



N.O.W. NEWS

BAY AREA CHAPTER

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

January 1990

FROM THE
OF THE MOON"
DECK

"DAUGHTERS
TAROT CARD



Oppression

TO THE READERS:

What is your own personal experience with oppression in this modern day world of ours? I myself can remember applying for jobs and being turned down--despite the fact that I had previous experience--because I was shaped wrong. I heard "a woman is not really what we had in mind for this job" as my unread application was rejected without a glance.

And you? If you wish to share your experience and see it printed in the newsletter, simply send it to

D.J.Watkins

P.O.Box 983

LaMarque, TX. 77568

Perhaps--if enough people respond--we can have an entire issue devoted to the very personal experiences that have shaped the "very lady like" fighters that we have all become.

Choice: some good news, some bad news

The first pitched battle that pro-choice forces have engaged in at the state level since *Webster vs. Reproductive Rights* was handed down last July ended in what the *N.Y. Times* termed a "surprising" victory for pro-choice advocates when the Florida Legislature—a long-time supporter of anti-abortion laws—rejected six restrictive proposals put before in by Governor Bob Martinez at a special October session called to consider them.

Florida Representative Robert J. Shelley, a staunch abortion opponent, was one of the lawmakers who switched sides to vote pro-choice. He noted that since the *Webster* decision, he has found himself "besieged by constituents" who tell him they do not want to see the right to abortion curbed. "Until the Court ruled," he says, "there was a vast silent majority out there. . . I'd be a fool not to listen to my constituents."

Another surprise came from Texas. In a move that "stunned opponents of abortion," according to the *N.Y. Times*, Governor William P. Clements Jr. has unexpectedly decided not to put the issue on the agenda of either of two upcoming special sessions of the Legislature. His press secretary told the media that although the Governor's anti-abortion beliefs have not changed, he feels "extraneous issues" should not be allowed to cloud the workings of the special sessions on workers compensation and school financing. The next regular session is not until 1991.

In Illinois, the Legislature is expected to formally kill abortion restrictions already defeated in committee.

The bad news comes from Pennsylvania, where the House has enacted a series of abortion restrictions that outlaw all abortions after the 24th week of pregnancy (except to save the woman's life), require a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion, ban abortions for purposes of sex selection and require notification of the spouse before an abortion. This measure now comes before the Senate for action; if passed, Governor Robert Carey says he will sign it into law.

In Idaho, a resolution has been passed that will outlaw abortions if the Su-

preme Court overturns *Roe vs. Wade*. This draconian statute provides that any woman who has an abortion—even in the case of rape—will receive a mandatory prison sentence of one to five years. The doctor who performs the abortion will receive an even stiffer sentence.

Other states expected to confront this issue during the current legislative term are Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan and Wisconsin.

On the national front, President Bush has cast his expected veto against a measure that would allow the use of Federal money to pay for abortions for poor women made pregnant by rape or incest. An attempt to override fell short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

Besides the predictable firestorm of indignation from pro-choice advocates, the veto also gave rise to some pointed criticism from prominent Republicans. Senator Bob Packwood (R-Ore.) said, "I think it hurts the Republican candidates and it hurts our party." John Dearnorff, a Republican consultant and adviser to abortion rights groups, was even sharper: "Vetoing the bill is a tragic decision that will haunt him politically for the rest of his life," he said of the President.

Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), characterized the President as "mean-spirited, without compassion and dramatically out of touch with the public. With one stroke of his pen," she charged, "President Bush today condemned impoverished women to continue crisis pregnancies

that can destroy their lives."

There are three abortion cases on the Supreme Court's docket this fall:

Hodgson vs. Minnesota—Minnesota requires that a teenaged girl must notify both parents before obtaining an abortion—even if they are divorced and one plays no part in the teen's life.

Ohio vs. Akron Center for Reproductive Health—Ohio requires that doctors notify at least one parent before giving a teenager an abortion.

Turnock vs. Ragsdale—The U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago barred enforcement of an Illinois law that requires clinics performing abortions in the first three months of pregnancy to meet standards similar to those required for hospital operating rooms. Illinois has appealed the ruling.

Finally, no update of this nature would be complete without a quick peek at what our friends over at the National Right to Life Committee are up to. You'll just love this one: they are working on "innovative" proposals to ban abortions in cases where a couple did not use contraceptives. Can the "Bedroom Police" be far behind??? □

Domino's Pizza Prez., Thomas Monaghan, has given \$50,000 of financial support to defeat Pro-Choice legislators in the state of Michigan. It's your choice in Pizza, too.

CALLING ALL CONTRIBUTORS!!!
 NOW NEWS NEEDS CONTRIBUTIONS!
 SEND POEMS, ARTICLES, NEWS OF
 MEMBERS, CLIPPINGS (include date
 and paper), EVEN NEAT LITTLE
 DRAWINGS TO
 DEBBIE WATKINS
 PO BOX 983
 LAMARQUE, TX 77568

Red and black are the colors of the pro-choice movement.

"Betty...dead"

(When abortions were illegal)

Red, black now stand for Betty,
she for whom I still mourn.
High school friend, outstanding
talent, beauty of the class.

She wore a prom dress sewn by
her mother, hand-made of bright rose
petal-shapes. Sank to her knees,
full skirt spread around, looked up
at us who gathered in a circle,
in awe to see this once-plump-plain
one shining in bloom - true rose.
Bowed her head with dignity
acknowledged our acclaim.

Betty and her family moved away
her mother died of cancer.
She came back to college in our small town,
Worldly New York wisdom lightly sketched
upon her face.
Men grovelled at her feet until
she found the one - tall handsome dark
intelligent...campus Romeo and Juliet.

Vacation time...September...classes
in the fall, words whispered in the hall...
"Betty...dead. An appendectomy."

I see red. When angry I see red.
Red trimming on black dress
red flags red letters on a T-shirt.

I see black. Black wavy hair -
a sheen - black dress trimmed with red
black coffin black arm-bands.

Red black - paint spinning on a wheel
red blood black arm-bands black
coat-hangers.
Wheel wavers near the arrow.
Wheel of fortune? Wheel of freedom?
Spinning stops red letters read

Pro-choice.

by
Rusty Richards

Abortion Abecedarium

Note: the following lists were gleaned from Legal Medicine, Pathology and Toxicology, a now out-of-print text written by New York City medical examiners, and filled with tips on how to determine, say, if a dismembered corpse dredged from a large river is a murder victim, or merely a suicide by drowning that later crossed paths with a steamship propeller.

Legal Medicine was considered the authority for coroners nationally during the 1930s, 40s and 50s, when abortion was illegal and therefore a forensic matter. Hence Chapter 22, instructing the medical examiner on how to inspect a dead woman's uterus to decide, for example, whether she herself inserted the knitting needle that killed her, or if it was the work of an abortionist (the two acts carried different criminal classifications and penalties).

The book notes that in each year between 1937 and 1941, the authors performed autopsies on about 65 New York City women dead from known or presumed illegal abortions. Below are some of the things such women did, ate or inserted, as well as the particular ways they became ill and expired. These lists of desperation, invention and suffering which soon may have to be

republished in modern coroners' manuals — follow little rhyme and certainly no reason. There thus seems no other way to order them than by the comforting canon of the alphabet.

Means

Aloe. Alum. Ammonia. Apiol. Bicycle riding. Bitter apple. Black hellebore. Borax. Camphor. Catheters. Colocynth. Cotton root bark. Croton oil. Darning needles. Ergot. Gamboge. Hot baths. Imitation oil of bitter almonds. Jumping up and down stairs. Laburnum. Lead. Lysol. Methyl salicylate. Nitrobenzol. Oil of cedar. Oil of nutmeg. Oil of pennyroyal. Oil of rue. Oil of savin. Oil of tansy. Oil of thyme. Oleander leaves and bark. Oxytocin. Phenol (carbolic acid). Quinine. Saffron. Salts of arsenic. Slippery elm sticks. Soapy water. Spanish fly (dried beetle, of the species *Cantharis vesicatoria*). Sponges. Turpentine. Umbrella ribs. Urethral sounds. White phosphorous (scraped from the tips of kitchen matches). Yew. Zinc sulfate (white vitriol).

Ends

Acute suppurative peritonitis. Ataxia. *Bacillus welchii* (resulting in gangrenous endometritis and myometritis in the

uterus, turning it black-red in color). Bronze-colored skin. Central nervous system depression. Chills. Coma. Convulsions. Death. Delirium. Dyspnea. Embolic lung abscesses. Excitement. Exuberant vegetations on the mitral, tricuspid and aortic valves. Fever. Gastroenteritis (severe). Hemorrhage from the uterus. Hemolytic streptococcus. Irregular breathing. Irritation of the kidney. Irritation of the bladder. Jaundice. Lacerations. Oil embolism. Perforated intestine (and other perforating wounds of the abdominal viscera). Perforating wounds of the uterus. Pulmonary air embolism. Purulent yellowish-green or grayish-brown pseudomembrane, sometimes covering the inside of the uterus, or ragged, dirty red or red-black in color and gangrenous. Septic endometritis. Septic infection of the uterine wall or abdominal viscera. Severe anemia. Skin eruptions. *Staphylococcus aureus*. Streptococcal septicemia. Stupor. Suffocation. Suppurative endometritis. Suppurative phlebitis. Sweats. Tetanus. Uterine necrosis (with gas bubble formation). Vegetative endocarditis. Vomiting. Yellowish pus, pus-filled clots in the ovarian and uterine veins.

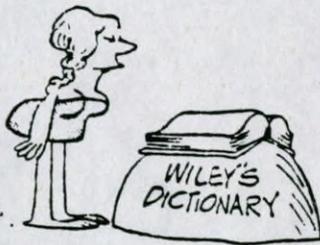
D.N.

12 • OCTOBER 27, 1989

Texas Monthly

B.C./by Johnny Hart

damnation



Associated Press

Daily News 11-25-89
MINNEAPOLIS — A Lutheran church in San Francisco has called a Minneapolis lesbian couple to become associate pastors in defiance of a denominational ban on the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

The 120-member St. Francis Lutheran Church, which is adjacent to San Francisco's heavily gay Castro neighborhood, has hired Ruth Frost, 41, and her partner, Phyllis Zillhart, 32, to work part time for the church and work with the Lutheran

Lesbian and Gay Ministry outreach program in the San Francisco Bay area.

"We believe that this is an issue of justice," said the Rev. James DeLange, senior pastor of the church, which is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

But Bishop Lyle Miller of the Sierra Pacific Synod said if Zillhart and Frost accept their call, he will set in motion a process that could lead to the expulsion of St. Francis from the denomination.

"They know I care very much about the church's witness to gay and lesbian

people," Miller said. "But we're not prepared or able to participate in marriages or ordinations of gay and lesbian people."



GAO to probe exclusion of women from health studies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three members of Congress called Thursday for an investigation of whether federally supported medical researchers exclude women from clinical tests.

"For a variety of reasons, most medical research in this country studies white males, and we are concerned that the treatments developed might not work for or actually be harmful to women," said Rep. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, who with Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., chairs the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues.

Snowe, Schroeder and Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., asked the General Accounting Office to determine how many women are being included in research underwritten by the National Institutes of Health.

"Women's tax dollars pay for half the medical research that's done in this country," said Schroeder. "They deserve to derive greater benefit from that research."

The Public Health Service said in a 1985 study by the Public Health Service that the lack of data on women limited understanding of women's health care needs. Two years later, NIH said it would begin to encourage the use of women in clinical studies by requiring a grant applicant to explain why women were being excluded from such research.

"I don't think it was intentional," said Dr. Florence Hazeltine, who directs an institute within NIH that gives research grants. "It was like everything else in our society. Women are second-class citizens so they are thought of second."

Yale Health Files 12-15-89

How Much Stress is in Your Life?

Score yourself on this life change test. Check those things you have experienced in the past year.

Item Value	Happened (No. Times)	Your Score
100	Death of a Spouse	___
73	Divorce	___
65	Marital Separation	___
63	Jail Term	___
63	Death of a Close Family Member	___
53	Personal Injury or illness	___
50	Marriage	___
45	Fired at Work	___
45	Marital Reconciliation	___
45	Retirement	___
44	Change in Health of a Family Member	___
40	Pregnancy	___
39	Sex Difficulties	___
39	Gain of New Family Member	___
39	Business Re-adjustment	___
38	Change in Financial State	___
37	Death of a Close Friend	___
36	Change to Different Line of Work	___
35	Increase in Arguments with Spouse	___
31	Mortgage of \$10,000	___
30	Foreclosure of Mortgage or Loan	___
29	Change in Responsibilities at Work	___
29	Son or Daughter Leaving Home	___
29	Trouble with In-laws	___
28	Outstanding Personal Achievement	___
26	Wife Begins or Stops Work	___
26	Begin or End School	___
25	Change in Living Conditions	___
24	Revision of Personal Habits	___
23	Trouble with Boss	___
20	Change in Work Hours or Conditions	___
20	Change in Residence	___
20	Change in Schools	___
19	Change in Recreation	___
19	Change in Church Activities	___
18	Change in Social Activities	___
17	Mortgage or Loan Less than \$10,000	___
16	Change in Sleeping Habits	___
15	Change in No. of Get-togethers	___
15	Change in Eating Habits	___
13	Vacation	___
12	Christmas	___
11	Minor Violations of the Law	___

TOTAL SCORE FOR 12 MONTHS

Of those who scored over 300, 80 percent will have a serious change in health; with 159-299, there is a 50 percent chance of illness. ■

"We have not lost faith, but we have transferred it from God to the medical profession."

G. B. Shaw

To all concerned, for anonymous HIV testing & counseling, call Act. Health Services, INC. at 795-4590

The next NOW meeting will be at 7pm on January 15th at the CLC Synagogue -- Shaar Hashalom-- at 16020 E1 Camino.



Fighting for the Family

The AFL-CIO has long advocated the enactment of a national health care program. But for the past 10 years many members of Congress and most corporate leaders have been willing to leave health care reform to the "voluntary efforts" of providers and purchasers.

Health care inflation reversed that trend in the 1980's and, as a result, the private insurance base of U. S. health services has been severely eroded. Today, the cost of employment-based health care is increasing at annual rates of 18 to 30 percent with no end in sight. Preserving affordable health coverage is now the toughest challenge unions and management face at the bargaining table. Many employers are seeking to shift health costs to workers—putting, in many cases, an intolerable burden on families.

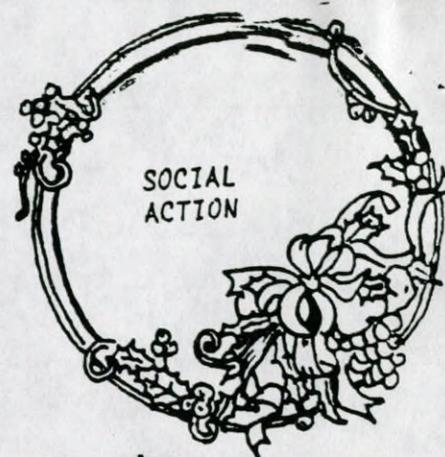
Health insurance has been priced out of the reach of many low-wage workers and their families. Even middle-class families are at risk for medical bills for as much as 20 percent of take home pay. In addition, a growing number of workers either are no longer being offered family coverage or cannot afford the high monthly premium contributions that employers require to insure their spouses and children.

Child Care—Women made up two-thirds of the new entrants into the labor force in the past decade and by 1990 they will constitute half of the workforce. It is estimated that at least 30 million children under the age of 13 will be in need of care—and there are currently only 3 million spaces in licensed care to fill the need. The quality of much of existing child care ranges from barely satisfactory to life threatening, and the average cost of \$3,000 a year per child is so prohibitively expensive as to put it out of reach for millions of workers.

For millions of workers this situation has meant an anguishing conflict between job requirements and family responsibilities, and the call for a federal solution to the child care dilemma has finally been heard by Congress.

The labor-backed child care bill

would make child care more affordable, increase the number of child care facilities as well as the number of qualified personnel, and improve the quality of care. The proposal passed the Senate in June with some weakening amendments. The House adopted a somewhat different version of child care legislation in October and the bills went to a conference committee.



Memorial for women vets faces serious opposition

Rough seas are ahead for a memorial for women veterans. Originally scheduled to be placed at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, enough opposition has surfaced to fire a warning shot across the bow of its promoters.

As designed, the memorial would consist of 10 39-foot-high lighted prisms, representing the outstretched hands of a woman veteran, to be perched atop the Memorial Gate main entrance of the cemetery.

The gate, a large, semicircle structure that has fallen into disrepair, would be renovated and the interior converted into a visitors' center. Inside, a computer system would contain the names of all women veterans and their recollections.

Opponents, including U.S. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., say they are worried about the effect the prisms would have on the view of the late President John F. Kennedy's grave site and its eternal flame, and the Custis-Lee Mansion. Both are on a hill above the main gate.

Designers of the monument say the design will not interfere nor detract from the present setting of the cemetery and argue that the glow from the prisms will be soft and add to its serenity.

Regardless, the promoters will have to convince the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Capital Historical Monument Commission, the National Park Service and the Virginia Commission for Historic Preservation before the prisms can be added to the gate.

One opponent already has strong reservations against the present design of the memorial.

The view from the Lincoln Memorial across the Potomac River is described as a "national treasure" and "anything that alters that view has to be looked at very carefully."

Others have voiced their opposition in more simple terms: "We just don't like it."

But proponents argue the more people study the design, the more they will like it.

Unfortunately, when it gets around to designing memorials or what is appropriate, it always creates a firestorm of controversy.

The sunken, all-black Vietnam Memorial in Washington bearing the names of all American military victims of that unpopular war drew criticism for years. But it now is widely acclaimed as a masterpiece. *D.A.V. NEWS*
12-12-89



Associated Press *Najma D News*
1-1-90

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Although she is the product of the most liberal of Western schooling, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto still covers her head in public and never shakes hands with men — in keeping with Islamic fundamentalism.

Pakistani women's rights activists say that in her first year in power, the Moslem world's only female government leader is kowtowing to a small but powerful religious right.

The ascent to power in late 1988 of her populist Pakistan People's Party raised women's hopes for equality in this male-dominated Moslem nation of 109 million people.

But rights advocates now say those hopes have sunk into frustration — even fear.

"At the beginning we felt there was so much to look forward to," said Najma Seddique, a feminist and human rights activist. "It's very sad. She's got strength she's not using. She's playing by the traditionalists' rules."

The 36-year-old prime minister, educated at Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Mass., and at Oxford in England, wears expansive tent dresses and blanket-like shawls, the acceptable garments of Moslem women.

Her mother and an aunt arranged her marriage in 1987 to one of Pakistan's leading industrialists, Asif Zardari. She claims to have never seen Zardari before a pre-engagement family meeting, in line with orthodox Islamic tradition.

"Benazir Bhutto is trying to be more Islamic than the mullahs (Moslem clerics), but you can't be," insisted Sameena Ahmed, a long-time member of one of Pakistan's rare women's rights groups. "It's not just disappointment. We're scared."

Ahmed said no matter what concessions Ms. Bhutto makes, the fundamentalists will never concede her right to rule.

"What are they going to give her? Not support," she said.

Feminists acknowledge that achieving equal rights for women means debunking some age-old traditions.

"Women can be bartered, sold, married off against their will," said Seddique, the feminist. "And if they are found in the company of a man who isn't their husband or relative, they can be killed. They only have to be accused."

Nevertheless, even Ms. Bhutto's critics will acknowledge that subtle changes have occurred in Pakistan during the past year.

More women are seen driving cars and somewhat fewer cover their heads. Dancing and singing are making a comeback on television.

A couple was seen holding hands at a neighborhood shopping center recently in Islamabad, a sight that would have attracted police attention a year earlier. If they couldn't produce a marriage certificate they could have been jailed.

These newfound freedoms are not enshrined in law, however.

Rape victims are put in jail under laws of Pakistan

Najma D News
Associated Press 1-1-90

KARACHI, Pakistan — Farhat Sadiq, once a nurse at Karachi Civil Hospital, hugged her knees to her chest, a black scarf framing her face, as she tearfully told a story of how three doctors raped her and a student nurse.

She said she cried for help but Pakistan's Islamic laws put her behind bars.

Farhat, 22, said she was working the night shift Aug. 6 when three doctors called her and 18-year-old Shahnaz Sardar to a private ward.

She said one doctor dragged Shahnaz into a bathroom, while the other two threw her onto a bed.

"Both of them raped me. I was so scared, I kept quiet," Farhat said through an interpreter. "They had a gun. They threatened to kill me or kidnap me."

Farhat, claiming the doctors threatened both women into silence, refused to go to the police until Shahnaz's sister told a hospital matron, who reported the alleged crime. Farhat eventually agreed to identify only one of the doctors, as Khalid Rehman, but Shahnaz refused to name any of them.

The result was that Farhat and Rehman both were jailed under broad provisions forbidding sex outside of marriage, whether it's willing or not.

But Farhat remained behind bars for almost two months because the same court that granted bail to Rehman denied it to her. She appealed to the Pakistan Supreme Court, which overturned the ruling and released her.

Both women still face trial on sex charges under a Pakistani law that allows counter-charges in a criminal case.

If both were Moslems, they would face a maximum sentence of death by stoning under Islamic law. But Farhat belongs to Pakistan's Christian minority and she faces 100 lashes.

"What will my life be after this?" Farhat said.

No one willingly marries a rape victim, she added.

"My parents won't be able to find anyone who wants to marry me."

And in Pakistani society, where many women are still judged by the number of sons they bear, remaining single is to be a social outcast.

Pakistan's women's rights groups have adopted Farhat's case as a cause celebre. They say she was threatened and intimidated into silence.

Said feminist Najma Seddique: "There is a widespread belief in our society that if a woman comes out of the house, she's asking for trouble. ... She deserves whatever she gets."



National Organization for Women

Mail to:
Phyllis Tucker
243 Empress
Houston, Texas 77034

WHO CARES ABOUT WOMEN? NOW CARES! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Join NOW, now.

- I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW. (\$35.00)
- 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 \$15.00 - \$35.00)
- 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. (\$10.00 per year)
- I am making a contribution of \$ _____ to NOW.
- I authorize my name and address to be printed on the NOW roster for members.

NAME _____

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