

Vol. 4, No. 8

BROADSIDE

August 1973



# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

by Jeanne Necaise



Generally, the first consideration of newly elected officers is to establish some sort of objective for the coming year. At the May 15 meeting of the Board we tried to do just that.

First of all, we acknowledged the fact that NOW energies are "spread thin" but then, the nature of sexism is such that there are no areas of society free from it, so our battlefields are infinite in number. We must and will continue to influence society in every possible way, yet it was felt that specific short range goals would provide positive direction for the membership as a group, sometimes a virtue in itself. Because there are several tasks which demand immediate and concentrated attention, the Board decided to present them to you as suggestions for NOW objectives for the next twelve months:

(1) 1974 NOW National Convention. This is one task we have already committed ourselves to by bidding for the convention. Marlyne Kilbey, National Board member, reported that our bid was accepted, and we are to expect 6,000!! people here in May of 1974. Need I say more?

(2) Membership Drive. As a direct result of the national convention will be increased interest in NOW (witness the

aftereffects of the National Women's Political Caucus convention last March). We must not let the opportunity slip by to add to our already growing membership and to help establish new chapters in the surrounding areas. To make the most of the situation, the Board suggests that a Membership Director's office be established. The person appointed or elected to the position will not only help the chapter to assimilate new members but will actively seek new members from minority communities. The Membership Director would also serve as counsel to persons in outlying areas who are interested in founding chapters.

(3) FCC License Reviews. The summer of 1974 will see Houston area television stations receiving license renewals from the FCC. We must take advantage of these renewals to influence programming and employment, presenting the FCC with facts as to the current state of broadcasting and demanding denials of licenses until these situations have been corrected. The monitoring necessary to supply evidence for the FCC has been successfully used by other NOW chapters and will require only one week of effort with each person responsible for viewing as little as one hour per day.

(continued)

***broadside***

SIMULTANEOUS DISCHARGE OF ALL THE GUNS ON ONE SIDE OF A WARSHIP . . . ANY STRONG OR COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK, AS BY CRITICISM . . . A SONG, CHIEFLY IN 16TH- AND 17TH-CENTURY ENGLAND, WRITTEN ON A TOPICAL SUBJECT, PRINTED ON BROADSIDES, AND SUNG IN PUBLIC . . . , BY A PROFESSIONAL BALLADEER . . .

THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, UNABRIDGED EDITION

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Hours: Sun. 1-4 pm  
 Mon. 7-10pm  
 Tue. 7-10pm  
 Wed. 7-10pm  
 Thu. 7-10pm  
 Fri. 7-10pm  
 Sat. 10-4pm

Dear Reader:

About a week ago I was asked if I would be interested in assuming the duties of editing this newsletter. "Huh?", I replied, with my usual eloquence. It was patiently explained to me that the BROADSIDE did not magically appear in my mailbox each month, deposited there by the Good Fairy who created it out of Goofer Dust, but that it was, in fact, the product of real effort by real people.

After digesting this food for thought, I decided that I would enjoy being an editor, yes indeed. No doubt I was carried away by the fantasy of facing down the Supreme Court for refusing to reveal my sources, et cetera. At any rate, here I am.

In the past few days I have had a rapid education on the tasks involved in getting out an issue of the BROADSIDE. Several people worked long hours to put this issue together. I must confess that although I am exhausted, I am also exhilarated.

Hopefully, the next few months will see some changes in format as well as new regular features such as book reviews, interviews, first-person articles, and a poetry corner. You are all so talented and have so much to offer. Why not use the BROADSIDE to share some of that talent with others?

*Jan Dilbeck*

**notice:**

**NEW BROADSIDE DEADLINE**

August 8



JOIN **NOW** . . . . SUBSCRIBE TO THE BROADSIDE (Members receive issues free)

- I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NOW (\$15)
- I WANT TO JOIN BUT CAN AFFORD ONLY \$\_\_\_\_ (\$7.50 MIN.)
- I AM NOT A NOW MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSPAPER (\$3.00)
- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$\_\_\_\_ TO NOW
- I PLEDGE \$\_\_\_\_ A MONTH FOR THE WOMEN'S CENTER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN  
 3602 MILAM  
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

# TASK FORCE REPORTS

## EDUCATION

The Education Task Force is continuing its project of reviewing children's readers and Latin texts up for adoption by the state of Texas. Upon completion, they will then go to Austin to present their results to the Texas Board of Education.

## EMPLOYMENT

The job bureau is including in this issue a very general form which you are encouraged to return. You will be contacted when a job of interest is entered in our files. Three excellent jobs (\$15-20K) have already passed through our office, unfilled.

## MARRIAGE

## AND DIVORCE

The Marriage and Divorce Task Force is beginning research necessary to write a bill which will make non-contested divorces where no children are involved less expensive and less complicated. They have developed a NOW Lawyer Evaluation Form, copies of which are available at the Women's Center and at the business meetings.

## FCC

The FCC Task Force has decided to concentrate its efforts in conducting a survey of the public records of local television and radio stations. These records include employment figures and interviews with community leaders required for license renewal applications.

## CREDIT

The Credit Task Force reports that it plans to begin soon a polling of banks and mortgage and loan companies in Houston.

## WOMEN

### IN THE ARTS

The Women in the Arts Task Force is providing the entertainment for the NOW program meeting Wednesday, August 1. On the bill is "A Band of Scribbling Women", selections from the poetry of American women, past and present. Performers will be members of the task force. See the calendar for time and place.

Their August meeting will be held at The Godfather Restaurant, 7910 Westheimer, where they will enjoy a free spaghetti dinner. Join up and join them.

The women's art show planned at the Women's Center August 29-September 30 has been postponed until spring.

## REPRODUCTION

Linda Cryer is the interim task force coordinator and has taken over the various activities. NOW needs a permanent coordinator for this task force. Please call Harla Kaplan, 524-5743 or Linda Cryer, 522-4164.

Persons who were unable to attend the first meeting of the self-help groups several Mondays ago will be contacted for forming more groups. Speculums have been purchased and five groups of 4 to 5 people each have begun their series of courses.

The rape counseling is still being researched. We need people.

## Politics & Lobbying

Harla Kaplan addressed the County Commissioners Court, protesting its decision to delete funds for an abortion clinic from the Hospital District's budget. See related article in this issue.

Whatever the outcome, express your opinion to the Court. The decision on July 5 showed Bill Elliott and Bob Eckels voting for the clinic; Squatty Lyons, Jamie Bray, and Tom Bass, against.

You are urged to write your U.S. senators and representatives, urging them to protect women's right to abortion. They should vote against any constitutional amendment to restrict this right.

## the tube

Two goodies are coming up in August on PBS - Channel 8. Playhouse New York Biography will profile Gertrude Stein on Thursday, August 2 at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, August 13 at 8:30 p.m., Patricia O'Brien will talk about her recent book The Woman Alone on "Book Beat".

## here come de judge

There is a judge in Houston. His name is John L. Compton. He sits on the bench of the 151st District Court. On July 16, Judge Compton refused to hear a case because one of the parties (a woman) was wearing pants. He instructed her to go home and put on a dress. She did. A woman wearing pants cannot even sit in the courtroom to observe the proceedings in Judge Compton's court.

If you have any suggestions on how to persuade Judge Compton to change his alleged mind, contact Jan Dilbeck at 622-0614.

# CABLE TELEVISION: THE WIRING OF HOUSTON

by Bebe Bruce



Cable TV is to television what Gutenberg's press was to the printing industry in the 15th century. A home, business or school wired for cable TV has the capacity for receiving 20 to 80 or more channels via a coaxial cable not much larger than a telephone cord instead of the limited channels which can be broadcast via antenna in the conventional manner.

The technology for cable TV has been existent since the 40's when it was used to circumvent mountains in rural areas where antennae simply were not powerful enough. More recently, it has developed into a god-send for everyone from entrepreneurs to educators to ghetto residents.

Depending upon how it's used, cable TV can mean 40 times the popular pabulum presently spewed out on Channels 2, 11 and 13, or it can be a public forum for citizens from all walks of life. It can provide two-way communications between voters and politicians and allow the former to observe meetings of City Council and County Commissioners Court from their homes. It can be a learning tool for shut-ins or special groups with language or learning problems. It can direct indigent and aged to clinics and public service agencies in their neighborhoods. It can provide an updated job bureau for people seeking employment, it can provide cultural programs, both of local origin and commercially produced extravaganzas, on a paying basis, and it can give you and me and the people next door a sense of community, involvement and responsibility that's unprecedented in the history (or herstory) of the world.

For a more thorough understanding of the philosophies of change bound to occur with the advent of cable TV, Fiore and McLuhan's The Medium is the Massage is suggested if the female reader will tolerate abundant references to "men" for people, e.g. "media, by altering the environment, evoke in us unique ratios of sense perceptions. The extension of any one sense alters the way we think and act -- When these ratios change, men (people) change."

Also from that test, the distinction between "the public" and "the mass" is drawn: "Print technology created the public. Electric technology created the mass. The public consists of separate individuals

walking around with separate fixed (emphasis added) points of view. The new technology demands that we abandon the luxury of this posture, this fragmentary outlook."

This should be brought closer to home when you realize that you will have a chance to vote, more or less, on the philosophy you wish Houston to pursue with the wiring of our fair city. A few weeks ago, the City Council awarded a franchise to one group, Greater Houston Cable-TV, and it is the feeling of many that any single franchise-holder for this particular communications medium would result in broadcasting to the public as opposed to broadcasting for the masses, even though they be more fragmented and specialized in their respective overlapping groups.

Out of opposition to a monopoly (and NOT to Greater Houston, per se), which arose in the Lobbying and Candidate Rating Committee within the Harris County Women's Political Caucus, came the Citizen's Cable Television Coalition comprised of representatives of over a dozen civic and social organizations. The Coalition was represented at at least two City Council meetings regarding the award of a single franchise for cable TV and when they were ignored by the council, used an "archaic" section of the city charter which allows for a petition of 500 voting citizens in Houston to call for an election on franchises granted by the City Council. At this writing, the petitions have been tendered to the city secretary and hopefully the city's legal counsel will approve them and set a date for the election to grant the franchise to Greater Houston Cable-TV or withhold same.

To assure that Houston has all the benefits of cable TV without political patronage and monopolistic direction providing the citizenry with what a few wealthy business men and politicians (men, too) want us to have, it is imperative that this issue be publicized, that voters (you and your friends and their friends) be educated on the subject of what is at stake, and that the impending election be a victory for the people -- not those who could push a money-making monopoly down our throats in the name of progress.

For more information, contact Kathy Whitmire at 467-0568 or Bebe Bruce at 524-3590.

# REDDY OR NOT

by Ibis Gomez

"When did you stop wearing bras? Was it before or after your hit 'I am Woman'?" asked a lady from the audience. There was laughter from the crowd as the feminist standing on stage was momentarily stunned by the question. "I stopped long before 'I am Woman', because I really don't have much need for them!" said the slender figure who stood, her confidence regained, beneath the bright lights. And the audience laughed again as the woman scored one point for her side.

The question and answer period in which the above scene took place is part of the TV weekly series which substitutes the Flip Wilson Show, Thursdays at 7 PM on NBC. The hostess of the summer replacement series is a new-comer to TV and an innovation in television attitudes. Her name is Helen Reddy and her songs are a symbol of feminist ideals never before honored in television.

Helen Reddy, the feminist pop singer who made a hit out of the song "I Don't Know How To Love Him" is now doing her song and dance act on TV. And a very good act it is. From the very first performance the Helen Reddy Show promised to be a success, because it presents an unusual combination of talents. Her guest list includes such names as Joan Rivers, Cheech and Chong, The Pointer Sisters and Gloria Steinem. With such a combination, who can lose? Certainly not the viewers. And while they watch, they are reminded of what it really means to be a liberated woman. Helen has destroyed a few other myths which escaped "The Feminine Mystique" and as the summer progresses the audience will keep laughing and Helen will keep scoring points for our side.



## WOMEN'S BUREAU

The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor publishes many studies on the status of women. The latest publication is "Facts About Women Heads of Households and Heads of Family". Write to the Women's Bureau, Dept. of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210 for this article or to be placed on their mailing list.

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# CALENDAR

1973		JULY					1973
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
Women's Center 3602 Milam Tel. 524-5743			1 Sandy Allwright	2 DeNita Avery	3 Pat German	4 Ruth Milburn Jan Pierce	
5 Harla Kaplan	6 Saundra Larnar	7 Linda Bayer	8 Sharon Vincent	9 Jeanne Necaie	10 Joan Ritter	11 Yvonne Mikulencak Myrna Khan	
12 Betty Barnes	13 Patricia Crook/ Rose Bernard	14 JJ Hendricks	15 Kay Whyburn	16 Marlyne Kilbey	17 closed	18 closed am Helen Via TWPC Convention	
19 closed TWPC	20 Bonnie Burnett	21 Brenda Cooper	22 Meg Jeter	23 Linda Cryer	24	25 Jan Dilbeck Clara Willing	
26 Gail Carstens	27 Janice Lester	28 Ann Smith/ Margo Bishop	29 Nancy Kirkendall /Shirley Mason	30 Muncy McKinney	31	1	

- August 1 -- NOW PROGRAM MEETING. "A Band of Scribbling Women." Presented by the Women in the Arts Task Force. University of Houston Student Center. Check first floor schedule board for meeting room. 8 PM.
  - August 2 -- CLEAR LAKE AREA NOW PROGRAM MEETING. University of Houston Extension School, Room 243. 7:30 PM.
  - August 6 -- NOW ORIENTATION. "What is Feminism?" Presented by Helen Cassidy. 8 PM.
  - August 8 -- NOW BUSINESS MEETING. Call Jeanne Necaie to insure that your item for discussion is included on the agenda. University of Houston Student Center. Check first floor schedule board for meeting room. 8 PM.
  - August 9 -- REPRODUCTION TASK FORCE. 8 PM.
  - August 13-- NOW ORIENTATION. "Legal Rights." Presented by Parrish Hirasaki. 8 PM.
  - CHILD CARE TASK FORCE. 8 PM.
  - August 15-- WOMEN IN THE ARTS TASK FORCE. The Godfather Restaurant, 7910 Westheimer. 7 PM.
  - EDUCATION TASK FORCE. 8 PM.
  - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY TASK FORCE. 8 PM.
  - August 16-- CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING GROUP FORMATION MEETING. 8 PM.
  - CLEAR LAKE AREA NOW BUSINESS MEETING. University of Houston Extension School, Room 243. 7:30 PM.
  - August 20-- NOW ORIENTATION. "Women and Men." Presented by Darrell Wells. 8 PM.
  - August 22-- MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE TASK FORCE. 8 PM.
  - August 27-- NOW ORIENTATION. "History of Women/ Houston NOW." Presented by Betty Barnes. 8 PM.
- Unless otherwise specified, meetings are at the Women's Center, 3602 Milam. Adult-supervised child care is available at all meetings.



## NOW National Board Meeting

The executive committee and national board of NOW met July 13-15 in San Francisco. For Houston and Bay Area NOW members, the most important decision made was to hold the 1974 convention here in Houston on May 31-June 2. The convention, which is expected to draw 6,000 NOW members, will be planned in an executive committee meeting to be held in Houston on September 15-16. Co-chairpersons of the conference planning committee are Poppy Northcutt and Marlyne Kilbey. They are eager to hear from all members wishing to work on this project.

The thirty-six item agenda proved, as usual, to be a challenge to the board members. Several important issues were acted upon. The board voted to plan a political structure which will work intensively for the passage of the ERA. Marjorie Schuchat, board member from Dallas, was appointed to this committee chaired by Charlene Suneson to plan and effect this strategy.

Geri Sherwood's proposal for ways to "revenue share" within the NOW organization was considered but no decisions were made. With state structures emerging it is obvious, however, that we must find ways to fund them.

Several important matters were left undone when the meeting was adjourned. For example, we did not hear Gerald Gardner's report on ways of implementing the sliding scale dues. Gerald argues that zero dues are really that amount of money which the organization spends to service each member personally. For NOW members, that turns out to be approximately \$5.60. Therefore, he feels that the lowest dues we can charge and not be spending money on a member is \$5.60. A copy of the agenda has been posted in the Women's Center on the National NOW bulletin board. If you have questions about any items, please call Marlyne Kilbey at 664-2342 or 664-4121.

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## TWPC CONVENTION PLANNED

Sissy Farenthold, chairperson of the National Women's Political Caucus, will deliver the keynote address at the second convention of the Texas Women's Political Caucus to be held August 17-19 at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio.

Priorities for 1973 will be set and workshops will focus on political strategies for women's issues. A variety of workshops will be conducted concerning political, social, economic, and educational problems.

A three-part workshop entitled "If Elected, I Will..." is planned as a blueprint for successful campaigning in Texas. Political veterans in La Raza Unida and in the Democratic and Republican parties will discuss candidates, techniques of campaigning, public relations, and fundraising. Other political workshop topics include Local Political Control, Women in Political Parties, and Coalitions and Task Forces.

In the area of education, the workshop leaders will explore the

following topics: "Why Are Girls Always Taught to Throw Underhand", "Women in Higher Education", and "Children are Human, Too".

Prospects for social legislation will be explored in workshops focusing on health care, female sexuality, reproduction and its control, the politics of family life, and living as a single person.

The prospects for economic equality will be the thrust of workshops concerned with job and credit discrimination, the unionization of women, and women and economic reality.

Everyone is welcome at the convention. Persons whose dues are paid to Harris County Women's Political Caucus are eligible to attend as delegates. "Harris County hopes to have a large delegation", reported Cilia Estrada, HCWPC chairperson. If you're interested in attending or need transportation to San Antonio, call the Women's Center, 524-5743, and leave a message for Cilia.

\$ GARAGE SALE \$

Several people have responded to the July ad, offering items to be sold at a NOW garage sale. If you have anything to donate, put it in the workroom or call the Women's Center to have your name put on the list. Don't overlook small items. They move well. We still need some people to handle money and displays. Call Joan Ritter, 488-3964, or leave a message at the Center.

## NOW Southern Regional Conference

The Southern Regional Conference of NOW was held in Atlanta, Georgia, the weekend of June 29 through July 1. Over 300 people attended from 14 states and the District of Columbia. The keynote address was by Wilma Scott Heide, who gave an inspiring speech.

Twenty workshops were held, ranging from Child Care to Speakers' Training. One of the best attended workshops was that held by one of our members--Darrell Wells--on the Masculine Mystique.

Several resolutions were passed, including one by the Texas State Caucus which resolved that the Southern Region of NOW endorse any action of the House of Representatives to initiate impeachment procedures against Richard M. Nixon. The resolution passed overwhelmingly.

The Texas Caucus also decided to hold a state convention in Dallas on September 23, 1973. See related article.

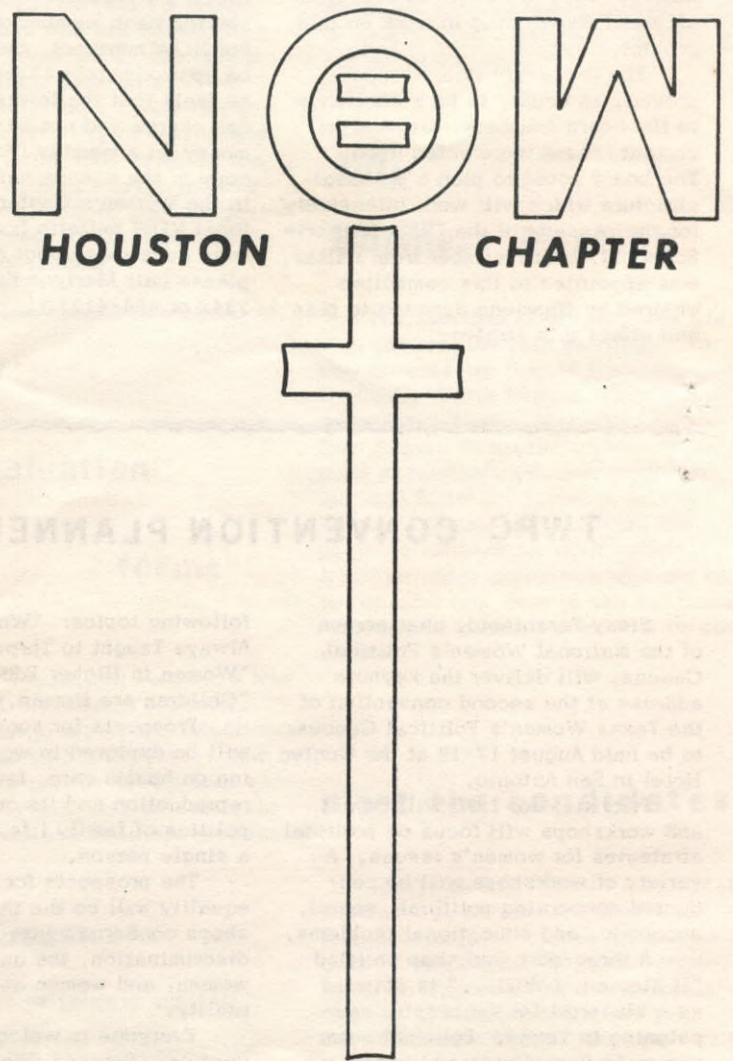
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## consciousness raising

New CR groups will be formed at an 8:00 pm meeting Thursday, August 16 at the Women's Center. Groups of 8-10 women will meet weekly for twelve weeks to discuss various aspects of the movement. Linda Cryer will conduct the August 16 meeting. Call her at 522-4164 for more information about CR.



***broadside***



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