



N.O.W. NEWS

BAY AREA CHAPTER

MARCH 1990

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

TIMES ARE A-CHANGING

Demographers state that, in the future, minorities and women will make up an increasing proportion of the work force. In addition, there is expected to be a 25% decline in the number of 18 to 24-year olds in the U.S. population--leading to a possible decline of up to as much as 16% fewer students in U.S.colleges during the 90s. The baby boomers who went to work in the 60s will be retiring in the 90s and major companies will be forced to reassess their recruiting strategies in order to compete for the decreasing number of qualified people, including qualified individuals other than white males. Amoco Corp. has recently instituted a revised 10-POINT PLAN which calls for specific minority and female hiring targets for each separate location or department. This is to be achieved through the use of scholarships and internship programs. And, if the demographers are right, Amoco Corp. will not be the last to revise their recruitment strategies in order to exist in an ever changing world with an ever more diverse work force.

DID YOU KNOW...

In Burmese folk belief, women who die in childbirth become disembodied spirits called the thabet. The thabet are quite inimical to men and, of course, depicted in folk tales as having hideous huge bodies and long slimy tongues.

Now meeting, March 15th at Rema Brown's home at 3903 Pebble Beach in League City-- follow Main Street (2094) east to South Shore Harbor, go thru guard gate, turn right where street ends onto Admiral Way. Turn left on Pebble Beach. Rema is at corner of Pinehurst and Pebble Beach & has two trees staked in yard with yellow rope. BRING A SNACK AND PREPARE TO PARTY!!!
time:730 pm phone:334-2803 (Rema's)

Primigravida, circa 1963

Sprawling plunger, nine months ripe
floored in labor's final lunge
clutching the rungs of a dining room chair
visions of motherhood razed by wrenches
yanking your tightened bones apart

the telephone crouching inert, ten steps away
on the table you cannot reach

hours ago the longed-for tugs began and
when you phoned the doctor said
"Take a tablespoon of paregoric
wait an hour and see if labor stops
call me back; false labor wastes our time"

Paregoric, paregoric
take a dose of paregoric

trustingly you lay as spasms grew
fiercer until you rose up from the bed and
staggered from bedroom to phone but halfway there
you fell with the force of the final expulsions
pinning you down to the dining room rug

Alice in Wonderland shrunk with a drink to
eight centimeters of pain

Solitary fingers search the shapeless mass
squeezed beneath your soggy underwear
feel the warm liquid that spreads to the rug
clench to endure the barrage of cramps
pressing you back to a Hades of birth

I can make the hours euphoric
take a dose of paregoric

and now your mirrored eyes close to count
the hollow ticks between your pains
one, two three, the counting pounds
between the grunts and screams, the
door still shut, ten tortured steps away

paregoric, paregoric
take a dose of paregoric

When the clock rings five your husband comes
hears your screams, kneels and gathers you up
carries you out to the waiting car
puts you in the seat and drives away,
tire sounds etching a beat in your head

labor's never been historic
take a dose of paregoric

when you reach the emergency room
nurses with stethoscopes hear no fetal pulse
ask how long you've been in labor
why you waited hours to come
you forget the reason

memory loss is prehistoric
take a dose of paregoric

then a spinal block removes the pelvic pain
forceps extract the perfect girl who will not breathe
even as air is forced into her lungs and
in the rhythm of the nurse's pump
bearded doctors wheeze their song

Paregoric, paregoric
take a dose of paregoric...

Judith Snyder 1/11/90

Isis

The worship of Isis extended all over Asia and Europe as well as the Queen Mother Isis being a major deity in both the Egyptian and the Roman empires. On some ruins in Hungary, in an ancient inscription, Isis describes herself in this way: "I am she who binds hearts together." We all have a bit and more of Isis within us.

When Education Could Be Fatal For a Woman...

The scholar Hypatia who taught at and presided over the Neoplatonic School in Alexandria was born circa 370. She taught many eminent scholars and advised leaders of the time--who accorded her great respect. Influential Christians, though, incited riots against her--a woman who dared to teach men. Mobs slashed her with seashells until she was dead. Our right to an education was most dearly bought. And paid for in pain, anger and blood.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOMED AT NOW NEWS. Just mail them to:

D.J.Watkins
P.O.Box 983
LaMarque, TX. 77568

An Excerpt From WOMEN AND SELF ESTEEM
by Tschirhart and Donovan

Although the world's population is more than 51% female, a very different picture was given by the books that most of us learned to read with--and children are still learning to read with today. Looking at 134 elementary readers published by 14 different publishers and used in suburban schools, one study found that in a total of 2,760 stories

---boy centered stories outnumbered girl centered stories by 5 to 2;

---Adult-male main characters outnumbered adult-female main characters by 3 to 1;

---male biographies outnumbered female biographies by 6 to 1;

---stories about male animals outnumbered stories about female animals 2 to 1;

---male folk and fantasy stories outnumbered female folk and fantasy stories 4 to 1.

The fact that females do not receive equal time--far from it--in these books is enough in itself to give girls the unmistakable impression that we are not important. But even worse, where female characters do appear, they typically conform to negative stereotypes. Female characters, child as well as adult, human as well as animal, are portrayed more often than not as weak, dependent, catty, unable to make friends, afraid to take risks, overly concerned with their appearance, and emotionally unstable. Boys, by contrast, are more often than not portrayed as strong, independent, solid and reliable friends, brave and enterprising....When pictured in illustrations, females...were usually shown cooking, sewing, watching male activity, and/or being confused and waiting for male help. Males, by contrast, were depicted sailing, climbing mountains, going to the moon, and always solving problems.



Suit filed to bar women from Va. military institute

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A U.S. Justice Department order that Virginia Military Institute must admit women was challenged Monday in a lawsuit filed by the state's first female attorney general.

Attorney General Mary Sue Terry filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Roanoke less than an hour after VMI's board of visitors voted in Richmond to fight for its men-only admissions policy.

The lawsuit named U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and the Justice Department.

"This action is filed in order to prevent federal encroachment seeking to enforce unnecessary conformity in the state-supported system of higher education in Virginia," the lawsuit said.

Terry asked the federal court to declare the tax-supported military school's admission policy constitutional, arguing that it is legal under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requiring equal educational opportunities for women.

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"Admission of women to the VMI undergraduate four-year program is not necessary to provide equal educational opportunities for women within the Virginia system of higher education," the lawsuit said. "The state-supported system of higher education in Virginia is richly diverse, consisting of both public and private institutions."

The Justice Department's finding "was made without any inquiry into the state interest served by VMI and without any visit to VMI to review firsthand its program of instruction," the lawsuit said.

Terry said women who want a military-school lifestyle can enroll in the ROTC program at Virginia Tech, another state-supported university.

VMI's board of visitors unanimously approved a resolution affirming the men-only admissions policy at the 150-year-old school in Lexington following a closed-door meeting of nearly two hours.

"We do not believe that VMI's admissions policy violates any provision of law, including the constitutions of Virginia and the United States," the resolution said.

WHO WILL PROTECT US?

Wife attacked

BACLIFF — An argument between a man and his wife resulted in the man picking up a frying pan and hitting her in the back of the head with it, sheriff's deputies reported Monday.

The wife told deputies she and her husband had argued, that he was intoxicated, and he picked up an aluminum skillet and hit her with it, reports state. Emergency Medical Service technicians found a 1½-inch gash in the back of the 21-year-old woman's head.

The husband fled the scene in the couple's car, reports state. The woman was told she could file a complaint in Justice of the Peace Earl L. Medford's court if she wanted to.

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Man slaps wife

BACLIFF — Sheriff's deputies were called in after a man slapped his wife during a domestic argument, deputies reported Thursday.

A 31-year-old woman told deputies her husband, 36, had beaten her, reports state.

The woman said her husband had returned from staying with his parents for several days. The couple was arguing about that parental visit, she said, when he grabbed her and made her sit down in a chair, saying "we're going to get this straight right now," reports state.

She told deputies she refused to cooperate, and her husband slapped her across the face, reports state. The man admitted he had slapped the woman, reports state.

No charges were filed, but a report was made. ALBUQUERQUE NEWS 2-6-70

Note: the Spring Equinox is this month. Spring has come at last.

DODD-HAWKINS BILL

By **GEORGIA STRAIN**
Galveston

If you are a parent who has looked into the availability and affordability of safe, nurturing, healthy care for your child, you know finding it is a real task.

Infant care and after school care are of particular need in most areas. Providing quality care with adequate numbers of responsible, knowledgeable caregivers is quite expensive. Middle and lower middle income families have a difficult time paying the cost, and low income families simply cannot.

For this reason, Congress has the urgent responsibility to pass a Child Care Bill in 1990.

Parents, caregivers, teachers, child advocates and all citizens concerned with the future of our society have an equally urgent responsibility to make sure that Congress passes a bill which is good for America's children.

It would be very hard for anyone not to have heard all the recent talk about a National Child Care Bill. In fact there has been so much talk that even those of us who have followed the battle very closely have had a difficult time keeping straight each version and compromise. What is easy to understand is that our children have already lost \$1.2 billion in 1990 child care funds, because Congress has not been able to reach an agreement.

In 1989, the House and the Senate passed separate child care bills. The sponsors of each version, Sen. Christopher Dodd and Rep. Gus Hawkins, reached an agreement blending the best elements of both, including the "ABC" Bill.

The Dodd/Hawkins version would allow federal funds to be allocated to the states to improve the quality of care for children, to help parents pay for that quality care and to increase the number of care providers. It is also designed to strengthen the care provided by state agencies, public school programs, Head Start, family day care homes, by relatives, for-profit centers, non-profit centers, and centers operated by churches and synagogues. In other words, it intends to positively affect the lives of young children across the spectrum.

Why would Congress have such a hard time passing an agreement that appears to be so beneficial for all? The major reason rests in the fact that yet a third child care bill exists in the House.

Representatives Thomas Downey and George Miller have submitted a proposal that would increase the Earned Income Tax Credit and earmark a small increase in Title XX Social Services Block Grants. However, there is no provision for funds to help parents pay for care, and the quality and safety components of this bill are seriously jeopardized. Representatives Downey and Miller were invited to add their Title XX and Tax Credit versions to the Dodd/Hawkins agreement, but they refused.

Increases in Title XX and Tax Credits are indeed essential to a comprehensive child care act, but they alone cannot replace the components of the Dodd/Hawkins legislation. In addition, Texas families would be seriously affected by the Downey/Miller alternative.

Under the \$1.1 billion "ABC" plan, Texans would receive \$90.5 million. Under the Downey/Miller plan, however, only \$13.9 million would be allocated to this state. This is a loss of \$76.6 million — a loss Texas children surely cannot afford to sustain.

If we are to overcome the staggering problems of illiteracy, substance abuse and crime, we must address the quality of care available to our children. With loving and understanding guidance and care, we can keep our children off the streets, but we must begin at the beginning, where morals and values are formed for a lifetime.

Let us all join together to give our nation a second chance. Urge our legislators to pass the Dodd/Hawkins compromise and to oppose lesser versions. Tell the Congress our children cannot wait. Write today. Tomorrow is too late.

Key members to contact:

Speaker of the House Thomas Foley
(Wash.)
Representative Thomas Downey (Miss.)
Representative George Miller (Calif.)
Representative Richard Gebhardt (Mo.)
Representative Jack Brooks (Texas; voted for ABC)

Address each of these legislators at:
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Phil Gramm; U.S. Senator (Texas; voted against ABC)
Russell Office Bldg. Rm. 370, Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen; U.S. Senator (Texas; voted for ABC)
703 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Georgia Strain is the director of day care for The Children's Center Inc.



Dist. Daily News; 2-4-90

THE PRICE OF VIRGINITY

In ancient Wales (years B.C.), a man wishing to marry a woman would give to her father the price of purchase, the gobyr. The woman brought into the marriage her settlement, the argweddy, and, also, a collection of household goods that would become hers alone if the marriage should dissolve before the seventh year. The husband or his family would be required to pay, in addition to the purchase price, the PRICE OF VIRGINITY, the cowyll. This was paid BEFORE the first night of marriage and was to be compensation for the loss incurred by a woman in giving up her status as a virgin--and a virgin was considered to be any woman who had never married. Her sexual activity had nothing to do with her virginity. Only her marital status did. This view of virginity was fairly common throughout Europe in ancient times. And it must have, later, lead to some confusion as to the value of the Immaculate Conception to the Virgin Mary. A problem that was, nevertheless, surmounted.

It's interesting to note that at one point in our history, marriage was considered a loss in status for a woman. For, though she did not enter the husband's family, she no longer lived among her own--a hardship.

New findings on teen pregnancy

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Poor girls who become teen-age mothers improve their economic outlook and increase their chances of having a healthy baby, a researcher said Friday.

The findings challenge the widely held belief that teen-age pregnancy and motherhood are among the most serious problems facing the poor, said the researcher, Arline T. Geronimus of the University of Michigan.

"I think women in poverty know what they're doing," she said in an interview. "There are social realities in the poor that those of us doing research are unaware of."

Among her findings:

- Infants in poverty-stricken communities are healthier if their mothers are in their teens rather than their 20s, because poor mothers are healthier when they are younger.
- Teen-age mothers form alliances with the fathers' families — even if they are not married — that improve the mothers' economic positions.
- Teen-age mothers are free to earn a living in their 20s, because their children are old enough to be cared for by other family members.
- The elevated death rate for children of poor black mothers would become even higher if the women were encouraged to delay childbirth.

Dale V. News 2-17-90

VIRTUE IS LEARNED AT MOTHER'S KNEE;
VICE AT OTHER JOINTS.

Dr. Laurence J. PETERS

POLITICS

AUSTIN — The Texas Women's Political Caucus on Friday reiterated its backing of Ann Richards for governor and announced its support for an almost all Democratic slate of candidates in the March 13 primary.

The caucus overwhelmingly chose Ms. Richards, currently the state treasurer, over her opponents — State Attorney General Jim Mattox and former Gov. Mark White.

"Ann Richards has just been over the years very supportive of women's issues," said Patricia Smothers, chairwoman of the group's political action committee.

Responding to questions concerning Mattox's support of issues backed by the caucus, Ms. Smothers said, "It's not just because he is not a woman that he's not endorsed. But electing more women to office is a part of the caucus."

Ms. Smothers of San Antonio said the caucus has raised approximately \$40,000 for Ms. Richards' campaign.

The 2,000-member caucus supports a woman's right to an abortion, passage of an Equal Rights Amendment and increased funding of child care programs.

Dale V. News 2-18-90



National Organization for Women

Mail to:
Phyllis Tucker
243 Empress
Houston, Texas 77034

WHO CARES ABOUT WOMEN? NOW CARES! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Join NOW, now.

- I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW. (\$35.00)
- 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 \$15.00 - \$35.00)
- I am already a member of National NOW and want to join the Bay Area Chapter. (\$8.00)
- I am not a NOW member but want to receive the newsletter for one year. (\$10.00 per year)
- 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 _____ WORK PHONE _____

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