



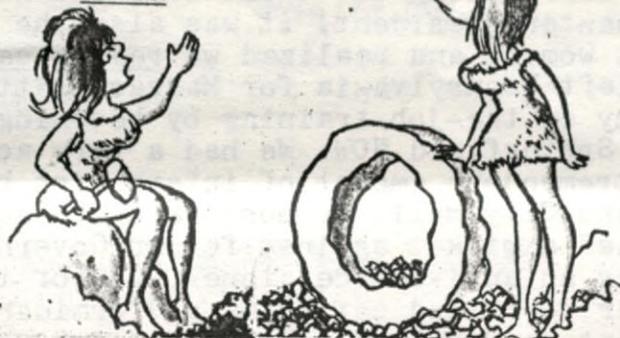
N.O.W. Bay Area NEWS Chapter

Volume XI, Number 9
September, 1983

National Organization for Women

*"What gripes me is knowing
that centuries from now, men will
be getting credit for it."*

HAGEMAN IN SATURDAY REVIEW



READER'S DIGEST February 1981

(For a good read try The Clan of The Cave Bear and The Valley of Horses by Jean M. Auel)

Program Meeting...Self-Assessment and Redirection, Part III
September 1, 1983 7:30 PM
A Uniting Church El Camino Real & Reseda

VIEWPOINT...MEMBER, COLETTE ROBERTS

I became politicized during the Vietnam war. It was my first involvement with a huge group of people sharing a common goal. Of course, I was totally unaware of how male dominated it was. To me, it was normal having the men be "in charge". But a tiny incident thereafter changed not only my thinking but my whole life. While signing up my daughters and son for local basketball teams, my daughter Nina complained that the girls had the smaller gym, no uniforms, part-time coach. Questioning this, I was told, "Oh, they're JUST GIRLS." Click! So I remembered reading about this group, NOW, who were fighting something called sex discrimination. I attended a meeting. It only took one for me to be hooked! I was also overwhelmed. How could I have been so blind to the blatant and obnoxious discrimination surrounding us? Typically, the next thing I knew, I was chapter president! It was also the first time I met powerful women, and realized we really can change society.

We left Pennsylvania for Massachusetts, where I continued my on-the-job-training by becoming president of Greater Springfield NOW. We had a very active chapter, with a tremendous amount of interaction between the schools, media, and City Hall. My most favorite moment tho', was when I led a picket against former Governor King who was attending an anti-choice dinner. One of the top brass came over to me and called me a "formidable opponent." I put that on a button and wore it for weeks!

I was elected to represent the Northeast region on the National Board, and served a short time before the 'corporate daddy' transferred us again, this time to Texas. Our first stop was Austin, and instead of unpacking, I went to a NOW meeting. (Priorities, right?) While there, GK Sprinkle encouraged me to run for an open seat on the National Board. I did, and found myself representing a whole new wonderful region. The corporate hand then pushed us into Houston, where a group of my new friends made me an "honorary Texan". (Do I really have to order chicken-fried steak everytime?)

One weekend, Ellie Smeal asked if I could give some time on the intensified ratification project. My husband Jim, a NOW member, naturally, agreed that this was a good chance to use my graphic skills and help in any other way for the ERA. So off I went to Washington, DC, to spend a year as a full-time volunteer. It was the most productive and exciting time for me.

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Viewpoint, Con't.

Because Texas is going to be the key political state in '84, I can't begin to encourage all of you enough, to be constantly visible. Get out there and picket, demonstrate, do some zap-actions. Speak out against sexism and racism all the time. Let them know that NOW is a force to be reckoned with, and Texas can lead the way. It's alot of effort, right? Well, being a feminist is awfully tiring. It's non-stop, 24 hr./7 days a week unpaid hard labor. I know I never view anything uncritically anymore. I'm constantly angry. And frustrated. The slightest anti-feminist or even just plain dumb remark can set me off. But: I've also met the best people, laughed harder than ever, had the most fun in my NOW life. I plan to continue!

Colette Roberts

EDUCATION & TITLE IX...JANICE BROOKS...645-2136

TEXTBOOK REVIEW

On Monday, August 1, 1983, I had the opportunity of testifying in Austin before the Commission of Education and the State Textbook Committee. My presentations covered those proposed textbooks in Geometry and Algebra. Unlike last year presentations were limited to 6 minutes for subject area, rather than per textbook. This made it very difficult to mention all of the sexist language noted although members of the Textbook Committee as well as each publisher were in possession of a copy of each written bill of particulars. Hopefully, this will be changed next year so that there is an increase in the time allotted.

The Education Task Force of Texas NOW was well represented. Polly Austin, Chair, deserves much of the credit for the excellent organization of Texas NOW during the hearings. We were the only organization to testify in every subject area in which textbooks are up for adoption this year. Polly also had to testify in those cases where other NOW members who were scheduled did not show up. PLEASE THANK POLLY FOR A JOB WELL DONE WHEN YOU SEE HER AT THE STATE CONVENTION.

Education & Title IX Con't.

Also in attendance from the Houston area were Helen Ortiz, NOW at U of H, who testified on two learning systems from the English As A Second Language Program (ESL), and Mitzi Sides, Houston Area NOW, who testified on an Algebra textbook. Betty Judge, who does such an excellent job year after year was there again testifying on World History and Marketing textbooks. Betty is the person to call in Houston for any information about the Textbook procedure. She usually makes every meeting in Austin that has to do with textbooks.

I believe that the contributions made by Texas NOW during the hearings will carry a great deal of weight during the actual textbook selection process. If the instances of blatant sexism are decreasing in the average textbook they are doing so at a "not-so-rapid" rate. We must, therefore, be ever watchful whether we have children in the public school system of Texas or not. Hopefully, the State Board of Education will consider the revisions we have proposed before a textbook is adopted. If, however, a textbook is adopted minus the revisions we have requested then our job becomes an even more serious one.

The 1983 NATIONAL NOW CONFERENCE

The 1983 National NOW Conference will provide an exciting, memorable weekend for activists attending from everywhere around the country. The Conference is scheduled for September 30 - October 2 at the Washington Hilton in Washington DC, and will be an Issues Conference.

This year the program, while covering all major issues, will focus on NOW's increased political involvement and electoral strategies for 1984. Topics to be considered will include the presidential election, the gender gap, election of more women to office, general campaign management, and a wide range of specific skill/strategy areas related to the political agenda.

A special plane fare of \$230.00 has been offered to NOW members going from the Houston Area. Please contact Pat Kuhlmann 488-3278 for details on the flight. If you wish to attend please send in the registration form from your August issue of the National NOW Times.



Thursday, August 11, 1983

Houston Chronicle

Judy Goldsmith, President-National Organization for Women

"During his campaign for the presidency Reagan claimed to be 'for the E' and the 'R' but not the 'A'. Since he took office, he has proved himself to be against all three. To insure that the people of this nation and the women in particular understand the full impact of what a Reagan administration has meant to women, and what four more years could mean to women, we commit ourselves today to a comprehensive program that will drive home the point that Ronald Reagan is a diaster for women."

On September 23, 1983, a number of concerned citizens will host a reception for Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, candidate for the Houston City Council At-Large Position 4. The reception will begin at 6:30 PM with a cash bar at the Sheraton King's Inn...1301 NASA Rd. 1. Many Bay Area NOW members remember well sleeping out on the lawn in front of Houston City Hall in protest of Nikki's reduction of pay to \$1.00 per year when she was serving as the Woman's Advocate for the city of Houston. Dr. Hightower now serves as the Executive Director of the Houston Area Women's Center and has long been a supporter of the issues surrounding women's rights.

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TUNE IN TO WOMEN ON KPFT - 90.1 FM Radio
Women's music, sports, news & information, listener-participation
Tuesdays - 8:00pm - A Woman's Place with Clara Kern
4th Tuesday of each Month is NOW night
Fridays, 8:00am to 10:30am, BREAKTROUGH with Pokey Anderson & Cherry Wolf

Bay Area NOW members and those persons who receive courtesy copies of this newsletter are asked to disregard the typing quality for this issue. One of the lessons that Alicia gave us was to relearn how to type on an old manuel typewriter. The next issue of our newsletter will ~~will~~ get back to including all the issues that are important to us as NOW members. After a week of no electricity you really appreciate dear old Ben Franklin.

ALICIA, FEMINIST, THE GREAT EQUALIZER

On Wednesday, August 18, one of the strongest feminist that has come to the Houston Area in years came to town. Why do I call her a feminist? Well, let's look at her actions. First of all...Alicia (in true feminist fashion) could not decide if she would be a hurricane or not. So she called a meeting of all her sub-units. Resolved that: Alicia would become a hurricane that would cause \$600 to \$700 million dollars worth of damage; further, that 750, 000 homes would be without electricity, phones and water; further, that Alicia would bring equality to the Bay Area without regard to race, sex or sexual preference.

Well the sub-units met (the strong current chapter, the west wind chapter, the east wind chapter, the wave action chapter, the rain chapter, etc.) and after much debate it was voted to appoint a task force to study the question. The sun chapter accused the chair of making this a stalling tactic. The sun chapter proceeded to walk out and insisted on demonstrating by shining hotly. For three days the task force met in stormy sessions. No reporters were allowed into any of the committee meetings for fear that the public might find out the disagreements that were occurring. Also, the west wind, still being in the closet, wanted to protect the identity of it's members.

After three days of much debating, the session was called back to order to hear the report of the committee. The following amendments were added to the original motion: (1) the strong current chapter would be allowed to create strong undertows which would pull anything that was in the path deep into the depths of the Gulf; (2) the west wind chapter would be allowed to slip in the back side of the storm just after all people were sure that the danger was past (3) the east wind would go ahead of the storm creating tornados to warn the people of the anger which was coming (4) the wave action chapter would be allowed to create waves of 10 feet and send in a surge which would cover the west end of Galveston island; (5) the rain chapter was allowed to deposit only five inches of rain instead of the 10 to 12 that it had requested. The sun chapter, which had returned to the conference for the debate, added an amendment that the moon chapter should be allowed to shine briefly on Wednesday evening between the fast moving clouds to lull the people into a false sense of security. As a final compromise it was agreed that the sun chapter would be allowed to reappear after only one day and assist in the rebuilding process. The motion passed and the work began.

The goal of a good feminist is to bring equality to all people. A feminist never discriminates because of sex, race, religion, political party or sexual preference. A good feminist always educates all the public to care about equality for only then can we have true sisterhood and brotherhood of humankind. Alicia, once her decision was made, came ashore as a very strong woman. She tore off the roofs of homes of women and men; She destroyed the trees of persons of all colors; She tore down the fences of persons of all religions; and with no regard for a persons sexual preference she cut off the electricity to thousands. After gaining the attention of millions she then began her education and rebuilding process.

The sun chapter recognizing the wisdom of the decision began in earnest to complete the agenda of Alicia. Neighbors who hadn't spoken in years not only carried on conversations, but even helped each other clean up. Huge bar-be-ques were held with everyone contributing meats, vegetables and fruits for dessert. People sat outside and talked. The most valuable item, ice, was shared by all. Lost skills were rediscovered; like typing on old Remington manuel typewriters; appreciating the taste of real ice water; reading by candlelight; talking, as in carrying on a conversation.

2 Equality of humankind existed for a time. True sisterhood and brotherhood was indeed a reality. How do you ever repay the help of the people? The three sisters (NOW sisters) who appeared on a hot Saturday morning with chain saws and worked all day to assist in clean-up. I forgot to mention they lived thirty miles away. Bay Area's own St. Joan (Rema Lou Brown) who arrived on her silver steed (280 Z) with real coffee and two precious bags of ice. The sisters and brothers who offered meals and air-conditioned shelter and a glance at TV to view the damage.

Yes, Alicia as a true feminist, did her job well. She convened a strong group of different, but equal minded forces to gain a true ideal. The different groups came together and with their combined strengths exhibited to the populace what happiness awaits when true equality becomes a reality. Maybe one day the real feminist movement can cease to exist also and all that will need to remain will be the history. We, along the Gulf coast, have seen the diaster, have overcome the diaster and recognize a happier, freer existence. Just as we have overcome the hurricane, so we will overcome sexism. The storm is still upon us and it appears that Reagan's politics are the west wind of the hurricane, but we shall prevail. We are feminists and we are strong. We shall survive and after the storm is over we shall rebuild. The politicians shall be replaced and equality shall be the law of the land.

HANG IN THERE SISTER!!!!

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BAY AREA NOW CALENDAR

August 30	New C.R. Group...A Uniting Church...7:30 PM Call Pat Kuhlmann...488-3278
Sept. 1	Bay Area NOW Program Meeting
Sept. 9,10,11	Texas NOW State Conference...Corpus Christi Judy Goldsmith, Nat'l. NOW President, Keynote Speaker...Registration after Aug. 24 is \$40.00 Call Judy Snyder at 486-5565
Sept. 21	Business Meeting...Bay Area NOW...7:30 PM A Uniting Church...By-Laws to be reviewed
Sept. 23	Reception to meet Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, Candidate-Houston City Council At-Large Position 4...see newsletter
Sept. 26	NOW FOCUS..."A Women's Place"...KPFT-FM 8:00 PM
Sept. 30 - Oct. 2	National NOW Conference...Washington, DC Special airlines rate from Houston \$230.00 See newsletter
Oct. 6	Bay Area NOW Program Meeting...Media Watch
Oct. 15,16	Area III Membership Workshop...Details later

BAY AREA NOW POSITIONS/RESOURCE CONTACTS:

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PRESIDENT	JUDY SNYDER	486-5565
VICE PRESIDENT	MARIE STIMSON	338-2009
SECRETARY	DONNA BEREND	1-948-3896
TREASURER (ACTING)	PHYLLIS TUCKER	944-0033
NEWLETTER	"	"
MEMBERSHIP	Anita Marcos	482-5515
LEGISLATIVE	JEANNE SALETAN	471-2862
CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING	PAT KUHLMANN	488-3278
EDUCATION & TITLE IX	JANICE BROOKS	645-2136
E.R.A.	VACANT	
FUNDRAISING	VACANT	
LESBIAN RIGHTS	PHYLLIS TUCKER	944-0033
PUBLICITY	PAT KUHLMANN	488-3278
	COLETTE ROBERTS	280-8440
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS	MARIE STIMSON	338-2009
TELEPHONE TEAM	JUDY SNYDER	486-5565
TEXAS NOW STATE	PAT KUHLMANN	488-3278
COUNCIL DELEGATES	JUDI HOFFMAN	944-0033
	PHYLLIS TUCKER	944-0033
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	BECKY MONROE	486-8616

WHO CARES ABOUT WOMEN? NOW CARES!!! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? JOIN NOW, now. Clip and mail to Phyllis Tucker
243 Empress Houston, Texas 77034

_____ I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW (\$40.00)
_____ I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW and can afford dues of \$_____.
(Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$40)
_____ I am already a member of National NOW and want to join the BAY Area Chapter (\$8.00)
_____ I am not a NOW member but want to receive the newsletter for one year (\$5.00)
_____ I am making a contribution of \$_____ to NOW.
_____ I authorize my name and address to be printed on the NOW roster for members.

NAME _____
HOME ADDRESS _____
TOWN, STATE ZIP _____
PRECINCT NUMBER _____ (FROM VOTER REGISTRATION CARD)
HOME PHONE _____ OTHER PHONE _____

BAY AREA N.O.W. NEWSLETTER
c/o PHYLLIS A. TUCKER
243 EMPRESS
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

It's a man's world.

unless women vote!

Are You Registered?

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