



NOW

THE *broadside*

HOUSTON CHAPTER
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Vol. 3, No. 7

BROADSIDE

November 1972

Houston N.O.W. To OPEN WOMEN'S CENTER

The Houston NOW Women's Center will open in December. Located on Milam near the Southwest Freeway, the Center will be the office for Houston NOW and a workshop for NOW projects.

Sporting a marquee-style billboard, the building is being rented to NOW at a bargain price. It is the "Green House" used by the McGovern workers as a Houston headquarters. As the house plan on page 2 shows, the building is approximately 1000 square feet with a room large enough for meetings of 50 people.

Present plans call for the entry room to be the office area with desk, telephone and feminist library. The long room will be furnished as a meeting room, and the remaining large room will serve as a workshop. The small room next to the kitchen will probably be outfitted as a children's play area with games and toys.

Until recently NOW's treasury would not have been able to support such a project. However, a generous donation by NOW member Susan Butler has insured payment of the expenses for eight months or more.

Most of the donation made to the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDEF) will be given to Houston NOW by LDEF for the expenses incurred in pursuing NOW projects. Part of the costs of maintaining a central office will be covered by these funds.

Several of the projects to be pursued under this program are already underway such as the newsletter, the enforcement projects of the EEO task force and the articles written by the task force on Reproduction and Its Control. Other items in the proposal to LDEF include:

EDUCATION. Information on sex discrimination and sex stereotyping in local educational facilities will be gathered. Data on the treatment of students and school personnel will be included in two reports, one on sexism in the public school system and the other on sex discrimination in higher education.

CREDIT. Information on credit discrimination in Texas and on Texas laws affecting credit will be compiled.

CHILD CARE. Data on local child care facilities will be gathered from child care centers, regulating agencies and parents. This information will be made available to persons requesting it.

REPRODUCTION. Up to date information on birth control, sterilization and abortion and the doctors or facilities where each can be obtained will be available at the Center.

LEGAL COUNSEL. Volunteer attorneys and law students will provide legal counsel on matters of sex discrimination.

These along with the other activities of Houston NOW guarantee that the Center will be used to its capacity. At last there will be a place where feminists can go to visit, to work and to plan.

broadside

SIMULTANEOUS DISCHARGE OF ALL THE GUNS ON ONE SIDE OF A WARSHIP . . . ANY STRONG OR COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK, AS BY CRITICISM . . . A SONG, CHIEFLY IN 16TH- AND 17TH-CENTURY ENGLAND, WRITTEN ON A TOPICAL SUBJECT, PRINTED ON BROADSIDES, AND SUNG IN PUBLIC . . . BY A PROFESSIONAL BALLADEER . . .

THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, UNABRIDGED EDITION

Comment

At last Houston NOW has what many of us have dreamed of, a central office, meeting place and workshop. No longer will our headquarters be Poppy's tape recorder and the trunk of my car. There will be a place where we can gather anytime, where you can always(?) find a feminist.

From these aspects our Center is a dream, but all the work that must be done to fix it up is the present reality. I can tell you that its a good thing women know a lot about house cleaning. But don't despair. The other work should be more fun, the decorating, the painting. November will be a busy month. Cleaning parties will start as soon as the lease is signed.

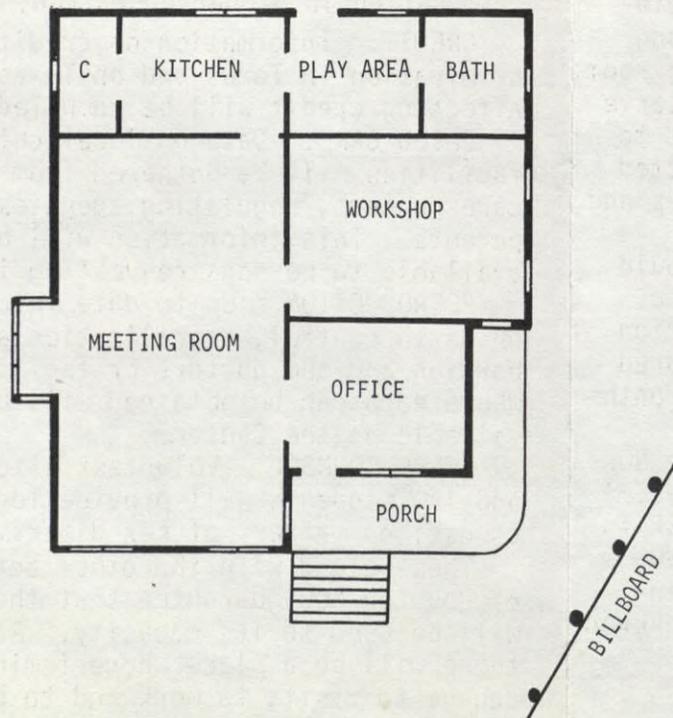
To start with we will need donations of furniture, file cabinets, typewriters, cleaning supplies, etc. Also we are in the unique position of having a building with air conditioners and no heaters. Please call me if you can supply one. We must have at least four gas heaters.

Hopefully the Center will be operating in December. Task forces will be able to use the building at any time to work on projects. If possible the Center will be open at night Sunday through Friday and during the day Saturdays and Sundays. These times will depend on the number of people willing to work.

Now is the time to work for NOW. A volunteer responsible for the Center should always be there when it is open. Someone is needed to enlist and to schedule the volunteers. Please call me if you are interested in this position. I hate to have to "draft" people.

I know most of you are as excited as I am. The possibilities for Houston NOW are limitless when we have a place where interested persons can contact NOW and from which NOW can reach out to other women. Look out Houston!

Parrish Hirasaki



BROADSIDE STAFF

EDITOR: Susan Hedding
 ART DIRECTOR: Geny McConnell
 CONTRIBUTORS: Parrish Hirasaki
 Barbara Lane Farley
 Linda Cryer
 Yolanda Garza

NOW OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Parrish Hirasaki
 333-2297
 VICE PRESIDENT: Peggy Hall
 528-3424
 SECRETARY: Muncy McKinney
 944-5534
 TREASURER: Ann McClung
 488-0148

TASK FORCES AND COORDINATORS

BROADSIDE: Susan Hedding
 667-5443
 CREDIT: Susan Butler
 664-9534
 EDUCATION: Kay Whyburn
 667-8556
 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Parrish Hirasaki
 333-2297
 FUND RAISING: Marlyne Kilbey
 664-4121
 MEMBERSHIP & ORIENTATION: Geny McConnell
 481-3601
 POLITICS & LOBBYING: Helen Cassidy
 748-5369
 REPRODUCTION & ITS CONTROL: Jeanne Necaize
 665-3287

National Organization for Women
 P. O. Box 58202
 Houston, Texas 77058

If you have a question about Houston NOW or any aspect of women's rights, call one of the following numbers:

A. M.	P. M.
333-3270	333-3270
748-5369	748-5369
	333-2297

Thank You Susan

A special thanks from Houston NOW to Susan Butler. Her generous contribution has made the Houston NOW Women's Center a reality. We can promise her that it is money well spent.

Susan is Co-ordinator of the task force on Credit and has been a member of NOW since 1971. She is a reporter for the Houston Chronicle.

TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

CREDIT

Ah, the sweet taste of success. At last, Foley's seems willing to give working women credit cards in their own name.

The credit manager assured Susan Butler that his department reviews the credit picture for the entire family, not to see whether the husband or the wife is applying. In the case of a single woman, the department considers her ability to pay.

The Credit Task Force is willing to grant Foley's, as well as other department stores, one concession -- one credit account per family. Foley's itself carried 400,000 credit accounts and the store management says it would be very difficult to handle more than one account per family.

If you are married and neither you nor your husband has a Foley's credit card, now is the time to apply and see what happens. If you have any problems or questions, call Susan Butler, 664-9534.

Sakowitz is next!

MEMBERSHIP

The first month of the new four-part orientation program has proven successful and as a result, the Membership and Orientation task force will continue to use this format.

New members are urged to attend the November sessions beginning the first Monday of the month, however anyone may come at any point during the series.

EDUCATION

Kay Whyburn, new coordinator of the Education task force, urges all parents concerned with the quality of their children's education to join the Education task force.

Plans are now underway to begin an investigation of all text books in a search for discrimination, both blatant and subtle.

If you feel your child has been unfairly treated or you suspect discrimination in teaching policies, contact Kay at 667-8556.

Because guest parking at the University of Houston is virtually non-existent, members are asked to ride to meetings held on campus with persons who have U of H stickers. We have approximately 25 members all over town willing to provide rides.

Call Melva Burnam at 465-9059 to get the names and phone numbers of those near you.

Learn Verbal Self-Defense

"You don't really believe you are as good as a man, do you?"

If you have ever wished for just the right parry to a verbal attack, or, if you have ever been in doubt as to the correct answer to a question concerning the movement, don't miss the November business meeting.

Poppy Northcutt, Helen Cassidy, and Marlyne Kilbey, experts in piercing wit and devastating repartee, (in addition to sound knowledge of the feminist movement) will serve as a panel to lead a discussion of answers to most frequently asked questions concerning NOW and the revolution.

So amaze your friends and learn to defy any pig so unfortunate as to voice his opinions within your earshot. Attend the November meeting.

Media Women

The October edition of the Houston Journalism Review has an indepth story about women in local news media. Included are interviews with women at the two newspapers, three television stations and most of the radio stations that take news seriously.

For those who have not received a copy, the Review is on sale at newsstands and will also be for sale at the November business meeting of NOW.



JOIN **NOW** SUBSCRIBE TO THE BROADSIDE
(Members receive issues free)

- I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NOW (\$15.00)
- I AM NOT A NOW MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSPAPER (\$3.00)
- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ TO NOW

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
P. O. BOX 58202
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

TEXAS CONSTITUTION LACKING BASIC WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Minutes of October Business Meeting

October 4--Parrish opened with a discussion of the proposed NOW Women's Center. (See article, page one) Parrish described our present building options and then opened the floor to additional suggestions.

Necessary funds for the center must come through the national NOW Legal Defense Fund and Parrish proposed a resolution that we use these funds for the operation and maintenance of the building. The resolution passed by voice vote.

Marlyne Kilbey discussed the upcoming film festival to be produced by the Feminist Collective. (See article elsewhere this issue.) She also asked for suggestions for policy resolutions to be presented at the upcoming NOW convention. It was decided that each task force should review existing resolutions so that there will be no repetitions.

Poppy Northcutt requested that Houston NOW donate to the memorial fund for John Klegg, an extremely dedicated member of the National Board, who recently died of Hodgkin's disease. A resolution was proposed that Houston NOW add \$25 to the amount collected at the business meeting.

Speaker for the meeting, Helen Cassidy explained the importance of Amendment 7 and the need for individual participation to guarantee passage of the Amendment on November 7.

"It is absolutely ridiculous that women in Texas have no basic rights under the Texas Constitution, a document passed during Reconstruction and now weighing over 20 pounds."

Although Texas legislatures of 1965 and 1967 did wipe out a select few of Texas' many discriminatory laws, Helen stated that this is not necessarily a permanent situation.

Laws still on the books:

**In the state of Texas, the father is the natural guardian of the person of the child. This law becomes a matter of life and death when a seriously ill child is rushed to a hospital. If the father is not present, hospitals have the right to refuse treatment. No state has the right to place a mother in a position where she cannot provide the welfare of her child.

**A father may place a child in any state institution without the

consent of the mother. There is no need to discuss the many state institutions no child should be placed in under any circumstances.

**The state of Texas continues to keep the paramour law on its books. This law states that when a husband finds his wife in the act of adultery, he may kill the man involved with no penalty. This is not the case for a wife. There is no justifiable excuse for murder.

**Only the husband may declare a homestead in the state of Texas and only a husband can abandon it. The Texas Supreme Court has ruled that an abandonment of only two weeks is cause enough for a man to have the right to sell his home without the signature or consent of his wife.

"It is women's basic right to be protected by the law of the land," stated Helen. "And if this amendment is not passed, we are in trouble. It will be virtually impossible to get existing laws changed and there is the very real possibility that many discriminatory laws may be reinstated."

In the state of Texas women have been discriminated against not out of neglect but out of direct action both through the courts and through the legislature.

Legislation to Watch

H.R.16620--To strengthen and expand the Headstart program with priority to economically disadvantaged, Reid (D., N.Y.) to Committee on Education and Labor.

S.3490 or HOW WOMEN ALMOST GOT AN ANNUAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY--To authorize and request the President to issue annually a proclamation designating August 26 of each year as "Women's Rights Day." Sponsored by Gurney (R., Cal.) passed Senate. Amended in House to strike the word "annual" and phrase "each year", and insert 1972. Senator Robert Byrd announcing this message from House: "Mr. President, in view of the fact that the date of August 26 has already passed, and it being my understanding that the objectives of the measure have been accomplished by the executive department in the meantime, I move that S.3490 be indefinitely postponed." The motion was agreed to. Cong. Record, Sept. 15, 1972. Pg.S15060.

"There is neither male nor female for we are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28.

The Feminist Collective is selling Christmas cards with the above quotation. If you send cards, send this card. Boxes of 25 are available for \$4, 15 for \$3 and single cards for \$.25.

NOW INTERVIEW

'This Is My Cause'

"If there is something 'wrong' with you, then there is no place for you here," said the young white male. Jeanne Necaize soon found out the "wrong" referred to being black or female.

A 1970 honor graduate of the University of Mississippi, Jeannie chose to begin her career with a Public Accounting Firm in Houston. After realizing the statement of the young, white male was true, Jeanne began work with a downtown Houston bank.

In September, 1971, when she first joined NOW, Jeanne shared the feelings of every new member, "I had thoughts since I could remember, thoughts unique to me. Why is female the lowest rung anywhere? I had always shocked people with ideas like this. It was such a relief to find people not shocked."

She soon became actively involved in NOW. "This is the thing I had been looking for all my life. This is my personal cause; my personal commitment. I realize that you can be sympathetic with everyone who has a cause, but it is only empathy at best."

Because of the discrimination she had faced early in her career, Jeanne first joined the Equal Employment Opportunity task force. However, her major interest lies in the field of reproductive control. As coordinator of the Reproduction and Its Control task force, Jeanne explains, "A woman's right to control her own body is more basic than the right to a decent economic life. I feel this is the most unbearable of all discrimination."

Jeanne also serves as treasurer for the Texas Women's Political Caucus. "I am not actually a very political person, but I realize the importance of taking an active part in the process of choosing our government. Through the Caucus I have met many great people, for example, Sissy Farenthold. I wouldn't trade this year as treasurer for anything."

Calendar of Events

1972		NOVEMBER					1972
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
			①	2	3	4	
5	⑥	7	⑧	⑨	10	11	
12	⑬	14	⑮	16	17	18	
19	⑳	21	22	23	24	25	
26	㉑	28	29	30			

November 1 -- NOW BUSINESS/PROGRAM MEETING. Child care available. University of Houston Student Center, Corpus Christi and Fort Worth rooms. Meeting begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. Come at 7:30 and socialize. A panel of Houston feminists will conduct a program on the best ways to answer questions or remarks about the Women's Movement. Audience participation is a must. Refreshments will be served. Guests are welcome.

November 6 -- ORIENTATION - PART 1. The HERstory of the Women's Movement and the background and structure of NOW. 11523 Kirkmeadow, home of Geny McConnell. 8:00 p.m. (see map)

November 8 -- REPRODUCTION AND ITS CONTROL TASK FORCE. 5840 Gulfton #86, home of Jeanne Necaie. 8:00 p.m.

November 9 -- EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TASK FORCE. 4422 Goldfinch, home of Helen Via. 8:00 p.m.

November 13 -- ORIENTATION - PART 2. The status (or lack there of) of women and the laws which particularly affect women and their rights. 11523 Kirkmeadow, home of Geny McConnell. 8:00 p.m. (see map)

November 15 -- RAP SESSIONS. Topic: "Non-sexist Child Raising". 5100 Valerie, Bellaire, home of Marlyne Kilbey. 1430 Saxony Lane, Nassau Bay, home of Parrish Hirasaki. Attend the session nearest you. 8:00 p.m.

November 20 -- ORIENTATION - PART 3. Conciousness raising. 4368 Graduate Circle, home of Helen Cassidy. 8:00 p.m.

November 27 -- ORIENTATION - PART 4. Venting feminist hostility. 5100 Valerie, Bellaire, home of Marlyne Kilbey. 8:00 p.m.

HERSTORY

EARLY FEMINIST AUTHOR LED SECRET LIFE AS NATURALIST

Waiting silently for the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens to appear, young Beatrix Potter was half-inclined to flee. Although her theories on symbiosis went far beyond what was known in 1896, she needed a sponsor to present her paper. But the director of the Gardens had no time for her or her discoveries. After learning two women assistants at the Gardens were "obliged to wear knickerbockers," she wrote in her journal, using a code alphabet of her own invention, that the director "may be a misogynist."

A recent article by Naomi Gilpatrick, discusses Beatrix Potter's life as described in her *Journal*, published in 1966. It covers the years from 1881 to 1897 and describes her efforts to present her theories to the scientific authorities of the time, who reacted to the idea of a woman attempting to pursue a scientific career as though "one must not speak to them of such subjects."

Before she turned to writing for children, Beatrix Potter was the first person in England to affirm that the colorful patches growing on trees, fences and rocks were actually a merging of two discrete plants--an alga and a fungus--to make a third kind of plant, a lichen.

Clearly a feminist before her time, Beatrix would have liked to discuss her growing portfolio of fungus and lichen drawings with some of the scientists at the Botanic Gardens, but she could find no one who would even acknowledge her presence.

Through her uncle, Sir Henry, Beatrix finally got the opportunity to meet the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sir William Thiselton-Dyer. As he turned the pages of her portfolio he told her, "I'll be glad to renew your student ticket to admit you to the gardens and the library," and then turned to her uncle to talk politics and did not address her again.

Several months later, Sir Henry received a "rude and stupid" letter from Thiselton-Dyer. Annoyed at the slight given to one under his patronage, he asked Beatrix to explain her experiments. Sir Henry told her that no stone would go unturned until her paper went to the most prestigious scientific group in London, the Linnean Society.

*Eastwood Dumbeld
Sep 2nd 93*

*My dear Noel,
I don't know what to
write to you, so I shall tell you a story
about four little rabbits
whose names are*



*They lived with their mother in a
sand bank under the root of a
big fir tree.*

Many of Beatrix Potter's books originated as story-letters. This is an early version of *Peter Rabbit*.

On April 1, 1897, the paper, entitled "On the Germination of the Spores of Agaricineae," by Helen B. Potter, was read at a meeting of the Linnean Society of London. It was read by George Masee; Beatrix was not present, for only men were allowed to attend the meetings. (To understand how hotly the lichen controversy raged in 1897, even today the question is unresolved. While most authorities agree with the principles as stated in the Beatrix paper, lichenology has more unexplored horizons than any other field of plant study.)

Before her paper could be published, Beatrix withdrew it in order to conduct further experiments.

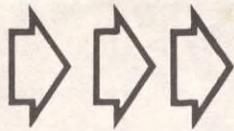
She gave up her studies of spores two years after she had asked for the return of her paper because the time and energy she had invested in painting fungi and lichens now went into writing and illustrating children's books. After twenty

years of constant fighting to gain recognition of her theories, she found the response from child readers much more heartening.

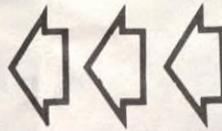
The *Tale of Peter Rabbit* has been on the list of best-selling children's books every year since its appearance seventy years ago.

As the royalties on her books increased, Beatrix was able to buy a farm at Sawrey and became a sheep raiser. She was so skilled in raising the hardy blue sheep that the farmers of Sawrey elected her president of the Herwick Breeders' Association, the first time a woman had ever held that post.

In 1943, at the age of seventy-seven, Beatrix Potter died after a lifetime of struggle, to be forgotten as a pioneer lichenologist but remembered fondly as the creator of children's world of animals safe from any "misogynists."



Recommended Feminist Reading



It sometimes appears the most common diversion for literary ladies of the past was making bread. Every biographer of the Bronte sisters, Emily Dickinson, Jane Austen, etc., insists how happy they were kneading all that bread (with a book propped up in front of them). Since kneading is coming back into style, the "Old Girls" may be revived as well, thereby making the point that you survive creatively if you thrust loaves into the oven instead of your own head.

John Evangelist Walsh recently caused a commotion in literary circles when he kicked a sacred cow wearing a white dress. His *HIDDEN LIFE OF EMILY DICKINSON* portrays America's favorite virgin not as a woman Above It All but as a tragically unhappy human being who found some comfort in playing the role of Etherial Poetess. Whether you agree with him or not, his book makes fun reading while sitting up in your attic on a rainy night.

Speaking of attics on rainy nights, the Brontes, firm advocates of such institutions, are back stronger than ever. Winifred Gerin, who now lives in the Bronte parsonage in Yorkshire, has produced a brace of biographies on Charlotte and Emily. *CHARLOTTE BRONTE: THE EVOLUTION OF GENIUS* is

the best available account of that withdrawn woman who would have given up every shred of her fame if only she could have had the kind of personal beauty she dreamed of. Emily, on the other hand, abandoned any hope of physical beauty at an early age and concentrated on the creation of one of the unique worlds of mental history. *EMILY BRONTE* tells how one woman transcended completely a culture that held no place for her.

Contemporary with Charlotte and Em, and a personal friend of theirs, Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell became a best-selling novelist after giving birth to several children in the proper Victorian manner. If you want a real period piece, try her *WIVES AND DAUGHTERS*. If you prefer more realism, try her *LIFE OF CHARLOTTE BRONTE*, one of the first attempts ever made by a woman to analyze another woman and still a classic of its kind. You would never guess it was published in 1857.

A contrast to these intense women, Jane Austen played the game by the rules of her time and played it with amused detachment. Today she has the grudging affection of many a sane and sensible literary critic. *ONLY A NOVEL* by Jane Aiken Hodge is the newest study of her life and work.

After long months of intensive lobbying by women, the House Administration Committee has at last approved the appointment of female pages.

Representative Rodino (D., N.J.) has seniority and will probably make the first appointment. He has expressed his support of female pages and has a waiting list.

Carol Burns, NOW task force Chairone for the Equal Rights Amendment deserves a great deal of credit for this victory.

NOW ACTIONS ACROSS COUNTRY LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles NOW has pressured the Fair Employment Practices Commission to order a full investigation into sex and race discrimination in employment at the *Los Angeles Times*. NOW's action was taken as a result of unfair coverage given the movement and women in general in the last two years by the *Times*.

The NOW employment committee is training six women counselors to advise and represent women suffering job discrimination. A campaign of newspaper advertising will inform LA women about this free service.

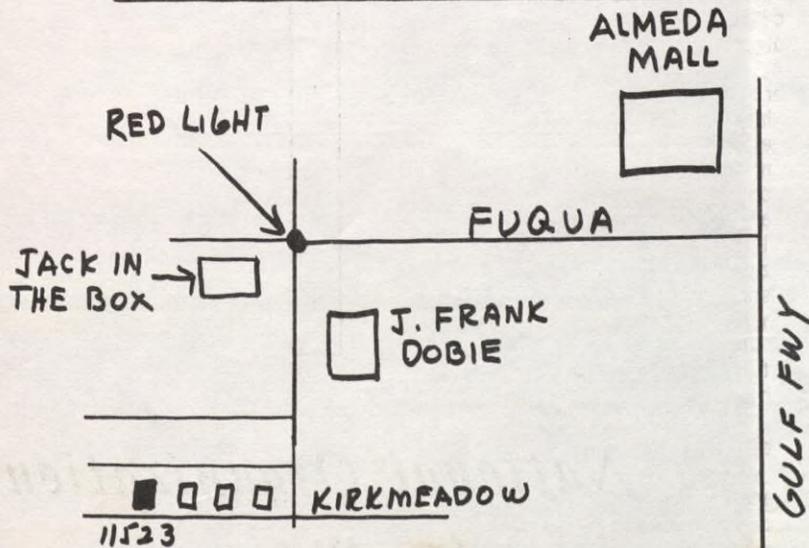
LA's Image of Women committee is compiling a "Handbook of Sexist Songs" to distribute to radio stations in hopes they will discontinue playing them.

CHICAGO

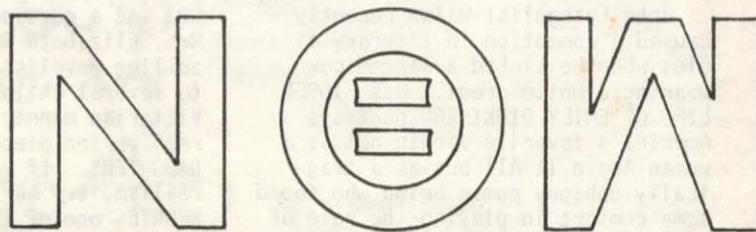
Chicago NOW has charged local legal groups with failure to censure unprincipled divorce lawyers. NOW further charged that some divorce lawyers make no attempt at reconciliation, collect fees from both husband and wife, keep retainer fees paid for no services, engage in collusion and manufacture grounds for divorce.

To dramatize their complaints, NOW presented a complaint and summons to Bernard Kaufman, a particularly suspect lawyer, taking advantage of the subsequent publicity to point out that after one year of divorce, 42 percent of the fathers have made no support payments.

BRING A FRIEND TO ORIENTATION

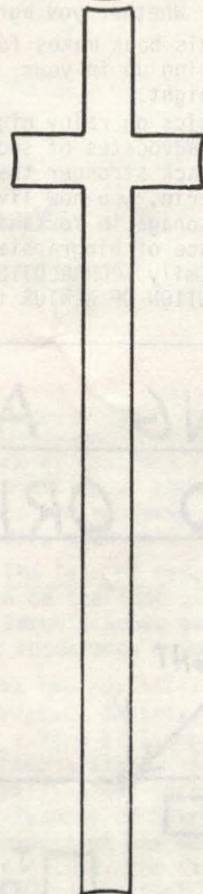


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