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July, 1973



Bay Area Chapter

National Organization of Women

where do we go from here?

Business meeting: July 19

7:30 p.m., University of Houston Graduate Center

Bay Area Boulevard, Clear Lake City

NEXT MEETING: Helen Cassidy - August 2

Ms. Cassidy is the current president of the Texas Womens Political Caucus and the former president of N. O. W./Houston Chapter. She will speak on the basic premises of the feminist movement.

Ms. Cassidy participated in the College of the Mainland's course on Contemporary Women and is described as a "dynamic speaker".

C.R. GROUPS

The first meeting of the the first organized C. R. group will be held Wednesday night, July 18, at the home of Marsha Prunty, #97 NASA Colonades, 800 NASA Road 1. A second group is forming to meet Tuesday nights. For those interested in participating in a C. R. group, a portion of the business meeting, July 19, will be used to organize new groups. C. R. coordinator is Linda McCollum.

TASK FORCE ACTION

EDUCATION: Linda Eichblatt is to be congratulated on her presentation before the Clear Creek Independent School Board.

EMPLOYMENT: Three groups and their practices are under investigation by the task force at this time: NASA/JSC and JSC contractors, employment agencies serving this area, and the banks in the Clear Lake area.

.....OF LOVING AND LIVING

The following is an article reprinted from The News Citizen concerning the text of the address delivered by a Houston male feminist, who was guest speaker at the last N.O.W. meeting.

Wells mentioned the possibility of the Bay Area chapter forming a task force to organize speakers and a speakers forum for this area and to make additions to speeches currently being reworked by the Houston chapter into a handbook.

CLEAR LAKE CITY - Darrell Wells, a Houston man fighting for women's rights said Thursday in a speech to NOW members the feminist movement benefits men as well as women and may ultimately serve to humanize the American society.

"I am convinced that what most Americans want more than anything else is love," Wells said. He added that material success and prestige were probably a substitute for failure to find love.

According to Wells, the American society tends to "crush our ability to love" by establishing the folklore that "growing up is giving up your dreams."

"The feminist movement increases the self-esteem of women and releases men from the limitations of a stereotype male role," Wells said. "This allows men to cultivate their ability to love and give."

Wells claimed equality cannot exist without self-

esteem and concurred with Germaine Greer's statement that love can exist only between equals.

Women are prepared from an early age that compromise and sacrifice are two ingredients of love," he said. "Men are not." He added that love cannot be created by one person.

"The hardest step for any male is admitting that he is, in fact, a male chauvinist," Wells said. "The next inevitable step is deciding 'What am I going to do about it?'"

No man likes to think if himself as an oppressor, he said.

Wells emphasized that feminism actually strengthens relationships by encouraging all people to be whole and free.

He envisioned non-parasitic relationships where people are together because they want to be and not because they need to be, producing a climate for the cultivation of love, which he called "the elusive

American dream."

"When men begin to imagine themselves as loving persons, hopefully they attempt to become loving people, and by there attempt to become loving people, they become loving people."

He added that love is not something you have, but something you do.

"Learning to love does not mean the feminism of men, but the humanization of people," he said.

For those people who claim they are satisfied with the present state of love and relationship, Wells cited new census bureau figures that show one of every 2.8 marriages now end in divorce (1971).

As a concluding note, Wells said he found it interesting that men have the longest life expectancy in Sweden, the country which also carries the highest "feminist rating."

The meeting was held at the University of Houston graduate school in Clear Lake City.

* **N.O.W. needs YOU** *

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QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONTRIBUTIONS? CALL!

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