

# BROADSIDE

SEX: MALE  
RACE: WHITE  
AGE: 28  
HEIGHT: 5' 8"  
BUILD: SLENDER  
HAIR: BROWN, SHORT  
GLASSES: WIRE RIMS  
AVOCATION: RAPE  
TORTURE  
MURDER

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Houston Area NOW

October 1976

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# point of view

Sometime between 9 and 10 PM on Labor Day, September 6, a man fitting the description on the cover of this issue knocked on an apartment door in the Montrose area. The apartment was occupied by a young woman. She was there alone.

Her door had a peephole, but no chain. In response to the knock, she opened the door. The man standing outside asked if so-and-so lived there. She said no, and started to close the door. The man forced his way in and the nightmare began.

He had a brick and he had a length of chain. She fled screaming to her bedroom. There was no back door.

He beat her with the brick and chain. He raped her. He tried to set fire to her and to her apartment. He eventually dragged her by her hair out of the apartment and across the yard.

Her jaw was fractured in two places. She will lose two, possibly three, fingers. But she is alive. And he is at large.

The following week a 17-year-old woman was raped, beaten and tortured in the Heights. She too was dragged into a yard. She could not give a description of her attacker because she was dead when they found her. She died of asphyxiation when he stuffed her bra down her windpipe before he raped her.

There is speculation that the two crimes may be related and that the same man may be responsible for several other unsolved cases. A similar crime in Galveston is being investigated.

A 17-year-old Beaumont man was recently arrested on charges of raping and disembowelling a 10-year-old girl. It is not known whether he is in custody or is out on bail.

As of this writing, our local killer rapist is still at large. The police are working diligently to solve the crimes but have little to go on. Thousands of men fit the description on the cover.

continued next page

## 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

Houston women would be wise to take extra precautions. Don't open your door unless you know who it is, even if you are expecting someone. Be very careful in poorly lighted areas at night. Keep your car doors locked. Don't walk or ride bikes alone after dark.

Even though we take every precaution we must realize that There Is No Safe Place. If you are raped, call the police. After they make their investigation, get to a hospital. Do not bathe or douche before you go. There are certain tests that can be done to secure evidence. Call Crisis Hotline to get information on counseling for rape victims.

There is a Crazy Man out there and I cannot rest easy while he is at large. None of us can rest easy for the simple reason that we are women and women are his victims.

My gorge rises when I think of him and of others like him. I lose all my liberal leanings and become a stark reactionary. I have no interest in how he came to be like he is. I have no interest in trying to rehabilitate him or understand him. If he is apprehended, I don't want him out on bail. If he is sentenced, I don't want him paroled.

I want him dead. If that's harsh, so be it.

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### BOOK REVIEW

There's a great new book out called The Curse : A Cultural History of Menstruation, authored by Janice Delaney, Mary Jane Lupton and Emily Toth and published by E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc. It's available in hard cover for \$9.95 and is worth twice that.

It's a true history and is well researched. The book begins with menstrual taboos in religion and myth, touches on some psychological interpretations of menstruation, speaks of menstrual madness in drama and fiction and even deals with the menstrual products industry in a chapter called Rags to Riches.

In a chapter called The Menstrual Hall of Fame, we learn that Joan of Arc never menstruated, that Elizabeth Barrett Browning took opium for cramps, and that Lizzie Borden's bloody skirt may have been menstrual, not matricidal-patricidal.

This is a well-done book on a subject about which too little has been written.

## PROGRAM MEETING

The program meeting for October was cancelled just as we went to press, when we discovered the conflict with the Presidential Debate. We're going to be home watching it on tv and figured you would be, too.

See you at the program meeting in November! (And don't forget the October business meeting.)

## UNEQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

According to a recent editorial in The Houston Post the gap between median incomes of men and women is widening rather than narrowing. Twice as many women are in the labor force today as there were in 1950. Back in 1970 the median income for women was \$5440, 59% of the median income for men that year, which was \$9275. And in 1974 the median income for women was \$6975, 57% of the \$12,152 median income for men that year. In that four-year period feminist groups seemed to make considerable gains in the area of employment--or did they?

What is happening here? Although many individual women have indeed made great strides up the corporate ladder, the overall picture for all women who work is getting worse. Women want fewer promises and more money. For money equals power in this country, and until women can achieve economic parity with men, the balance of power will be unequal.

## ROOM SERVICE

A few days ago a local woman took her children and checked into a major hotel to get away from her husband who was harassing her. After she had been there a short time, the husband apparently called a few of the hotels in the area until he found the one where she was staying. The desk clerk not only told him she was registered but told him her room number. In addition, the clerk made a notation on her registration form not to accept a certain credit card as payment in accordance with instructions from the husband over the telephone.

Although the woman had indeed checked in with her children, she had registered in her own name, not as "Mrs." anybody. The desk clerk just ASSUMED she was married. The desk clerk also ASSUMED that this disembodied male voice on the telephone was her husband.

What if he had been a Nut Case? Since the desk clerk gave him the woman's room number, the Nut Case could have gotten his trusty pistol, lurked outside the room and murdered them in the hall. Or he could have taken the children. Or he could have beaten them to death.

Far too frequently women are battered and killed by their husbands because they cannot find a safe place to hide.

## BLACK FRIDAY

On Friday, September 17, the U.S. Senate approved the Labor - HEW appropriations bill containing the Hyde amendment denying federal funds for abortion unless the life of the woman is threatened. The Senate thus joined the House in declaring welfare women less equal and less entitled to the right to determine their own lives than their more affluent sisters.

A particularly bitter disappointment was Senator Lloyd Bentsen's switch from his previously pro-choice voting record. Although he did not vote on the final bill, he had earlier voted for the Hyde amendment. His reasoning: "I have decided that abortion should not be paid for with the federal tax dollars of the large number of people who fervently believe abortion to be morally wrong." Apparently Bentsen has forgotten (or does not care) that the majority of Americans favor the right to choose.

We are told that Bentsen cratered after an emotional meeting with "Right-to-Lifers" in Washington and in Texas.

Bentsen is up for re-election this year. Let's see if we can stiffen his backbone and unuddle his thinking. Write, call, wire, visit Lloyd Bentsen, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510.

Also, Jimmy Carter is wavering on his abortion position. Get the word to him at his campaign headquarters: PO Box 1976, Atlanta GA 30301 and call toll free 1-800-241-5512.

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# OCTOBER

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
<p>WOMEN'S CENTER 3602 Milam 524-5743</p> <p>Mon-Thur 7-10 PM Saturday 12-3 PM</p>	All Meetings at Women's Center unless otherwise noted.					
					1 Closed	2 Renee Rabb
3 Closed	4 Mark Delaquaise	5 Chris Meave	6 Anita Burnett	7 Alice McCarthy	8 Closed	9 Ruth Fulghum
Nat'l Bylaws	Nat'l Bylaws	Reproduction Task Force Org., 7:30 PM	NOW Business Mtg. 8 PM		BROADSIDE Deadline	
10 Closed	11 Linda Smith	12 Debbie Ryan	13 Bette Anne Knoll	14 Open	15 Closed	16 Muncy McKinney
		Education Task Force Org., 7:30 PM	HCWPC Policy Mtg. 7 PM; Employment Compliance TF, 8 PM			
17 Closed	18 Catherine Livingston	19 Nancy Kuykendall	20 Joy Goodman	21 Norma Lee Ann Robinson	22 Closed	23 Jan Pierce
24 Closed			HCWPC Program Mtg. 7 PM			
31 HALLOWEEN Boo!	25 Donna Lessard	26 Iris Sizemore	27 Betty Barnes	28 Alice Shrader	29 Closed	30 Charlotte Poole

## CAN WE KEEP THE WOMEN'S CENTER?

The financial problems currently faced by Houston Area NOW force us to face the question, "Can we continue to support the Women's Center?" The rent, utilities, and other upkeep are a major drain on our treasury. Generous contributions by concerned feminists have so far enabled us to keep the Center going. However, this results in a hand-to-mouth existence that creates anxiety, drains energy, and periodically causes bouts of panic in those people directly involved in keeping the Center open on a day-to-day basis.

We therefore are faced with a critical decision. Our lease is due for renewal in November and we must decide whether to renew. If we decide to renew, we must develop some better system of financing. The question will be discussed at the October business meeting. Please come to this meeting prepared to decide the future of the Women's Center.

Betty Barnes

## THE WOMEN'S CENTER, PAST AND PRESENT

In order to put the coming debate in proper perspective, I feel we should all be reminded of the history of the Women's Center.

The Center opened for business in January 1973. Since then it has housed a number of groups in addition to the Houston Area Chapter of NOW. Among those groups have been WEAL, the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, the Rape Crisis Coalition, and the Harris County Women's Political Caucus. The latter two still office at the Center.

Numerous activities have been held at the Center. At a minimum, each of the groups has held business and program meetings there. In addition, specific actions such as the interviewing and endorsement of candidates by HCWPC have been carried on whenever the need has arisen.

In the past, Houston NOW has used the Center for letter-writing sessions, poster-making parties, a self-help clinic, the organization of protests and demonstrations, an information source on almost any women's issue, a central location for temporary coalitions such as the one supporting the JD nurses, a location for education sessions such as "how to lobby", a departure point for buses to Austin to lobby for the ERA, a place for employment counseling, and even on rare occasions a place for simple social gatherings called parties. During the few weeks before the National NOW Conference of 1974, the Center was busy almost every night with people collating, stapling, making signs, organizing the hospitality room, organizing the facilitators, and the rest of the nitty-gritty that went into creating a national conference.

The Center is also Houston NOW's telephone and mail center. It has served as a storage place for everything from ERA posters to garage sale items.

The Women's Center has been the center of all these activities and more. However, we face a question as to the Center's current use. We must make a decision on the future of the Center based on its present as well as its past.

Betty Barnes

#### TASK FORCE ON REPRODUCTION AND ITS CONTROL

So we've been complacent for three years since abortion became legal and now we're paying for it with the erosion of our rights. It's time to get off our duffs and back to work.

On Tuesday, October 12, at 7:30 PM at the Women's Center, there will be a meeting to reactivate the Task Force on Reproduction and its Control. Bring your bodies, your interest, and your willingness to work and let's get on with the effort to control our own lives.

#### EDUCATION TASK FORCE

On Tuesday, October 19, at 7:30 PM at the Women's Center, there will be a meeting to reactivate the Task Force on Education. A few areas that need action are Title IX, pushing for women's studies in universities, textbook review, and working for official academic policies against sexism in teaching. Many Houston Area NOW members have expertise in the field of education. If you want to help make changes, come to the meeting.

#### NATIONAL NOW BYLAWS CONFERENCE

The National NOW Bylaws Conference will be held October 9-11, 1976 in Overland Park, Kansas (a suburb of Kansas City) at the Glenwood Manor Motor Hotel. For further information contact Betty Barnes at 487-2489.

#### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

At the October business meeting, nominations will be announced for officers to be elected the following month. If you're willing to serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary, call Nancy Kuykendall (664-4152), Jan Pierce (522-1278), or Norma Lee (528-7454). Nominations from the floor can be made at both the October and November business meetings.

# houston area now folk

## OFFICERS:

President Betty Barnes  
Vice President Norma Lee  
Secretary Chris Meave  
Treasurer Beverly White

## BROADSIDE STAFF:

Jan Dilbeck  
Jan Pierce  
Marion Coleman  
Bert Clapp  
Debbie Ryan  
Carolyn Elliott  
Nancy Kuykendall  
Renee Rabb

### ABORTION INFO

#### \* EMPLOYMENT COMPLIANCE

### LEGISLATION

### MASCULINE MYSTIQUE

### MEMBERSHIP

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

#### \* SEXUALITY & LESBIANISM

### SPEAKERS BUREAU

#### \* UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

#### \* WOMEN'S CENTER

Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152  
Pamela Hamilton 526-5050  
Linda Smith 222-3281, 529-2156  
Betty Barnes 487-2489  
Craig Roberts 524-6517  
Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152  
Helen Cassidy 524-3009, 748-5369  
Pokey Anderson 526-7828  
Ann Robinson 528-7454  
Beverly White 782-1768  
Nancy Landau 783-8547  
Renee Rabb 524-5743

\*denotes active task force

Note: To contact those persons whose phone numbers are not listed above, call the Women's Center, 524-5743.

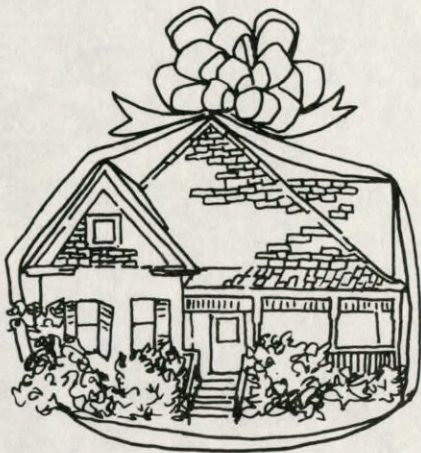
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Houston Area NOW or NOW, Inc.

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We need postage stamps for use at the Women's Center. Or money with which we can buy postage stamps. If you'd like to make a contribution, either bring stamps or money to the Center or mail them to Renee Rabb, 3602 Milam, Houston, Texas 77002.

Support the Women's Center that supports us



send \$12 donation (one year's support at \$1/month) to:

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- I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a donation to Houston Area NOW.

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 Houston Area NOW  
 3602 Milam  
 Houston, Texas 77002