333 ChimneyRock#118	Houston	TX	77081	663-6338
11.	Susan Mendelsohn	2520 Hazard #3	Houston	TX	77019	520-0461
12.	Ceil Price-Gerson	4385 Varsity Lane	Houston	TX	77004	748-8488
13.	Diane Reddick	9221 Pagewood #23	Houston	TX	77063	789-1739
14.	Marilyn W. Sears	3423 Linkwood	Houston	TX	77025	663-6857
15.	Donna Skinner	6178 Lyndhurst	Houston	TX	77033	734-1367
16.	Jeanne Sommerfeld	67209 Brompton #250A	Houston	TX	77025	667-6518
17.	Esther Sumartojo	201 WilcrestDr#2005	Houston	TX	77042	975-9488
18.	Laurel E. Tate	7500 Pinemont #1906	Houston	TX	77040	462-3127
19.	Connie Vasquez	5410 Calhoun #2	Houston	TX	77021	747-0673

NOW Members transferring into chapter, First list, 5/27/81

#	Name	Address	City	St	Zip	phone
1.	Benjamin Feld	4384 Varsity Lane	Houston	TX	77004	747-1903
2.	Effie Feld	4383 Varsity Lane	Houston	TX	77004	747-1903
3.	Nancy Cowart George	4389 Varsity Lane	Houston	TX	77004	747-5197
4.	Muncie McKinney	2231 Avenell Road	Houston	TX	77034	944-5534
5.	J. A. Morin	5027 Park Dr #1	Houston	TX	77023	428-6723
6.	I. Louise Perry	5027 Park Dr #1	Houston	TX	77023	428-6723
7.	Joan Evansgardner	4393 North Macgregor	Houston	TX	77004	741-4009

New NOW Members - University of Houston Chapter - 2nd List, 5/28/81

#	Name	Address	City	St.	ZIP	phone
1.	Lucretia Cox	4362 Harvest	Houston	TX	77004	748-5064
2.	Patricia Ann Hurley	5527 Briarbend	Houston	TX	77096	721-5719

Officers Pro Tem:

President = Sharon Leber

Treasurer = Melanie Harrow

Secretary = Benjamin Feld

Newsletter Co-Editors = Effie Feld & Benjamin Feld

Membership = RossAnn Daumas

Public Affairs = Nancy Cowart George

University Groups = Jeff Basen

Convenor = Jo Ann Evansgardner

Faculty Advisor = Gerry Gardner, E.E.

I wish to join National Organization for Women, NOW at University of Houston.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$11.00 to \$35.00. This amount is divided among Local, State, and National Chapters. Please send an amount for your dues according to your circumstances.

I enclose \$ _____

Make your check payable to NOW at University of Houston, and send to NOW at University of Houston, Cullen Blvd., Box 509, Student Activities, University Center, Houston, TX 77004

RALLY !

COME AND BRING ALL YOUR ERA FRIENDS

RALLY FOR ERA

At City Hall Reflection Pool

Tuesday, June 30

12 NOON

This will be a brief Rally-then distribution of petitions and envelopes. Aim is to have at least 1500 at Rally.

Houston NOW needs to know how many people it can count on to come to the Rally. Please sign up at our next meeting on June 15th (see page 1) or call Jo Ann Evansgardner at 741-4009.

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.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A MISSIONARY?

Come to our next Chapter meeting on June 15th and find out how you can become an ERA missionary to either Utah or Oklahoma (both unratified states) this summer.

Page 12, Section 1

★★★★

Houston Chronicle

Sunday, May 3, 1981

6 former attorneys general denounce anti-abortion bill as unconstitutional

© 1981, Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — Six former U.S. attorneys general who served under four presidents joined Saturday in denouncing a new anti-abortion bill as a "dangerous circumvention" of the Constitution.

The group, including three Republicans and three Democrats, said that Congress has no power to overturn a 1973 Supreme Court pro-abortion decision just by the passage of a law.

The attack was aimed at a measure, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., in the Senate, and Rep. Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., in the House, that would define all unborn babies as living human beings from the moment of conception and bring them under the protection of the 14th Amendment.

Proponents of the bill contend that this would open the door for states to forbid all abortions as a form of murder and thus nullify the Supreme Court's ruling that women have a constitutional right to abortion.

The bill also would forbid federal courts to halt enforcement of laws that interfere with abortion rights guaranteed by the Supreme Court's decision.

The former chief U.S. legal officers made their views known

in a letter to Sen. John P. East, R-N.C., chairman of a Senate Judiciary subcommittee on separation of powers, and to Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., ranking Democrat on the panel that has held hearings on the bill.

"Our views about the correctness of the Supreme Court's 1973 abortion decision vary widely, but all of us are agreed that Congress has no constitutional authority either to overturn that decision by enacting a statute redefining such terms as 'person' or 'human life' or selectively to restrict the jurisdiction of federal courts so as to prevent them from enforcing that decision fully," the letter said.

"We regard S.158 (introduced by Helms) and H.R.900 (introduced by Hyde) as an attempt to exercise unconstitutional power and a dangerous circumvention of the avenues that the Constitution itself provides for reversing Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution," the letter concluded.

The letter was signed by Herbert Brownell, who served under President Eisenhower; Nicklaus Katzenbach and Ramsey Clark, who were named by President Johnson; Elliott L. Richardson and William B. Saxbe, appointed by President Nixon; and Benjamin R. Civiletti, who was attorney general under President Carter.

At large

The abortion debate: Congress continues to dwell on the question of exactly when life begins

By ELLEN GOODMAN

WASHINGTON — It sounded more like a high-school biology class than a Senate hearing.

For two days, the judiciary subcommittee room was filled with all sorts of lessons about the facts of "life," the birds and the bees, the sperm and the ovum.

For two days, freshman Sen. John East, R-N.C., conducted hearings on a piece of legislation known as the Human Life Bill. This is the bill that could outlaw abortion, by definition, without even bothering with a constitutional amendment.

The scam is a pretty simple one. First, Congress pretends the Supreme Court didn't know the medical facts when it decided in 1973 to decriminalize abortion. Then Congress, in its wisdom, "helps" the court by defining "person" as a fertilized egg.

AS EAST EXPLAINED IT when he opened the hearings on the origin of life: "If life does commence at conception, then the unborn



person is protected under the Constitution . . . Roe vs. Wade would be negated."

This Human Life Bill, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., framed the abortion question — and I use the word "framed" advisedly — in terms of genetics rather than law or politics. That accomplished, East ran the hearings like a block meeting of the Friends of the Fetus.

On the first morning, five scientists, all apparently instructed never to use the word abortion, limited their testimony to the prescribed subject: "simply to define the word 'person' in biological terms." They talked about chromosomes, zygotes, fetuses, Fallopian tubes — everything but pregnant women.

BY THE END OF THE FIRST morning, to no one's surprise, the doctors had testified biological life begins at conception. Eureka! Stop the presses!

Had anyone doubted it? Even the most ardent pro-choice advocate will willingly confess he or she was once a zygote.

East, however, maintained the charade he was conducting a serious medical inquiry into the origin of life instead of an end run around the abortion issue. In his best school-boy manner, he earnestly asked the witnesses whether they were absolutely sure of their testimony. Finally, in exasperation, Mayo Clinic Dr. Hymie Gordon said, "This is the first time I've ever been called on to argue the unarguable."

The Senate hearings were clearly set up to ask the wrong questions. They answered them in utterly predictable ways.

THE HUMAN LIFE BILL raises a host of sticky constitutional issues about the relationship between Congress and the courts. Congress is trying to dictate law to the courts. For this reason, the Conference of Catholic Bishops has opposed the HLB and even Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, has come down with a case of the qualms. He dropped out of co-sponsoring the hearings.

The deck is stacked by the language of the proposed legislation. The fierce, unabating abortion controversy in this country is not over the moment one biological life commences. It's over the tragic moment when two rights conflict.

It's not about whether a fetus has a claim to protection. It's about whether the fetus' claim is greater than the woman's. Does the Constitution protect the zygote over the woman? At what point in gestation does the state have a compelling interest in the unborn?

There are those who define "person" in strict biological terms and those who define "person" in more complex legal and philosophical ways. There are those who believe a woman forced to maintain a pregnancy against her will is nothing more than a vessel and those who believe a woman who has an abortion is a murderer.

In the Senate chamber, though, all these deep political, legal and philosophical concerns were ignored. Finally, even one of the witnesses sighed, "I don't know why I'm here." He wasn't the only one.

Ellen Goodman is a columnist for The Boston Globe.

Italy rejects papal plea, retains its abortion laws

ROME (AP) — Italian voters rejected overwhelmingly a church-backed attempt to scrap the country's liberal abortion law. The steady tide of "no" votes dealt a sharp defeat to hospitalized Pope John Paul II, a strong public supporter of a proposition that would have forbidden abortion in almost all cases.

With more than half the polling stations reporting late Monday, voters were rejecting even more sharply a referendum proposal that would have liberalized the existing 3-year-old law, which allows women over 18 free abortions in state hospitals during the first 90 days of pregnancy.

The returns from the voting Sunday and Monday also showed Italians soundly rejecting proposals to bar citizens from carrying weapons outside their homes and to repeal two law-and-order measures.

Thousands of women carrying red flags and playing guitars jammed Pantheon Square in the center of Rome to celebrate the results.

Conceding defeat, the Movement for Life — sponsors of a strict proposal allowing abortion only when a woman's health is endangered — said they hoped the day would come when "the honor and the privilege of affirming that one must not kill won't be left only to Catholics."

The heavy "no" vote came from many areas of the staunchly Roman Catholic south as well as leftist strongholds in the north.

John Paul II has repeatedly condemned abortion, giving clear support to the measure proposed by the Movement for Life to prohibit abortions except when the woman's health was endangered. He ignored charges he was meddling in Italian politics. A sympathy vote had been

expected and pollsters had forecast a victory for the right-to-life forces a few hours before the polls closed.

In the Sunday blessing before the attempt on his life last Wednesday, the pope said, "The church considers every legislation in favor of abortion as a grave offense against the fundamental rights of man and against the divine commandment: Thou shalt not kill."

The Italian Bishops' Conference has given its support, although the proposition falls short of the official church stand opposing abortion for any reason, even if the operation is necessary to save the woman's life.

This was the second time in seven years that Italy's Roman Catholic church gave its support to an attempt to repeal a law enacted by Parliament. In May 1974, Italians rejected 60-40 a proposal that would have abrogated the divorce law.

The more liberal proposal, sponsored by the small leftist Radical Party, would expand the existing law to allow abortions in special clinics, permit women under 18 to get abortions without parental consent, and allow abortion on demand at any time during pregnancy.

With more than 97 percent of votes counted, the right-to-life proposal was going down 67.8 percent to 32.2 percent. The referendum to liberalize the existing law was losing 88.5 percent to 11.5 percent.

Spokesmen for the Communist and Socialist parties, which urged voters to keep the abortion law unchanged, said they appeared headed for a "great victory."

It is estimated that 400,000 legal abortions have been performed in Italy since the law was enacted — over opposition by the Vatican and the dominant Christian Democrat Party.

He fought for women's rights

BY JOAN GOFFMAN
Chronicle Correspondent

Help Wanted: MALE . . . Help
Wanted: FEMALE.

That's the way the classified section of the Pittsburgh Press newspaper appeared, until one man, with the help of the National Organization for Women, challenged the legality of the heading as being discriminatory.

This challenge led Professor Gerald H.F. Gardner of the University of Houston through three Pennsylvania courts and finally to the United States Supreme Court. On June 21, 1973, after a four-year battle, the verdict of the high court changed the "help wanted" format of newspapers across the nation.

The 5-to-4 Supreme Court vote ruled: "Newspapers are subject to laws barring classification of help wanted ads by sex."

The paper had argued that its advertising listings were protected by the freedom of the press provisions under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Gardner, at the time a mathematician in Pittsburgh, with limited funds and volunteer legal assistance provided by NOW, was able to successfully defeat the Pittsburgh Press, which had the backing of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, he says.

"I was very impressed that a person can bring a suit through all those courts, and it (the person's efforts) actually has an effect," Gardner said. He said he fought a tough battle, but when it was over he was thoroughly committed to working for equal rights.

Gardner, 55, joined NOW shortly after his wife Jo Ann, a psychologist, became a member in 1968. They participated in the Greater Pittsburgh chapter, with Gerald Gardner doing all sorts of jobs, from running the printing press, to treasurer to president, says his wife. Gardner holds the distinction of being the first man elected to the national board, at a national NOW convention in 1972. He is no longer on the board.

Only one other man has served on the national board since Gardner — a Colorado lawyer in 1974 — according to Phyllis Tucker, Texas state coordinator for NOW.

Ms. Tucker says the purpose of NOW is to make women aware of actions in their lives relating to discrimination from race, sex, age, sexual preference, or physical handicap. She said NOW works toward correcting legislation that contributes to discrimination in any form.

Nationally, NOW has 150,000 members including at least 5 percent of whom are males, she says. There are 39,000 Texas members and the greater Houston area's six chapters have approximately 700 members.

Ms. Tucker adds, "What most people

don't realize is the title is National Organization FOR Women, not OF women. There have always been active male members of NOW. Gardner is an example of the males in the organization. They are very strong men, and strong feminists. They believe in equality."

Gardner's latest NOW project is the formation of a chapter on the University of Houston campus. Mrs. Gardner is the organizer, and Gardner is the faculty adviser. The new chapter already has 20 members, including four males. Campus safety will be one of the first issues of business, says Gardner.

He says his interest in equal rights stems from his background in his native Ireland, where he was a Protestant in a primarily Roman Catholic area. He was born in the small town of Tullamore. Gardner's father was a maltster, and it was necessary for him to live near the brewery.

When Gardner was 12, his mother decided it was necessary to move with her four children to Dublin, where the youngsters could attend Protestant schools. Gardner says it was not religious prejudice he felt, but a sense of being part of a minority.

Talking in a soft-spoken Irish brogue, he says, "I grew up feeling that everyone ought to be treated the same."

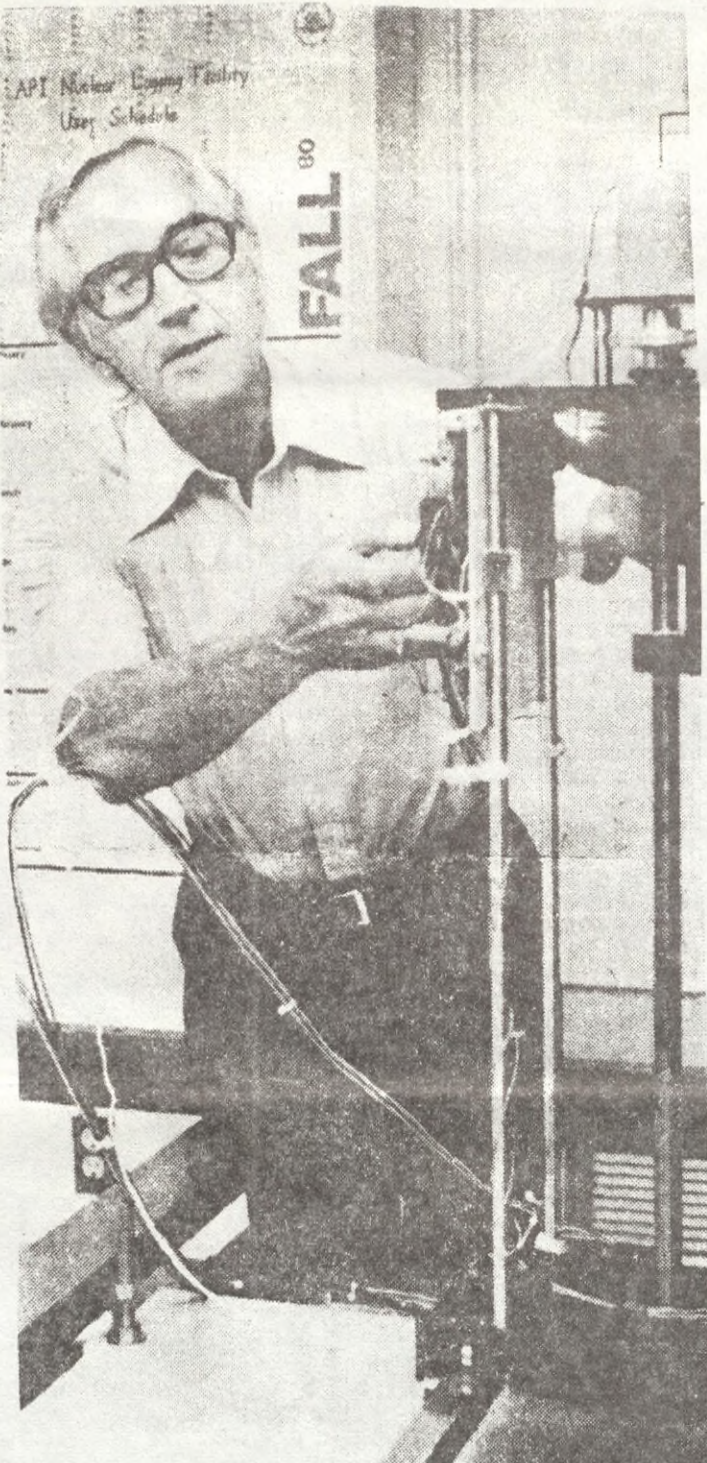
Gardner says he saw his sisters face sexual discrimination in Ireland, and he says this had a strong effect on him. His sister Joan worked as a stock broker for more than 15 years, and was not allowed to become a partner in the company because she was a woman, he said. His sister Pauline worked for meager wages at a railroad company, where she would have earned more if she had been a man, Gardner says.

Gardner was graduated from Trinity College in Dublin, and came to the United States in 1950 to study math at Princeton University. He received his doctorate degree in math from Princeton, and returned to Ireland, where he taught college math in Dublin for five years.

In 1956 he took a job in Pittsburgh with Gulf Research and Development Corp., now known as Gulf Science and Technology Co., a subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corp. After being with Gulf for 24 years, Gardner accepted a one-year position as visiting professor of electrical engineering at UH in 1979.

"I feel there's a lot of opportunity here," says Gardner, and he has decided to remain in Houston permanently. His work in the Seismic Acoustic Laboratory at UH involves using sound waves to find new methods of locating gas and oil accumulations, particularly small ones, says Gardner.

Summing up Gardner's contributions toward equal rights, Ms. Tucker says, "Men of quality are not afraid of women of equality."



"Your kingdom for a horse? Since when is it your kingdom?"

ERA

ALABAMA
ARIZONA
ARKANSAS
FLORIDA
GEORGIA

ILLINOIS
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI
NEVADA

N. CAROLINA
OKLAHOMA
S. CAROLINA
UTAH
VIRGINIA

BOYCOTT
CAMPAIGN

National Organization for Women
 NOW at University of Houston
 Cullen Blvd.
 Box 509, Student Activities
 University Center
 Houston, Texas 77004

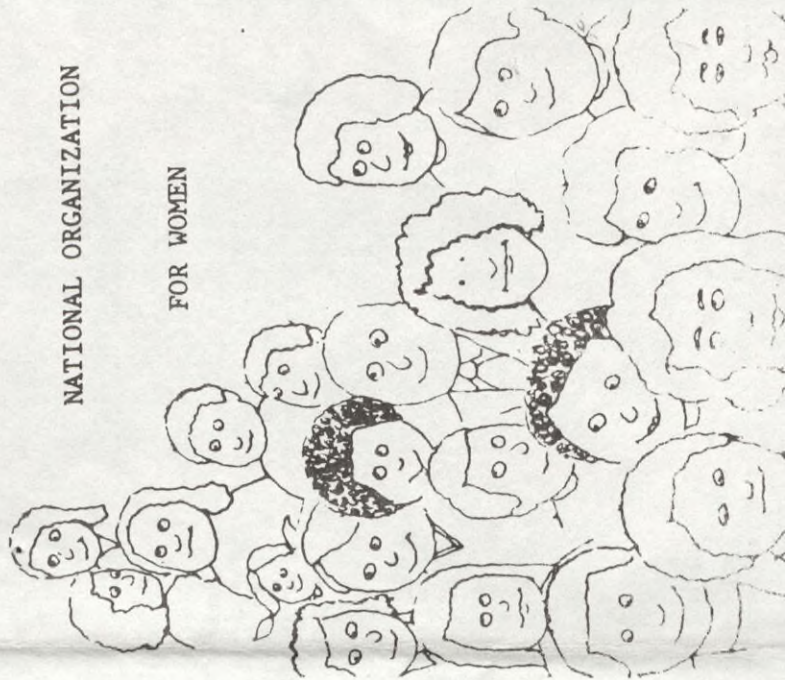


Get involved

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

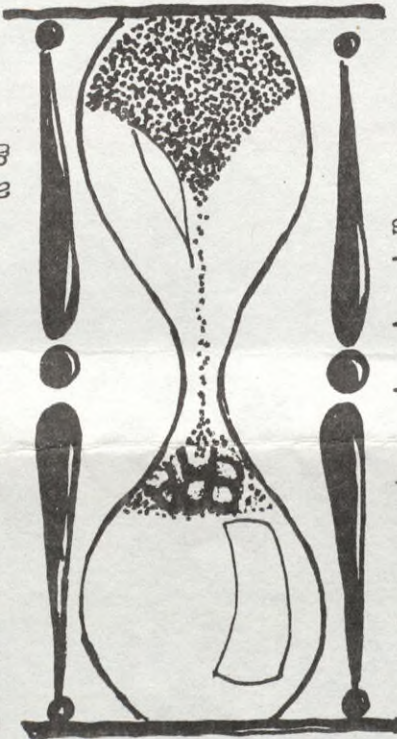
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

FOR WOMEN



JUNE 30, 1982 - THE FINAL DATE FOR RATIFICATION OF THE

ERA I



July 1st marks the
 countdown for the
 final year for
 ratification of the
 Equal Rights Amend-
 ment. If it does
 not happen by June
 30, 1982, we have
 to begin again--all
 over again. The
 present Congress
 has an attitude to-
 ward women not un-
 like the 1923 Cong-
 ress, in which the
 ERA was first pres-
 ented. The ERA was
 presented in every
 Congress from 1923
 until 1972, when
 Congress finally
 passed the ERA and
 sent it to the
 states. This was

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

a major victory after
 a FORTY-NINE year bat-
 tle. But the victory
 is not complete until
 three more states rati-
 fy the Equal Rights
 Amendment, and it be-
 comes part of our Con-
 stitution. We cannot
 afford to wait another
 forty-nine years; we
 cannot let ourselves go
 down to defeat being so
 near ratification, and
 yet so far away. We've
 got to use every ounce
 of effort we can muster,
 and MORE; we've got to
 get our hands on every
 penny we can, and
 MORE. WE MUST NOT FIND
 OURSELVES ON JUNE 30,
 1982, SAYING, "What if
 we had done this or
 that?" ...