

BROADSIDE

VOL. 8 NO. 9 HOUSTON AREA N.O.W. SEPTEMBER 1977

STATE N.O.W. CONFERENCE

Elaine Noble, Massachusetts State Legislator and the first admitted gay woman to be elected to a state office, will be the keynote speaker at the Texas State N.O.W. Conference, September 30-October 2 in San Antonio at the Gunter Hotel.

Ellie Smeal, National N.O.W. President, will lead off the opening session on Saturday, October 1. Workshops will include "Women's Land Collectives," "Sexism and Language," "Math Anxiety," "Feminism and Organized Labor," "ERA," "Rape," "Affecting the Legislative Process," "Women and Mental Health," "Assertiveness Training," and "Sexuality and Older Women."

Highlights of the Saturday evening session will include a women's film festival, with offerings examining marriage, health care, sex roles, abortion, and ERA. The screenings will be followed by an autograph party with Mary Jo Risher, then a Women's Gala, featuring music by Jubilee, a seven-piece women's dance band.

There will be business conducted too-- election of state officers and voting on resolutions and new by-laws. To inquire about preregistration, hotel reservations, child care, write to Gail Baier and Pat Flores, Co-ordinators, Texas State N.O.W. Conference, 9110 Broadway, #M201, San Antonio, 78217.

TEXAS N.O.W. ART SHOW

Texas N.O.W. is sponsoring a Women's Arts and Crafts Show to run throughout the State Conference. If you have any objet d'arts of your own creation which you wish to offer for sale, contact Jeanie Minor, c/o The Group Studio and Gallery, 2502 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, 78201. Registration deadline is September 17.

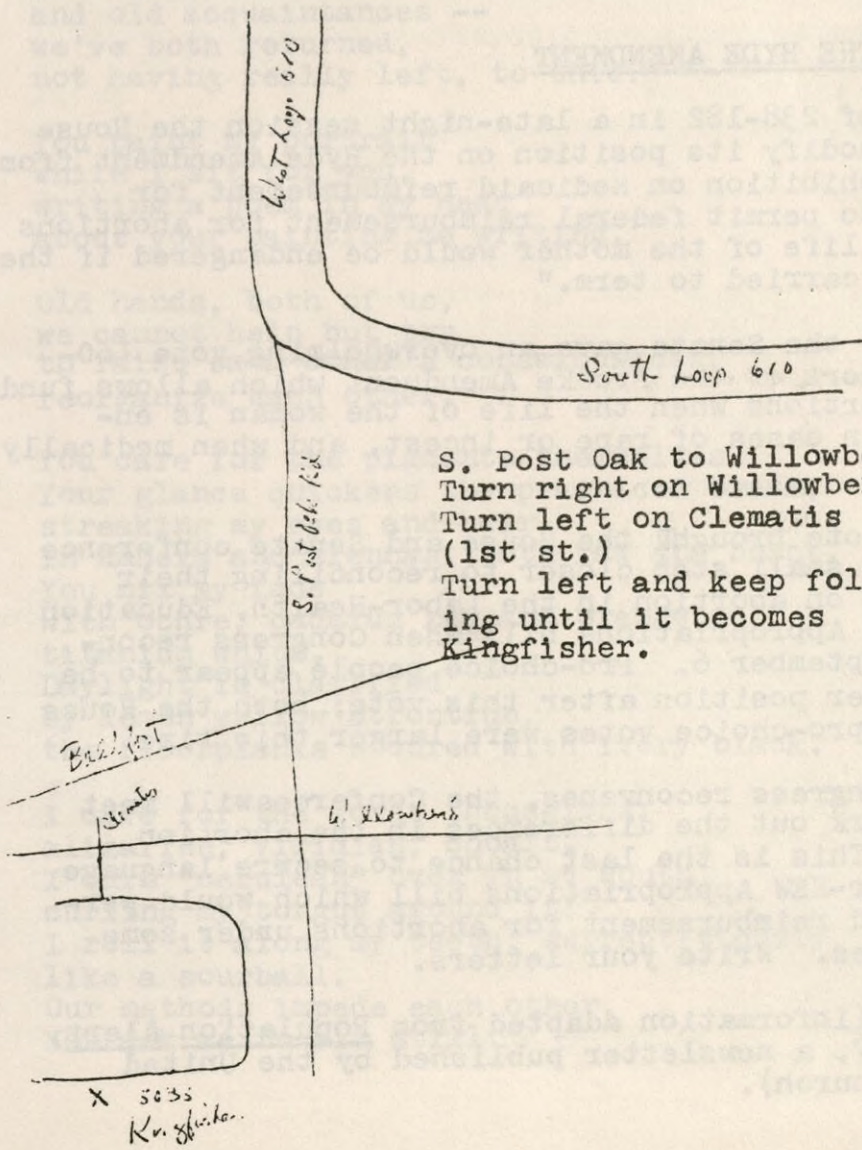
PROGRAM MEETING

Mary Ross Rhyne, purveyor and interpretor of feminist literature from her worthy establishment, The Bookstore, at 1728 Bissonnet, will bring her insights and her wares to our next program meeting. Exploring the subject of "Radical Fiction and Liberal Reviewers," Ms. Rhyne will suggest that new currents in contemporary fiction by women are being misrepresented by reviewers, or simply missed. The interior landscapes being described by such writers as Lois Gould (Sea Change) and Gail Godwin (Dream Children) pose unexpected and unfamiliar terrain to reviewers, who consequently mislead readers about what is happening in current fiction.

One of the things happening, notes Ms. Rhyne, is the increasing appearance of homosexual/lesbian themes and subplots in the work of established women writers. How reviewers will treat this development, how readers will respond to it, especially as it takes shape in an Anita Bryant-charged atmosphere, is a question Ms. Rhyne will ponder with us. Come to the Clayton Library, 5300 Caroline, September 7, 7:30 P.M., to hear the questions and look for the answers.

BUSINESS MEETING

Linda Bain and Ellen Sitton will open their house for chapter business on September 14, 8:00 P.M. Follow the map to 5035 Kingfisher, or call Linda or Ellen at 729-6883 for directions.



S. Post Oak to Willowbend
Turn right on Willowbend
Turn left on Clematis
(1st st.)
Turn left and keep following until it becomes Kingfisher.

X 5035 Kingfisher

BUSINESS MEETING -- August

... was cancelled due to lack of attendance. Four people do not a quorum make. Let's strive for better things this month.

STATUS OF THE HYDE AMENDMENT

By a vote of 238-182 in a late-night session the House agreed to modify its position on the Hyde Amendment from a total prohibition on Medicaid reimbursement for abortions to permit federal reimbursement for abortions "where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term."

On August 4 the Senate gave an overwhelming vote (60-33) in support of the Brooke Amendment which allows funding for abortions when the life of the woman is endangered, in cases of rape or incest, and when medically necessary.

The House vote brought the House and Senate conference committee a small step closer to reconciling their differences on abortion in the Labor-Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations bill when Congress reconvenes on September 6. Pro-choice people appear to be in a stronger position after this vote; both the House and Senate pro-choice votes were larger this time.

When the Congress reconvenes, the Conferees will meet again to work out the differences in the abortion language. This is the last chance to secure language in the Labor-HEW Appropriations bill which would permit Medicaid reimbursement for abortions under some circumstances. Write your letters.

(Information adapted from Population Alert, August, 1977, a newsletter published by the United Methodist Church).

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"Portrait of the Artist as Two Young Women"

Old hands,
both of us,
at consciousness-raising sessions,
at organizing, and at our respective crafts,
and old acquaintances --
we've both returned,
not having really left, to this:

You paint my portrait
while I sit for you,
writing a poem in my head
about your painting me writing.

Old hands, both of us,
we cannot help but try
to raise each other's consciousness,
reorganize each other.

You care for the pigments themselves.
Your glance quickens the practiced brush,
streaking my eyes and hair
in umbers and siennas, both raw and burnt.
You mix my face
with ochre, cadmium red and orange,
titanium white.
Daylight is clarified
by lemon yellow strontium,
the floorplanks scoured with ivory black.

I care for the words themselves:
alizarine, viridian, cobalt.
I turn "cerulean" over in my mouth,
curling my tongue around it;
I roll it along my teeth, surreptitiously,
like a sourball.
Our methods impede each other.
You ask me to sit still.

We rest -- only to compare
 our miseries
 as artists, women, feminists.
 The world misunderstands us.
 We two misunderstand this much,
 at least, about each other.

Raised consciousness requires of us
 we use the using usefully,
 but art demands of us
 we use the using for the use itself.

A communication thin
 as ink or linseed oil
 has filtered, tentative, actual,
 between our veins.
 Translation would have been
 in such a different shade or language
 had both or either of us been
 women but not feminists,
 feminists but not artists,
 artists but not women.

As it is, even our different sets of tools
 recognize each other better than we do:
 the rhythm of shape, the color of a vowel,
 a verb's perspective,
 the Manichean values of chiaroscuro,
 the adjectival danger in a composition.

The making understands itself
 more than the makers do.
 It has a higher consciousness,
 is better organized,
 and freer than you or I
 shall ever be --
 except in those brave moments
 when we become it,
 even at the price of being doomed
 to blur away afterward
 like the autumn light --

brightness draining from us
as from rinsed brushes;
our own selves blank, but for that visitation's jottings,
as pages in a notebook laid aside.

Meanwhile we wait for its restoration,
invoking it with all our skill --
because without it
all the organizing fails,
and I will not
quite
catch your not
quite
catching me.

Robin Morgan

(Editor's Note: This poem is from Lady of the Beasts,
the second volume of poetry published by Morgan.
It is available in Random House paperback, \$3.95).

JOB OPENINGS

Broadside needs a mailing person, someone who can take
the bundled issue to the main post office downtown for
bulk mailing on the Friday preceding the first Wednesday
of each month. If your schedule would permit such an
errand, please call Joy Goodman at 723-6769, after 7:00
P.M.

Come November, that traditional time for office-holders'
contracts to run out, Broadside will need a new editor.
Only two issues remain for on-the-job training. If in-
terested, apply at once.

IWY Conference

"The IWY is being used by the government to determine the will of American women. If the resolutions passed in Houston come out against equal rights for women, against gay rights, against each woman's control of her own reproductive system and against resolutions to meet the needs of minority women, all women will have suffered a devastating setback. The Houston resolutions will be used in government policy-making decisions and legislation to support us or to be used to beat us over the head for decades," commented Jenny Tipton, co-chair of the IWY Support Coalition of California.

"With the coalition's support, women favoring strong human rights positions won all the delegate seats in California," she continued, "and all positive resolutions for women were passed. It was possible because we turned out by the thousands to present a united front of feminists, lesbians, gay men, minority women and others to turn back the attack on the ERA, abortion rights, minority concerns and gay rights."

The IWY Support Coalition started in California for that state's conference and is now planning for the Houston effort. The following task forces are in operation in the California support group: Political Strategy, Fundraising, Transportation, Scholarships (to send a lobbying force to Houston), Speakers, Media (information dissemination), Research (developing and gathering information to share), Coalition Work (out-reach to all other concerned groups) and a Houston Co-ordinating task force.

There will soon be an IWY group in Houston. Call 453-6247 for more information.

SEMINARS FOR SINGLE PARENTS

Texas Child Care '76, a private, non-profit consultation agency dealing with education, advocacy and public awareness to the needs of children and families, will present a series of five weekly seminars, "The Single Parent and Public Policy," on consecutive Thursdays, September 8 -- October 6. They will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood, 7:00-9:30 P.M. The seminars are open to the public at no charge.

Seminar topics include: "The Changing American Family" and the problems facing new single parents; "Legal and Economic Implications;" "Children and Single Parenthood;" "Coping with Emotions;" and "Future Implications/Where Do We Go From Here?"

Councilperson Judson Robinson, former Women's Advocate Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, Rabbi Roy Walter of Temple Emanu El, University of Houston historian Dr. Barbara Day, State Representative Mickey Leland, and Bob Navarro, Executive Director of "The Family Connection," will be among those taking part in the seminars.

For further information, contact Linda Edgecombe, 772-3752.

BROADSIDE DEADLINE

Copy deadline for the October issue will be Monday, September 26. Please get your information to Joy Goodman by that time (723-6769 after 7:00 p.m.).

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To balance energy.

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Beth Kendrick
529-5308

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NOTE: TO contact persons whose phone numbers are not listed above, call 453-6247 and leave a message.

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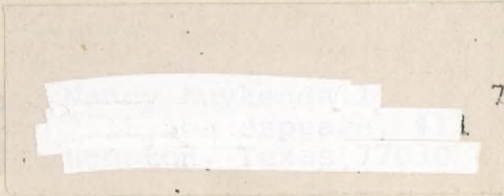
broad·side

- 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



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NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
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