

# BROADSIDE

## doonesbury flap

Well, you would have thought it was a holocaust from the number of telephone calls pouring in to The Houston Post. "Where's Doonesbury?" "Where's Doonesbury?" "Where's Doonesbury?"

There are thousands of people in Houston who just cannot start the day without Doonesbury, and I am one of them. You can imagine my surprise to learn that the strip had been censored due to the nature of its content.

I figured Trudeau might be picking on Ford, maybe having him fall down the stairs. After all, the Post had cut the strip before, when it was less than kind to Milhaus.

Not this time. They told me the strip was cut because it dealt with homosexuality, a subject the editors did not think amusing. What? What? Not to be thwarted, I picked up a copy of the Cougar on my way to class that night.

There it is, Joanie Caucus and Andy are having a conversation. Andy says, "There's something I should have told you, Joanie...I'm gay." "I'm usually cheerful, myself", replies Joanie.

Not funny, my foot. It's a hoot.

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This is the strip that made the cover of TIME on February 9. This is the strip that won a Pulitzer Prize for its creator, Garry Trudeau. As the TIME article points out, most of the recipients of Trudeau's gentle barbs love the strip and keep framed copies on their walls. Ron Nessen, William Simon, and President Ford included.

But the Post considered homosexuality unamusing. How many homosexuals did they poll? How many straights? How many celibates? And what about us omnisexuals, anyway?

They really made a collective ass of themselves. Of the 500 papers that run the strip, only three (count 'em, three) cut the series on homosexuality. Four hundred and forty-seven papers ran it, including the Corpus Christi Caller. UPI put out a special release on the public outcry in Houston, Columbus and Cleveland, the three cities where the strip was deleted. It even made the network news.

Joanie Caucus, a radical feminist, is probably the most popular character in the strip. She is beloved by feminists everywhere. Trudeau treats her with gentle humor, like he does all his characters. She is funny. We are funny. Those who say the women's movement has no sense of humor don't know the same people I know. It is NECESSARY that we see the humor in ourselves for us to maintain our sanity.

As the National Gay Task Force pointed out in a recent letter, "The gay cartoon characterization in Doonesbury represents a very realistic situation faced by not a small number of both gays and straights; and as such is a positive step to educate the public to the realities of gay life. The cartoon series thus reflects the progress gay issues have made in becoming increasingly visible in such tangible products of popular culture as cartoon strips."

Oh well, don't give up. On February 21, NBC's "Saturday Night" had a "Bisexual Minute" instead of a "Bicentennial Minute". We may be getting somewhere.

Jan Dilbeck

## **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

## MASCULINE MYSTIQUE TASK FORCE

The task force feels that we can reach out to more men by forming an organization separate from NOW. The aims and goals of the new organization are entirely in agreement with those of NOW. We will announce the formation meeting sometime in March.

We will continue to facilitate both totally male and mixed consciousness raising groups with the new organization and will announce the formation meetings in the BROADSIDE. Male CR groups will form on March 25. Call us for the location.

We see ourselves as active members of Houston Area NOW and will continue to work within the NOW structure. We'll be holding a workshop on the masculine mystique at the NOW state conference in Abilene.

Men want the ERA. NOW.

Craig Roberts 629-8688  
Ron Cox 785-4035

## WOMEN'S CENTER TASK FORCE

Representatives from each of the resident women's center organizations and from the Feminist Credit Union will speak at the March 20 center sitters meeting, 12-3 PM. They've been asked to present a ten-minute informational talk on their organization, their priorities, and their contact people.

We expect to have printed material available for you to take home and we anticipate revamping and updating the resources available to center sitters. We'd like to encourage all center sitters to participate in this meeting but you needn't be a sitter to come.

A clean-out-one-room-a-month campaign is in full force, led by a group of hardy friends of the women's center. If you'd like to see what changes are taking place, drop by between 7-10 PM Monday-Thursday or 12-3 PM Saturday. If you'd like to help with the work, come to the March 20 meeting.

Beginning in March, Renee Rabb will coordinate the women's center calendar. Call Renee at 523-5970 to schedule meetings.

Thanks for supporting the center. Drop by sometime to say "hello".

Alice Shrader

## the national organization


If you have not received your national newsletter, DO IT NOW, for several months, do not fear that your name has been lost. There have apparently been several problems delaying it. The latest delay was announced by Karen DeCrow recently in a letter where she said she had halted the printing of DO IT NOW because she felt several parts of it were one-sided. The National Board, in its last meeting, voted to set up a committee to put out the newsletter rather than having the responsibility lie with the Public Relations Vice-President, who has had that responsibility in the past. New address for National NOW office is: National NOW Action Center, 425 13th Street NW, Suite 1001, Washington DC 20004. Hot line 1-800-424-9538.

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# parade

A Bicentennial Women's Rights Parade will be held in Houston on Saturday, March 6 beginning at 1 PM. The parade will begin in the Civic Center area and will end with a rally in front of City Hall at approximately 2:30 PM. Numerous groups and individuals are planning the parade as a celebration of the role of women in American life and to rally support for the ERA and abortion rights.

Members of Houston Area NOW will gather at 7:30 PM on Friday, March 5 at the women's center to make posters to carry in the parade. Bring your poster board and your felt tip pens. If you can't make it to the poster party, meet us at the women's center between 11:30 and 12 noon on Saturday. We'll proceed from there to the parade. Call Beverly White, 782-1768, or Becky Mitchell, 527-9057, for info.

# state council meeting

Nancy Kuykendall was elected state treasurer after Sue Ricket resigned the post for personal reasons. Plans for a nationwide rally in Illinois on April 20 for the ERA were announced. Abilene was chosen as the site for the state conference to be held May 29-30. Ruth Thornton agreed to be coordinator of workshops at the conference. Details of conference planning will be worked out at the next council meeting.

# upcoming conferences


The Southern Regional Conference will be held in Atlanta April 24-25. Start planning to attend, if possible. The Southern Regional Coordinator will be elected at this conference. There should be many fine workshops and you'll have a chance to meet feminists from all over the South. Day coach air fare from Houston to Atlanta is \$142.72 round trip. Group fares are apparently not available but Jo Stewart is checking to see if cheaper arrangements can be made.

The Texas NOW State Conference will be held in Abilene May 29-30. This should be an interesting and informative conference. State officers will be elected for the forthcoming year. The air fare group rate (for 10 or more persons) is \$84 round trip. We will have at least 10 persons going, but would like many more. If you would like to go with the Houston Area group, call Betty Barnes at 487-2489.

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This page sponsored by Betty Barnes. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAN PIERCE, MARCH 23

# MARCH

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
	Parade Committee 7:30 p.m.		NOW Program 7:30 p.m. UofH Oberholtzer Hall see p. 11		Party & Poster-Making see pp. 5,9	Employment Compliance, p.8 Parade, p.5
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			NOW Business 7:30 p.m., Center	HAFFCU Annual Mtng. 7p.m. Capital Nat'l Bank Auditorium	Friday night at the Center see p. 9	Our Money's Worth Seminar, Rice University, p. 9
7 CLOSED	8	9	10	11 Anita Burnett	12	13
<u>Broadside</u> Deadline		HRCC Business 7:30 p.m.				Center Sitter Meeting, noon see page 3
14 CLOSED	15 Glenma Cloud	16	17 Ann Robinson- Norma Lee	18	19 CLOSED	20
				Men's C-R group formation, p. 3		
21 CLOSED	22 Nancy Kuykendall	23	24 Beverly White	25	26 CLOSED	27 Jan Pierce
			Your Membership Expires. Renew NOW!! p.11			WOMEN'S CENTER 3602 Milam 524-5743  Mon-Thur 7-10 PM Saturday 12-3 PM
28 CLOSED	29 Renee Rabb	30	31			

# workshop

On March 6 a workshop on employment compliance will be held at the Embassy Room in the University Center at the University of Houston. The workshop, starting at 9 AM and ending at 4 PM, will be an intensive educational training seminar for women interested in the area of employment discrimination.

Subjects covered will include: laws prohibiting sex discrimination in employment, the procedures of enforcement agencies, and counseling women who feel they have been discriminated against.

Guest speakers will include: Caliph Johnson of the Southwest Institute for Equal Employment; representatives of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor; and Sylvia Roberts, legal counsel for the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The end result of this workshop will be the formation of a task force which can counsel women on employment discrimination and which can aggressively seek out and effectively challenge major areas of sex discrimination in the Houston economic community.

The workshop is free to all Houston Area NOW members. There will be a \$2 charge for all non-members. Call Nikki Van Hightower at 782-5914 for additional info.

# moving?

If you look on the back of your BROADSIDE, you'll see a little line that says, "Address Correction Requested". This means that if you move to a new address, the post office will not forward your BROADSIDE. Instead, they will return it to us with (1) your new address or (2) a note saying that you have moved and left no forwarding address. Either way, you miss your BROADSIDE. If you move and leave no forwarding address at the post office, you will continue to miss your BROADSIDE until you send us a correct address. It costs us 13¢ for each returned BROADSIDE, so send your new address promptly to: Membership, Houston Area NOW, 3602 Milam, Houston 77002.

This page is sponsored by M.E.C. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOOSE! MARCH 3.

# friday nights

Our women's center activities have been declining. Not much is going on now. We need to build up the center again as a supportive, feminist environment. The first two Fridays in March (5th and 12th) will be times of informal happenings on feminism. We'll provide a record player, so bring your favorite record (with your name on it). Bring your own refreshments. Enjoy some good conversation. Share yourself. Share some ideas for other things we can do at the center. Norma Lee and Ron Cox will see to the record player and door opening. 7:30 PM both nights.

## our money's worth

The seminar designed to give ourselves professional information on budgeting, saving, borrowing, real estate, insurance, wills and contracts is finally a reality. Participation is open and we're requesting a \$5 donation per person to Houston Area NOW. It will be an all-day meeting at Rice University on Saturday, March 13.

Pre-registration materials will be available at the business and program meetings and at the women's center. Registration will be 8-9 AM, March 13, at Sewell Hall. If you'd like to work on the seminar or would like additional information, call the coordinator, Mark Delaquaize, at 666-8116.

## money matters.

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Marion Friedman 667-9507  
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Beverly White 782-1768  
Nancy Landau 783-8547  
Alice Shrader 524-5743

\*denotes active task force

Note: to contact those persons whose telephone numbers are not listed above call the women's center, 524-5743.

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

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The First International Jacks Tournament is on! In response to the article in last month's issue, several representatives of the media indicated an interest in covering this historic event which will take place in late April or early May.

# this & that

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

If you haven't paid your 1976 dues, this is the last issue of the BROADSIDE that you will receive. The grace period expires March 31. Dues are \$20 (local and national) and can be paid in installments of \$5 or \$10 per month. A \$5 down payment will insure your receiving the BROADSIDE immediately, but you will not become a full member until the entire amount is paid. Lower rates for students and hardship cases are available upon request. National dues may be placed in escrow upon written request.

## PROGRAM MEETING

Kay Weiss, a cancer epidemiologist, will speak on "DES (the 'morning-after' pill) and Vaginal Cancer" at our March program meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 3B of Oberholtzer Hall in the Dorm Quadrangle on the University of Houston campus. The Quadrangle is right off Wheeler Street. Join us at 7:30 PM for this important program.

## STATUS REPORT

"Let the jury consider their verdict," the King said, for about the twentieth time that day. "No, no!", said the Queen. "Sentence first--verdict afterwards." "Stop this nonsense!", said Alice loudly. "The idea of having the sentence first!"....."Off with her head!", the Queen shouted at the top of her voice.

The attitudes and actions of the U of H Organizations Board have been reminiscent of the trial scene from "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". On February 4 the Board decided the UH NOW group is not recognized and has not been recognized since September 1975. The decision is being appealed to the Student Court, where it is hoped less of a "Wonderland" atmosphere will prevail.

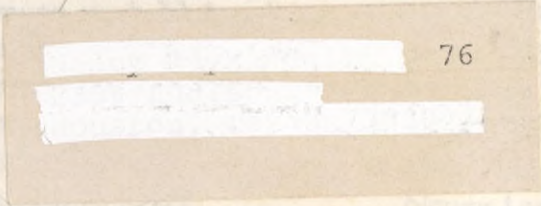
## MATRONAGE

Would you like to sponsor a page of the BROADSIDE? For \$12 (the cost of publishing) you can sponsor one page of one issue. Besides the gratitude of the staff and the chapter, you will be entitled to one line across the bottom of the page in which to amaze your friends and confound your enemies. Within reason, of course. Make your checks out to Houston Area NOW and send them and your message to Editor, BROADSIDE, 3602 Milam, Houston 77002.



Houston Area Chapter  
**National Organization for Women**  
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