



BROADSIDE

HOUSTON AREA NOW

BROADSIDE--VOL. 12, No. 4 April, 1981

REFLECTIONS OF AN APRIL FOOL PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY



Cover by Deborah Bell

COALITION OF GREATER
HOUSTON NOW CHAPTERS

HERIZONS--VOL. 6, No. 4
APRIL, 1981

***** WOMEN'S LOBBY '81 ALLIANCE WORKSHOP *****

The Women's Lobby '81 workshop was held on February 21st at the Easter Seal Society and was extremely successful. Jeanne Saletan made a very warm and insightful welcome to the group with a keynote address from Representative Ernestine Glossbrenner following. Rep. Glossbrenner stressed that we need to make our voices heard, and that "until we are all free, none of us is free." Attendents broke up into various workshops with a lunch break afterwards. Jody Richardson, Attorney and former lobbyist for TWPC, gave an excellent speech on how to be an effective lobbyist. We all gained a lot of insight into the workings of our government and how to read between the lines of the action we see our elected officials taking after hearing Ms. Richardson along with respective speeches by former Senator Babe Schwartz, Congressman Mickey Leland and Representative Debra Danburg. The point that all of the speakers stressed the most was to be involved either by writing letters, making phone calls or being there in person. We cannot expect our elected Senators and Representatives to stand without our support on such controversial issues as abortion and equal rights.-They need our letters and our presence there in order to show justification for the position they are taking. Emotions ran high with the pleading for our support in the midst of conservative harassment. Jeanne Saletan pulled the workshop to a close with definite commitments and strategies for being an effective force within the workings of our government.

***** A SHOWING OF STRENGTH AT THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL *****

An exodus from Joske's parking lot at Galleria to the State Capitol took place Monday, March 9th, to attend the House State Affairs Committee hearing on HB578 and HB1245-two abortion bills by Ceverha dealing with parental consent for minors and the requirement of a physician to orally inform his patients of risks of an abortion procedure, etc. Jeanne Saletan organized the trip, giving time (4:30 am?!) meeting location and setting up bus transportation. There were 23 people from the Houston area on the bus, and over 30 people to testify against the bills at the hearing. (there were approximately 7 proponents for the bills) Both bills were referred to subcommittee, which we all felt was due to the tremendous showing of opposition, and to the (see pg. 4)

April celebrates the eleventh year of NOW in Houston. Happy Birthday to us! Look for news of a party in honor of the beginning of our second decade via your local Chapter.

RONALD REAGAN PRESENTS ...

THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING WOMAN



Mike Peters

RATED

PG PIG GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

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excellent testimony given against the bills. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to give their testimony due to the limited time. We then broke up into small groups and spoke to our respective legislators, and Representatives who were on the committee. We were told that if the bills were in subcommittee, the chances of them reaching the House floor were minimal. It was obvious by the end of the day that we had made our presence known throughout the Capitol and had left a definite impression with our legislators. We left Austin at 5:00 pm with the exhilaration that comes from knowing you have done something you are proud of--something you believe in-- and have made a difference. Extensive arrangements had been made by everyone for jobs, children, transportation, etc. in order to make this trip. Even though most everyone had been up some 20 hours straight, it was unanimously agreed the effort was worth it, and we would definitely do it again. The bus ride home reflected our pride and sisterhood. It was a truly unique chance to join together in heart and spirit and stand tall for a woman's right to choose.

***** LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS *****

Representative Anita Hill of Garland was denied admittance to an all-male private club in Austin (the Citadel) for a business luncheon. As a result, House members voted to attend events only at those places where all State Representatives are admitted.

After a two day National Conference NARAL Executive Director, Karen Mulhauser, stated a hit list had been compiled with only one item on it - a constitutional amendment banning abortions.

Rep. Ken Riley of Corpus Christi has introduced HCR27 which calls upon Congress to convene a constitutional convention to draft a right-to-life amendment.

Texas Legislative Information: 1-800-252-9693 U.S. Legislative Information: 1-800-424-9717 Women U.S.A. Hotline: 1-800-221-4945 offers economic, social and political info. concerning women. League of Women Voters: 529-3171

Ernestine Glossbrenner of Alice has introduced HB476 making

conviction for aggravated rape possible by showing the victim was placed in fear of serious injury, death or kidnapping.

Women's Lobby '81 Alliance

LEGISLATIVE GUIDE 1981

A complete legislative guide will be available shortly from League of Women Voters in Houston. Call 529-3171 for the new guide.

For voter registration call Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's Office 224-1919, ext. 310. Also to find out your precinct and district #'s so that you can identify your U.S. Congressperson, State Senator and State Representative.

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Lloyd Bentsen (D)
John Tower (R)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

District 7-W.R. (Bill) Archer (R)
District 8-Jack Fields (R)
District 9-Jack Brooks (D)
District 18-Mickey Leland (D)
District 22-Ron Paul (R)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

STATE SENATORS

District 6 - Lindon Williams (D)
District 7 - Mike Richards (R)
District 11 - Chet Brooks (D)
District 13 - Walter Mengden, Jr. (R)
District 15 - Jack Ogg (D)
District 17 - J.E. (Buster) Brown (R)
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

District 17 Ed Watson (D)
District 78 Ed Emmett (R)
District 79 Debra Danburg (D)
District 80 Paul Colbert (D)
District 81 Ron Wilson (D)
District 82 John Whitmire (D)
District 83 Ashley Smith (R)
District 84 Clint Hackney (R)
District 85 Al Edwards (D)
District 86 Craig Washington (D)
District 87 Al Luna (D)
District 88 El Franco Lee (D)
District 89 Senfronia Thompson (D)
District 90 Brad Wright (R)

CONTACTING LEGISLATORS

VISITS - by appointment in Houston area office. Go with two like-minded people.

WRITTEN MESSAGES - to mailing addresses supplied here. Use P.O.M. or mailgram when time is short. Western Union 1-800-325-5300.

PHONE - staff will record messages in Houston, Austin, Washington. See telephone directory or information.

AUTHORIZATION - by affiliating with Women's Lobby '81 Alliance we can act in your name. Call us.

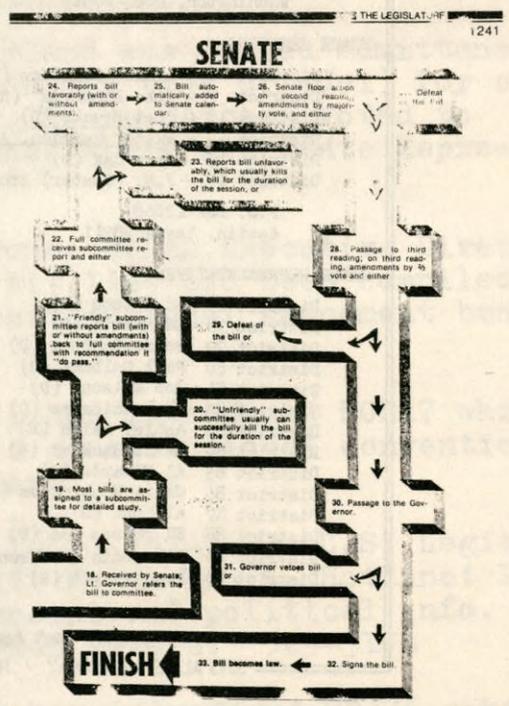
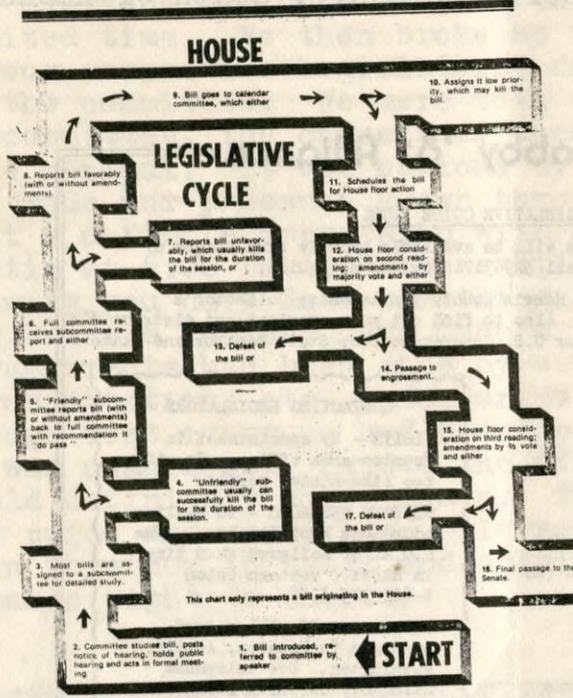
TRAVEL - to Austin for special committee hearings. Bus, van and car-pooling available. Can you stay overnight if needed?

District 91 W.J.(Bill) Blythe, Jr. (R)
District 92 Frank Hartung (R)
District 93 Milton Fox (R)
District 94 Don Henderson (R)
District 95 Gene Green (D)
District 96 Tony Polumbo (D)
District 97 Ralph Wallace (D)
District 98 Henry E. Allee (D)
District 99 Erwin Barton (D)
District 100 Randy Pennington (R)

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78769

"Don't Agonize ORGANIZE!"

3515 ALLEN PARKWAY / HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019 / (713) 471-2862



***** BULLETIN BOARD *****

A new Chapter has been formed! It is the Katy Chapter of NOW founded by Regina Pongras, former President of the Northwest Chapter. Their first meeting was March 12th at the Memorial Parkway Civic Club. They adopted by-laws and decided to join in Broadside/Herizons. I know we can look forward to some interesting input in the newsletter. Welcome Sisters and much luck! For more information regarding meetings, etc. contact Regina at 492-2945.

We are trying to get the mailing list for the newsletter updated. If you know of someone who is not receiving their copy, please contact Deborah Bell. Let Deborah know of any address changes, and if you get more than one copy of the newsletter, give it to a friend (or foe?). When your membership expires you will go on the comp. list for three months before your name will be taken off to give you a chance to renew.

We need to have an accurate listing of members telephone numbers as well as addresses to establish an effective phone tree when there is a call to action. As members of NOW and the Women's Lobby Alliance, we must be prepared and organized with a focused effort on manageable goals. It would be helpful to have everyone's precinct and district numbers and the names of your representatives in Austin and Washington. You might want to gather this information at Chapter meetings. Send it to Deborah Bell.

The editor for this newsletter would greatly appreciate any information or leads on an inexpensive (?) selectric type typewriter. This would make myself, and a lot of other people, very happy. Please contact Debbie (pg.15).

A new Chapter is being formed in Kingwood! We will have our first meeting April 27th at 7:30 pm. at the Elm Grove Apts. Officers will be elected, etc. Contact Debbie Tate for further info. (pg.15)

*The BEAUTIFUL DRAWINGS on the cover and with "Is There Life After HLA?" were done by Deborah Bell. We sincerely thank her for sharing her talents and making this newsletter so extraordinary. Any drawings, articles, stories, etc. you would like to submit, please do so. This is your format!

***** IS THERE LIFE AFTER HLA? *****

DATE: 37 A.B. (That's After Blast. We are virtually beginning the world anew since the Blast. I judge the year to be about Anno Domini 2050. The Blast wiped out the planet as our grandmothers knew it. My name is Luna, daughter of Muna; I am an educator. My job is to help our new world avoid some of the failings of society which led ultimately to the destruction of most of humankind. Some of these failings were revealed to me recently in some papers I discovered rolled up very tightly and shoved in a crevice in a huge old oak tree, one of the few plants to survive the Blast.)

THE PAPERS:

It's 1990--a hot July afternoon. The HLA has been in effect several years now. It was passed out of the Conservative Congress in late 1982, and ratified by the required thirty-eight states by mid-1984. Big Brother has truly come to America.

The same Congress allowed the ERA to die when it was not ratified by the June 30, 1982, deadline. We haven't been able to even try to resubmit the ERA since we've been here on the reservation. I guess we'll never get it now.

In late 1984, to implement the HLA, Congress passed a series of laws, one of which was to place all women of child-bearing capabilities on these reservations where we are observed to insure that we use no contraband birth control, that we attempt no abortions. Sure, some women at first got doctors to sign papers declaring that they were infertile, and managed to stay off the reservation for a time, but some of them lost their lives when they accidentally got pregnant and tried to get abortions; the women were given the death penalty (also reinstated by Congress), and the doctors were given long jail sentences. So they're pretty much putting all women between the ages of 13 and 50 on the reservation.

How could our rights be violated so blatantly, you might ask? Don't worry--the first of us to be sent here took it to the Supreme Court--which decided (based on precedent such as denying women the right to vote in 1872, denying women equal treatment under the law in labor cases, education cases, jury cases, and the Summer, 1981, decision in which they stated that women are outside the Constitution when it comes to defending the country) that women basically are not protected by the Constitution in its unamended form, except for our right to vote, and therefore, Congress was not violating the Constitution by sending us here. Oh yes, they still have to let us vote, but it doesn't mean much. We can't form any kind of bloc, because women are no longer allowed to meet in groups of more than three, and we're not allowed to write or distribute any materials which do not "affirm woman's proper role of wife and mother," as the legislation reads. Some woman managed to get these new laws to the Supreme Court, too, which decided the Constitutional guarantees of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech do not apply to women.

Since the HLA passed, it quickly became accepted among men that women's bodies were not their own, anyway, and rape is quite common among the husbands who rape their wives when they come here to the reservation; the wives, naturally, oppose their confinement on the reservation, and are hardly in the mood for "lovemaking" when the men come around. Of course, raping one's wife has always been legal in most states anyway. Abortions are not permitted even in the case of rape, and we fear that the leniency with which rapists are being sentenced is paving the way for Hitler-like population engineering.

What amazed me was that some WOMEN worked for the legislation that put us here. I guess they thought they would somehow be exempt. Now they are protesting as loudly as the rest of us. Schlafly's not here, of course; she can't bear children anymore, so now she's putting out government propaganda on the virtues of motherhood and how men must do their duty to the state and not let their sperm go to waste. She thought she'd get some big-time appointment under Reagan, but the big boys had never let her really play ball with them anyway, even when they were using her to the hilt to shaft the rest of us. And now she can't be elected to public office as she had hoped, because they've passed laws saying all elected officials must be men. Phyllis threatened to take that one to the Supreme Court herself, but when every lower court said the Constitution wasn't written to protect YOU, lady, she had to back off to save face, because she would have had to admit that only the ERA would have forced the Supreme Court to give women the protection of the U.S. Constitution. She even said, "Why, that means women never had a Constitution at all," but she quickly dropped that tack, realizing that in winning, she had lost even the ghost of a chance for herself; and now to survive, she's cranking out propaganda from the safety of her government-subsidized pedestal.

By the time the HLA had been in effect a few years, it was pretty much accepted that women are just baby-making machines and servants, so they don't even educate girls anymore.

I have to end this just now. It's getting on dusk, and soon they'll miss me in the barracks and start to search. I'm going to put this where hopefully it will enlighten someone some day. We never believed it could happen to us, and if it ever ends, I want someone to know that this was real. Women are back to the choices they have always faced when they find themselves with an unwanted pregnancy and are not allowed to choose abortion; motherhood, madness, or suicide.

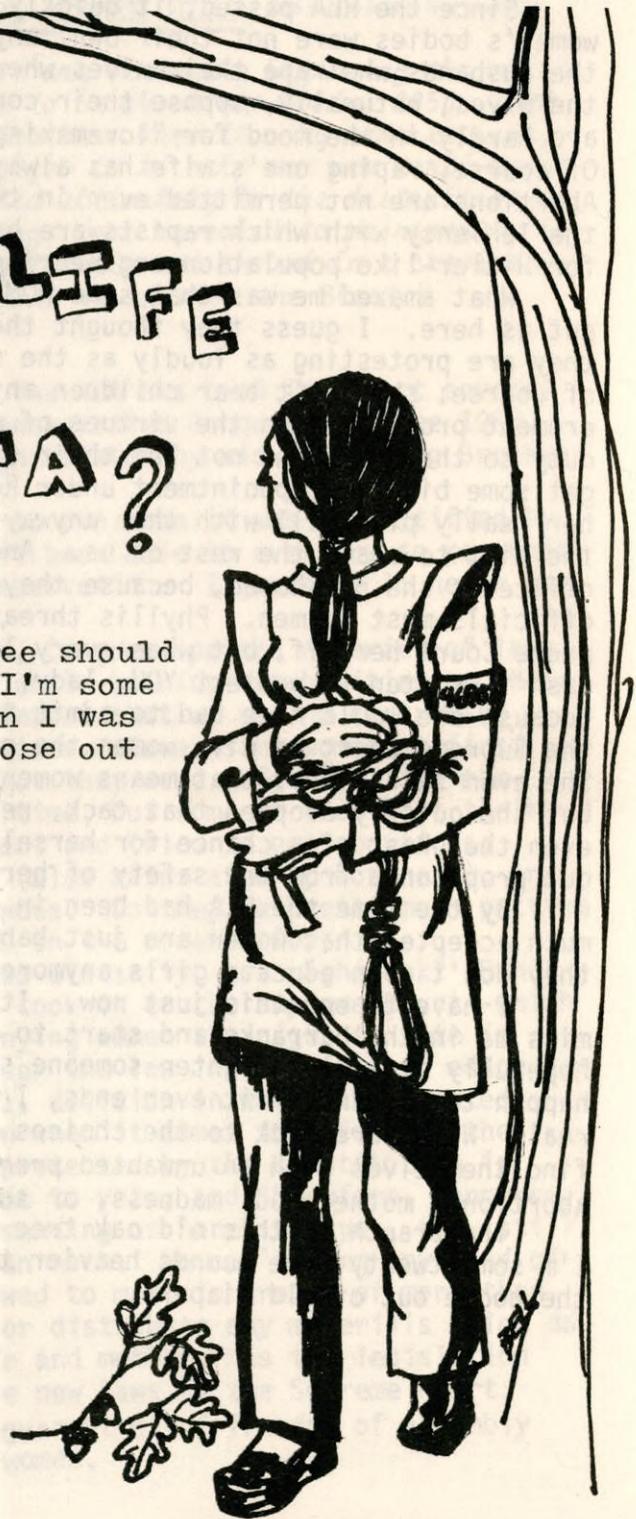
The branch of this old oak tree should bear my weight easily, though I'm some twenty-five pounds heavier than I was six months ago. I made the noose out of old diapers.

By,

Jan Stevens

IS THERE AFTER LIFE HLA?

"The branch of this old oak tree should bear my weight easily, though I'm some twenty five pounds heavier than I was six months ago. I made the noose out of old diapers..."



Drawing by Deborah Bell

***** A HISTORY OF ABORTION PRACTICES *****

By Yvonne Broach

This is the first in a series of excerpts from Yvonne's speech regarding past abortion practices. We sincerely thank her for the extensive work she has done to put this piece together and for sharing it with us via the newsletter.

The National Organization for Women has been committed to the principle that reproductive decisions are a woman's personal decisions since the organization was founded. In 1967, N.O.W. made the repeal of criminal abortion laws a national priority. N.O.W. actually proposed a Constitutional amendment and a model state law which would have legalized abortion at that time. In nearly every year since, N.O.W. has resolved at it's national conventions to do whatever necessary to make abortion legal, safe, and available. This has been of fundamental importance to women because each of us has either personally experienced the dilemma of an unplanned, unwanted pregnancy or knows someone who has.

The practice of abortion has not always been in the precarious state it has existed in for most of this century. It is one of the oldest means of birth control, almost as old as infanticide, and certainly more humane. The first recorded recipe for an abortion-producing drug was written in Egypt about 2600 B.C. Certainly other methods of abortion were also practiced by people all over the world, all through the ages.

Until reliable tests for pregnancy were developed in the early 1900's, women could not know whether they had missed a menstrual period because they had become pregnant or because of some unnatural blockage of the menstrual flow. Early Catholic dogma, laid down by St. Augustine in the fourth century A.D., sanctioned abortion up to 80 days for a female fetus and up to 40 days for a male fetus. How women determined they were pregnant in such a short time (only 1 - 2 periods missed), and more interestingly, how they determined the sex of the fetus, must have involved a lot of witchcraft!

*To be continued in the next issue of BROADSIDE/HERIZONS

***** CALENDAR *****APRIL

- 2---7:00 pm. HANOW business meeting at the World Trade Ctr.
1520 Texas Ave.
- 4---8:00 am. Take Back the Night presents a series of work-
shops at the School of Public Health, 6905 Bertner.
Workshops are scheduled throughout the day on topics
concerning violence against women, rape, battering, in-
cest, self-defense, racism, political action and legal
remedies. Lunches and childcare available. Call Mar-
garet Waite-Gibson at 784-0749 or Sandra Long at 792-
4403.
- 6---7:30 pm. Northwest NOW program meeting on NOW Orien-
tation, it's history and beginnings. To be held at the
Elm Grove Apts. in Kingwood. Phyllis Tucker, our State
Coordinator will be there. Contact Susan for further
information.
- 9---7:00 pm. HANOW program meeting at the World Trade Ctr.
- 16--7:30 pm. HANOW Rap Session to be held at Lee Lanno's,
4620 Norhill, phone 864-1772 for further information.
- 21--7:00 pm. Harris County Women's Political Caucus meet-
ing at 4605 Post Oak Place, Suite 130. Phone 627-7180.
- 25--All day Garage Sale by HANOW at Lee Lanno's (see above).
ITEMS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR SALE! Contact Jan Stevens,
27--7:30 pm. Kingwood Chapter meeting. (See Bulletin Board)

MAY

- 4---7:30 pm. Northwest NOW program meeting on textbook
review given by Twist Butler to be held at the Oaks
Academy. Contact Susan for further information.

***** NEWS REVIEW *****

**JUDY CHICAGO has a new artwork in progress, "The Birth
Project". Unlike "The Dinner Party", which required people
involved to work in her studio, this project is set up so

that women can remain in their own communities and still be involved. There are project centers being set up across the country in which she will oversee and control the completed works. J. Chicaco will be making six cartoons of the basic images relating specifically to the birth process. They will be enlarged as much as 5ft. by 7ft. and distributed for completion under her supervision. They will be done in needlework forms such as quilting, applique and embroidery. This work will be a creative distribution of the images affirming the experiences of women. If you would like to be involved with "The Birth Project", please contact Barbara H. Michels, Texas Arts and Cultural Organization, 4601 University Oaks, Houston, TX 77004 or call 527-8434. This is an outstanding opportunity to become involved with a Chicago creation of art.

The city of Chicago is the chosen site for the National Computer Conference this year, and the Association for Women in Computing are none too happy about it. At one point a boycott of the NCC was being considered, but members of the AWC decided to wear black arm bands instead as a means of their protest. AWC President, Linda Taylor, stated that the only thing to be done this year is make attendees aware that Illinois is an unratified state. She felt it would not be advantageous to take on the NCC, computer industry, and American Federation of Information Processing Societies.

**The 1965 Voting Rights Act will come up for reauthorization in 1982. Strom Thurmond, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the U.S. Senate, intends to delete or modify certain passages in the Act which would cause serious ramifications for minorities in this country. What his exact intentions are seems to be a well kept secret. After contacting various agencies, etc. I ended up with over four versions of what is going on with this matter. Therefore, I suggest strongly that we write to Senator Thurmond and request an explanation of his stand pertaining to this and let him know of our concern.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A TRIP TO THE STATE CAPITOL? Well here is your chance. There will be another "exodus" to Austin, via chartered bus, for various hearings and to lobby our legislators on April 7th. Contact Jeanne Saletan at 471-2862. A routine work day, or the Capitol-which one?

I wish to join _____ chapter of NOW.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

I enclose dues: _____\$30.00 Regular _____\$16.00 Hardship

I wish to pay either of the above in two installments and I enclose
_____ \$15.00 Regular _____ \$8.00 Hardship

This is my first installment _____ This is my second installment _____

Make your check payable to the chapter of your choice, and send to
the appropriate address as listed above. Dues include membership
in the local chapter, Texas NOW, and National NOW.

***** Houston Area NOW Committees *****

Media and Publicity	B. J. Lancon	481-2806
Programs	Jackie Rice	
Newsletter	Deborah Bell	681-9507
Membership	VACANT	
Fundraising	VACANT	

***** Houston Area NOW Task Forces *****

ERA	Jan Stevens	445-2220
Reproductive Rights	Yvonne Broach	664-4282
	Aileen McMurrer	524-0439
Consciousness-Raising	Deborah DuBose	988-1844, 729-9185
Legislative	VACANT	
Lesbian Rights	Leslie Reston	528-2105
Media Reform	Lynda Fillmore	495-0033
Nuclear Energy	Linda George-Smith	522-5957
Take Back the Night	Linda George-Smith	522-5957

***** Northwest Houston NOW Committee *****

Membership	Sandra Purdue	358-3993
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***** Northwest Houston NOW Task Forces *****

ERA	Elaine Kinzey	376-2736
Reproductive Rights	Charlene Milkey	469-0762

BROADSIDE/HERIZONS STAFF: Information for inclusion in the BROADSIDE/HERIZONS newsletter should be submitted by the 10th of each month for the next month's issue. Material may be mailed to Debbie Tate, 3219 Glen Spring, Kingwood, TX 77339, or you may call 358-0356

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Views and opinions expressed in BROADSIDE/HERIZONS are those of individual authors and do not necessarily express those of any NOW Chapter or National NOW.

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 Box 424
 Huffman, TX 77336

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Vice-President	Elaine Kinzey	376-2736
Secretary	Therese O'Halloran	350-4567
Treasurer	Angie Knappenberger	324-2559

MONTROSE NOW
 1803 Fairview
 Houston, TX 77006

President	Peggy Hall	522-4468
Vice-President	Kay Whyburn	667-8556
Secretary	Martha Mazeika	
Treasurer	Burnet Oliveros	526-0664

NOW is the Time to Join!

Defend a Woman's Right to Choose!



National Organization for Women



HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER
 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
 HANOW
 P. O. BOX 66351
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SECTION 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

SECTION 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SECTION 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

10:

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