

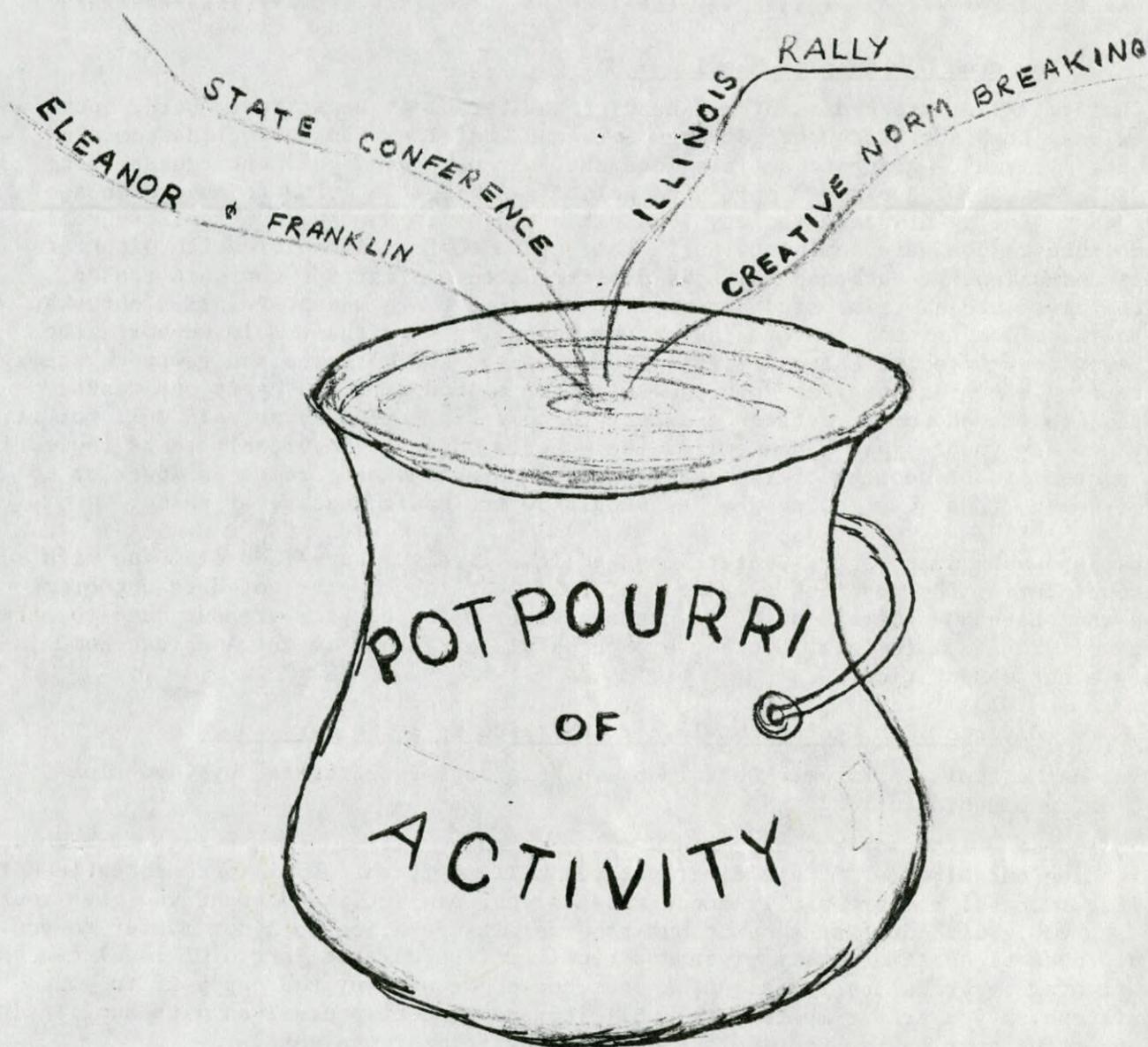
N.O.W. NEWS

Bay Area Chapter

National Organization for Women



Volume IV, Number 6 - June, 1976



Program/Business Meeting

8 p.m.

Thursday, June 3, 1976

Uniting Church

El Camino & Reseda

Clear Lake City, Texas

Potpourri of Activity - creative norm breaking, Anne Smith's reactions to "Eleanor and Franklin" and reports on the National Rally For Equal Rights and the Texas N.O.W. State Conference.

Presiding Officers for June: Shirley McFaul (488-2403), Paula Konicek (488-6589) and Judy Winans (488-8533)

 NOW CALENDAR

May 29-30 "Spirit of Equality '76" - State Convention of Texas NOW. Abilene, Tx.
 June 3 Bay Area NOW Program/Business meeting. 8 pm. Uniting Church, CLC
 June 18 Friends of HAFFCU Party (for those of you who came in late, HAFFCU is the Houston Area Federal Feminist Credit Union and you can be its friend too) at home of atty. May Nacol, 6012 Memorial. 8 pm. \$1 donation.

Presiding Officer for July: Nora Mertz (554-6738)

Bay Area NOW Chapter Meeting - May 6, 1976

Janet Chafetz, Associate Professor and head of the Sociology Department, UofH, spoke on "Housewives, Lesbians, and Other Strange Folk and What They Can Do For The Women's Movement." If you're going to be in a movement, she observed, you must accept being regarded as a social deviant. There's no point in saying I'm going to engage in social reform ^{only} up to the point where society finds it acceptable. Men and non-feminist women can continue to dominate feminists until they cease to fear identification with this or that unfashionable subgroup which is discriminated against for the same reason that feminists are discriminated against - because they are women. Pointing out that Lesbians have long since pioneered as career women living without male support, she noted that housewives are also deviants from accepted social norms and reward systems. They receive a self-cancelling double message: be a good girl and carry out tasks essential to the economy - but don't expect to be taken seriously or paid well for it. Be sure to say you're just a housewife. The women's movement inevitably tests the entire value system of our society, first challenging such male-biased rules as lower or no pay for women, then questioning why pay should be the basic measure of value.

All this and much more as Dr. Chafetz engaged in a lively, many-sided dialogue with the group. During the business meeting that followed, the chapter voted to authorize paying the state NOW assessment of \$1 per member from the chapter treasury and to offer a prize of \$25 and a feminist book to a successful contestant in the American Women's History essay competition.

Divorce 18th Century Style, or: Breaking Up Is So Hard To Do

Marquise de Merteuil to Vicomte De Valmont in "Liaisons Dangereuses" by Choderlos de Laclos, published in 1872:

"Let us suppose, if you like, that you display as much skill in conquering us as we do in defending ourselves or in yielding; yet you will admit this skill becomes useless to you after success. You are wholly occupied with your new inclination and you give yourselves up to it without fear and without reserve; its duration does not matter to you. Indeed, these ties reciprocally given and received (I speak the jargon of love) can be drawn tighter or broken by you alone as you choose; we are but too happy if in your inconsistencies you prefer mystery to publicity and content yourselves with humiliating abandonment without making the idol of one day a victim of the next!

But if an unfortunate woman is the first to feel the weight of her chain, what risks she runs if she tries to escape it, if she even dares to raise it. It is with trembling that she attempts to send away the man whom her heart repels with an effort. If he persists in staying, she has to yield from fear what she granted to love: 'Her arms are open still, though her heart is shut.' She must unloose with prudent skill the very ties you would have broken. She is at the mercy of her enemy and is without resource if he is without generosity; and how can she hope it of him when, though he is sometimes praised for having it, he is never blamed for lacking it?" (M. Randal)



THE BUSY HOUSEWIFE Anonymous

The farmer came in from the field one day;
 His languid step and his weary way,
 His bended brow, his sinewy hand,
 All showed his work for the good of the land;
 For he sows,
 And he hoes,
 And he mows,
 All for the good of the land.

By the kitchen fire stood his patient wife,
 Light of his home and joy of his life,
 With face all aglow and busy hand,
 Preparing the meal for her husband's hand;
 For she must boil,
 And she must broil,
 And she must toil,
 All for the good of the home.

The bright sun shines when the farmer goes out,
 The birds sing sweet songs, lambs frisk about;
 The brook babbles softly in the glen,
 While he works so bravely for the good of men;
 For he sows,
 And he mows,
 And he hoes,
 All for the good of the land.

How briskly the wife steps about within,
 The dishes to wash, the milk to skim;
 The fire goes out, flies buzz about -
 For the dear ones at home, her heart is kept stout;
 There are pies to make,
 There is bread to bake,
 And steps to take,
 All for the sake of the home.

The Busy Housewife (cont.)

When the day is o'er, and the evening is come,
The creatures are fed, the milking done,
He takes his rest 'neath the old shade tree,
From the labor of the land his thoughts are free;
 Though he sows,
 And he hoes,
 And he mows,
He rests from the work of the land.

But this faithful wife, from sun to sun,
Takes her burden up that's never done;
There is no rest, there is no play,
For the good of the house she must work away;
 For to mend the frock
 And to knit the sock,
 And the cradle to rock,
All for the good of the home.

When autumn is here with its chilling blast,
The farmer gathers his crop at last;
His barns are full, his fields are bare,
For the good of the land he ne'er hath care;
 While it blows,
 And it snows,
 Till winter goes,
He rests from the work of the land.

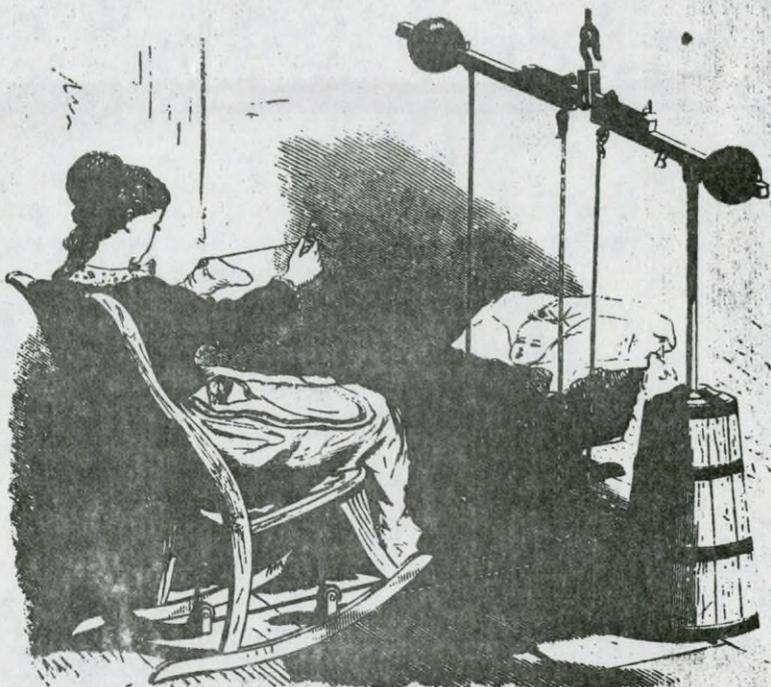
But the willing wife, till life's closing day,
Is the children's guide, the husband's stay;
From day to day she has done her best,
Until death alone can give her rest;
 For after the test,
 Comes the rest,
 With the blest,
In the farmer's heavenly home.



***from 'CROWN JEWELS, or Gems of Literature, Art and Music, being Choice Selections from the writings and musical productions of the most Celebrated Authors from the earliest times, comprising Gems for the Home Circle, narratives, ballads, songs; poems of Friendship and Love; brilliant descriptions of the Beauties of Nature and Rural Life; lyrics of Heroism, Adventure, and Patriotism; Jewels of Sentiment; choice selections from Religious Literature, Sorrow and Adversity, Childhood and Youth; descriptions of Persons, Places and Historic Events; Masterpieces of Dramatic Literature; Poetical Romance; Wit, Humor, etc. Including a Biography of the Authors. The whole forming a Past Treasury of the Gems of Poetry, Prose and Song. Compiled by Henry Davenport Northrop, D.D., (author of Marvelous Wonders of the Whole World; Earth, Sea and Sky; etc. etc.) Embellished with Numerous Superb Steel-Plate Engravings. Dallas Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, 1887."

(With thanks to Colleen Urbanek of COLLEEN'S BOOKS, 6880 Telephone Rd., which purveys this and a rich variety of other previously owned Literary Gems.)

"The Convenient Social Virtue ascribes merit to any pattern of behavior, however uncomfortable or unnatural for the individual involved, that serves the comfort or well-being of the more powerful members of the community. The moral commendation of the community for convenient and therefore virtuous behavior then serves as a substitute for pecuniary compensation. Inconvenient behavior becomes deviant behavior and is subject to the righteous disapproval or sanction of the community...The ultimate success of the Convenient Social Virtue has been in converting women to menial personal service." --John Kenneth Galbraith, The Economics of the American Housewife





Sitting for what seems like forever while your mother tugs, pulls, twists and pokes at you is just one of the prices you have to pay for being a little girl. And loved.



Kodak film. For the times of your life.

Speaking of Pictures

Over 770 people saw the film "The Emerging Woman," thanks to the Lone Star Chapter Federally Employed Women (FEW) and the efforts of individual BANOW members to arrange showings of the film in their areas. Marjorie Randal reports that 520 Clear Lake High students were able to view this outstanding documentary on women's drive toward full American citizenship from the mid-19th century to the present. The film is the work of an all-female crew. Efforts are being made to obtain the film for more showings in the fall, with more time for advance scheduling and wide circulation of Parrish Hirasaki's ingenious "coming attraction" posters. By the way, if you'd like to know the words to that neat song sung by Nina Simone toward the end of the film, Betty Yancey has an awful tape of it, and also has transcribed the words for those whose ears are sensitive. She's willing to part with a copy of either.

"High School," a film by Frederick Wiseman exploring the quality of life in one of America's most representative schools - Northeast High in Philadelphia - will be shown at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, on Wednesday, August 4, 8 pm. Anyone interested in education, children (young people?), American institutions, or just plain famous flicks would find time, effort, and \$1.50 well spent attending this one. A caravan of BANOW members is, even now, forming. Join it by calling Betty Yancey (534-6244).

An important photographic exhibit from a historical viewpoint is now on display at the Pasadena Public Library (1209 Minerva, open 7 days/week, 477-0276). Titled "Women Look at Women," it is drawn from a larger Library of Congress exhibit and contains pictures of women produced by women professional photographers. Photographs, two of which are of the photographers whose work is exhibited here, are all fairly large b/w prints, copies of which can be obtained by writing LC, as explained at the exhibit. Most pictures are well displayed, although shorties would benefit from a stool to stand on while viewing a few of them. Women from all walks of life are photographed expertly and confront the viewer from the past, provoking thoughts of how far we have come and how backward we have gone.

University of Houston Sundry School is offering a variety of non-credit courses in skills of self-development and enjoyment this summer, with registration beginning June 3. Two classes of particular importance to feminists are: Women's Health Self-Help Classes (\$12) taught by Glenna Cloud on Monday nights, and The Celluloid Mirror: Portrait of the Woman in American Film (\$22) on Tuesday nights. 749-1253 (Campus Activities) for further information.

--Betty Yancey

Taxpayer Alert : Is Your School District Acting In Compliance With Title IX??

3030 Bayou Drive
La Porte, Texas 77571
May 10, 1976

Board of Trustees
La Porte Independent School district
La Porte, Texas

Dear School Board Members,

Recently the Texas Education agency sent to all school districts in the state a questionnaire on compliance with Title IX, also known as the Education Amendment of 1972. This is the amendment which states that "No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal assistance..."

In March or April of this year, I am aware that this school board did adopt a policy statement for this district in support of the Title IX amendment and it was published in the April agenda, I believe.

My question now is...How is this statement of policy actually being implemented? How can we as citizens know about the implementation and do you want some input from interested persons like myself?

I would suggest that this questionnaire, sent out by Texas Education Agency, would be a good way for all of use to evaluate pratices in our school district which effect the equal treatment and equal opportunity of the sexes in our system. This pertains both students and to employees of the district.

I realize the the Texas Education Agency, in submitting the compliance questionnaire to you, is not requiring you to respond in any way back to them. All that is required is that you complete some form of self evaluation by July 21 of this year and keep it on file here at the school.

In the interest of better comunication between school and community, however, I am asking that you use this questionnaire as a guideline and that you invite citizen participation in the evaluation process. Some of the areas designated for evaluation are: athletics; counseling; access to course offerings; employment pratices and procedures; promotions and training of employees; compensation and fringe benefits for employees; ~~extra-curricular~~ activities; student award scholarships.

Please tell me what your feelings are in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Saletan

Crooked Reading in Straight Places

How pleasant it is to be able to report that, in these enlightened times, it is no longer necessary for young people to take to the streets to pick up their basic quota of misinformation about SEX. Fortunate students at Clear Creek High School can now go right to their school library for the real straight arrow stuff - dignified-looking textbooks that offer a rich, mind-bending blend of traditional old husband's tales and the most modern pseudo-scientific pigspeak. All stress, to varying degrees, the notion of significant differences between women and men - a notion which, as the Soniakay model suggests, is most often accompanied by the correlative fancy of female subordination to male superiority/authority, or Morgan Syndrome. A few examples:

Elementary Human Physiology. Terence A. Rogers. Wiley, 1961. 417 pp.

p. 395: "The psychic determinants of sexual excitement in the human female are even more subtle than in the male, the erotic stimuli are usually less definable and are more related to 'atmosphere' than to specific acts or associations..." The next paragraph discusses 'attitudes' which may inhibit women from enjoying 'their sex life in marriage.' No mention of attitudes, inhibitions, or marriage occurs in the description of the male sexual act.

Health: Man in a Changing Environment. Benjamin A. Kogan. Harcourt, 1970. 642 pp.

Preface: "Man is in trouble. He is trapped in the web..." and so on throughout -sententious, emotionally overwrought prose. Most references are male-focused, but of Ceylon: "she now desperately strives to meet her sudden spurt of population." Chapters 14 and 15 are prolix and make unwarranted distinctions between males and females - as in a section which deals with promiscuity as a mainly female problem.

Health: A Quality of Life. John Sinacore. Macmillan, 1974. 524 pp.

Preface: "...man's ability to adapt to his environment is vital to his survival." Promises "candid discussion of new issues, such as the feminist movement." Patronizing.

Basic Physiology. Fred E. D'Amour (sic). U. of Chicago Press, 1961. 642 pp.

p. 491: "A man regards sex as a physiological drive, elicited by a great variety of more or less related stimuli, now and then amounting to an urgent need, and satisfied by engaging in the act of copulation. To a woman, sex is all tied up with Love, Home, and Family. Neither sex seems capable of understanding, much less condoning, the attitudes of the other." p. 497-8: "The human female...is receptive most of the time, but is, or should be, receptive of only one man, her husband. And the male is, in essence, polygamous. This is bound to lead to many difficulties, frustrations, and complicated situations."

Thank you, Fred E. D'Amour, and may your atmosphere never grow less definable.

--Twiss Butler

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to : Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Houston 77062.

_____ I would like to become a member of Bay Area N.O.W. and National N.O.W. (\$15)

_____ I want to join, but can only afford \$_____.

_____ I am not a member, but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for a year. (\$4)

_____ I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ to N.O.W.

_____ As a N.O.W. member, I authorize my name and address to be published on chapter roster.

NAME _____ Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ City and Zip _____

Occupation and Employer _____

Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to Bay Area N.O.W. projects:

Criticism of Bay Area N.O.W.'s program, organization, goals:

10104 HERITAGE LANE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

HOUSTON, TX 770
PM
31 MAY
1976

