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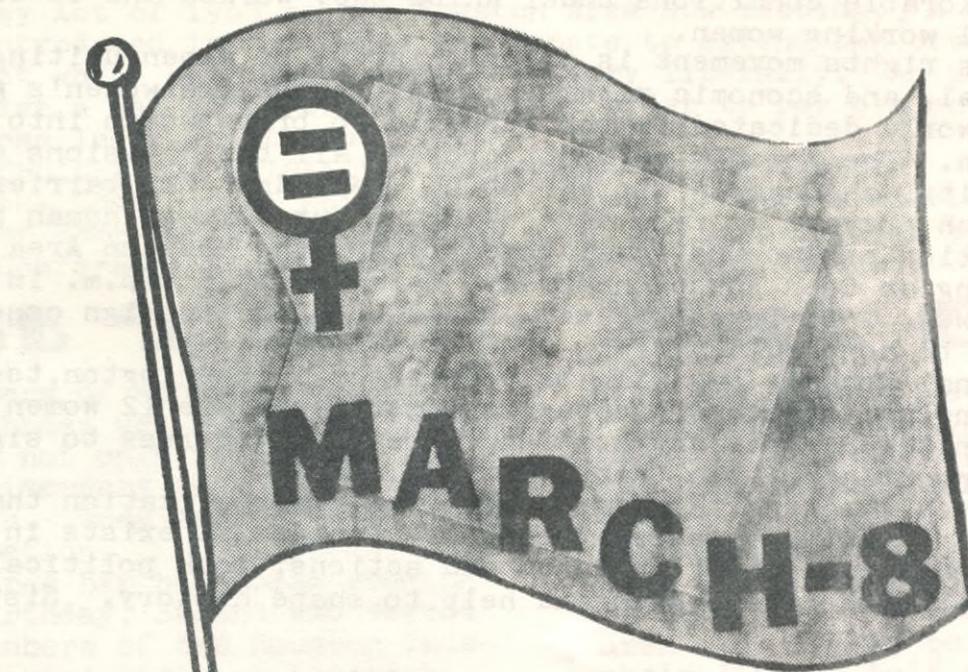
MARCH 1971

BROADSIDE

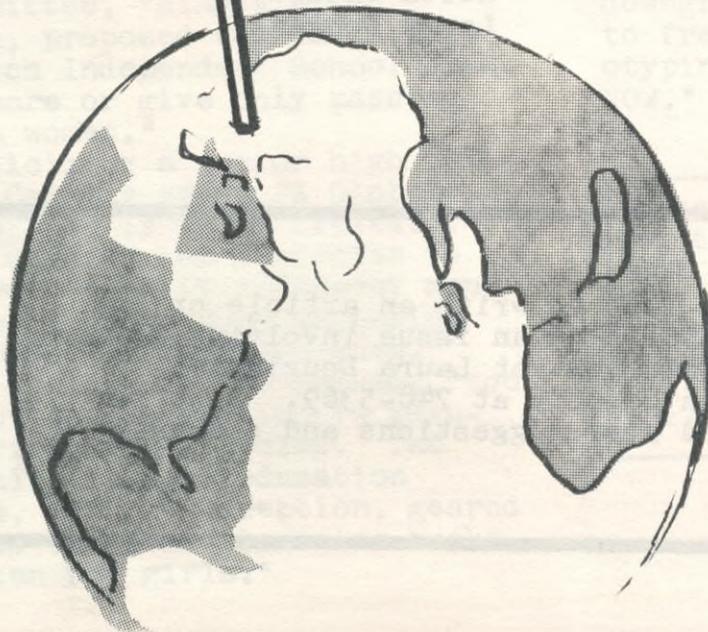
Vol. 2

• HOUSTON CHAPTER •
National Organization For Women

No. 3



"INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"



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

SISTERHOOD IS **P**OWERFUL

March 8, International Women's Day, commemorates the 1857 female garment and textile workers' march in New York City. These women united to protest the deplorable conditions under which they worked and to demand equality for all working women.

The women's rights movement is a long history of women uniting to gain political, social, and economic rights. Today, there are women's groups throughout the world dedicated to the struggle to bring women into full equality with men. The women's movement crosses all the divisions of race, class, nationality, and age in its effort to break down the barriers of discrimination which prevent us from developing to our fullest human potential.

In celebration of International Women's Day, the Houston Area Chapter of NOW is holding an Open House on Monday, March 8, at 8:00p.m. in the Mills Room, Midcity YWCA, 1521 Texas Avenue. Women from the foreign consulates at Houston will be honored.

International Women's Day will be celebrated in Washington, too. Actions being planned include speeches by Congresswomen (There are 12 women in the House and one in the Senate.) and a strong appeal to Congress to sign the Human Rights Convention of the United Nations.

The joy of celebrating this day comes from the realization that the women's movement is a truly international one because it exists in each of our minds. Through our united insights and actions, both political and personal, we contribute to its growth and help to shape history. Sisterhood is powerful!

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

Helen Cassidy
Laura Douglas

Anyone who would like to write an article or essay for The BROADSIDE on an issue involving women's rights should contact Laura Douglas at 529-6400 or Helen Cassidy at 748-5369. Letters to the editor and your suggestions and comments are invited.

Calendar of Events

- MARCH 8--INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY--8:00p.m. Mills Room, Midcity YWCA, 1521 Texas Avenue. Open House honoring the women of foreign consulates at Houston in celebration of International Sisterhood. Hosted by Houston NOW. For information call Helen Cassidy at 748-5369.
- MARCH 8--TEACH-IN--Noon-4p.m. Houston Room, University Center, University of Houston. Jo Freeman, Chicago NOW member, author of "The Building of the Gilded Cage," and director of Chicago's Women's Center, will speak. Evelyn Sell, Austin, and Debbie Leonard and Maria Jiminez, both of Houston, will also speak.
- MARCH 10--EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK--8:00p.m. Sixth Floor Auditorium. Houston Citizens' Bank & Trust Bldg., 1801 Main. William H. Lemons, Houston Area-West Director for U.S. Dept. of Labor, will speak on the Equal Pay Act of 1963 at the Houston Area NOW meeting. A bill has been introduced in the House and Senate to extend the coverage of this Act which has been interpreted very liberally. An employer cannot give a man a few extra duties in order to pay him more than a woman. Come learn about your rights.
- MARCH 13--"CHOICES FOR CHICANOS" CONFERENCE--10:00a.m.-noon. Mimosa Room of the Continental Motor Hotel. Grace Oliveras, attorney and director of Food For All Of Arizona, will be the principal speaker. The Conference is open to the public (by reservation).

Let Them Eat Cake

Members of Houston NOW knew whose birthday was really on February 15. They not only remembered the 151st anniversary of Susan B. Anthony's birth. They ate birthday cake in celebration.

A large birthday cake reading "Happy Birthday, Susan" was served to the members of the Houston Independent School District textbook selection committee and citizens attending the hearings.

Earlier, Helen Cassidy, on behalf of Houston NOW, told the textbook committee, "Almost without exception, proposed textbooks for the Houston Independent School District ignore or give only passing notice to women."

Criticizing a junior high textbook Ms. Cassidy said, "A Global History of Man is aptly titled... The book devotes ten sentences to four women. Yet 111 different men are listed in the index including the universally known Jan Coen."

The textbooks, she argued, "too often provide instruction in sexually-ascribed social roles. The vocational-technical education books are, without exception, geared to boys as the home economics books are written for girls."

She praised one textbook. "Introduction to Homemaking by Cross talks of shared responsibility in the home between men and women. It speaks of house husbands and, in what is obviously radical terms for such a text, suggests women should think of a career since their children will indeed be grown before their life is half over."

Ms. Cassidy urged the committee to remember textbooks are for all students. "The time when any segment of society can be ignored or downgraded is long past. The time to free all people from role stereotyping and limited potential is NOW."

If you have questions about the Houston Area NOW Chapter or any aspect of women's rights call one of the following numbers:

| A.M. | P.M. |
|----------|----------|
| 464-8030 | 522-5776 |
| 623-4380 | 665-8294 |
| 565-8294 | |

HERSTORY

by Betty Barnes

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

Mary Wollstonecraft was an early English feminist who shocked the public by her unorthodox behavior as well as by her unorthodox ideas concerning woman's place.

Mary was born in London April 27, 1759. Her father was a drunkard and Mary had a miserable childhood. After working as a companion and then as a seamstress for a few years, Mary and her sister Eliza opened a school. The school lasted only two years, failing in 1785. Mary then became a governess, but was fired a year later because the children's mother felt they loved Mary too much.

Settling in London, Mary became a literary hack for a publisher, reading manuscripts, writing for magazines, and translating from French and German. She obtained the job through her literary talents, already evident in two essays, "Wrongs of Women" and "Thoughts on the Education of Daughters," as well as a novel, Mary.

In 1790, partly as a result of her acquaintance with Thomas Paine, Mary published A Vindication of the Rights of Men. Two years later she published A Vindication of the Rights of Women. This latter work is considered her best. In it she attacked the philosophy that woman was formed to please man and could govern him by apparent submission and actual cunning. This, Mary said, "is the philosophy of lasciviousness." She argued that women should be educated equally with men and that women "must only bow to the authority of reason, instead of being the modest slaves of opinion." Modest though her requests were (free schools; education of women), they caused an uproar.

Ignoring public opinion, Mary went to Paris in December, 1792, to view the French Revolution firsthand. There she met Gilbert Imlay, an American. Mary disapproved of marriage and the two lived together for a few years. Mary helped Imlay in his affairs, even traveling to Norway for him. In 1794, Mary had a daughter. Imlay and Mary separated in 1795.

April 27, 1759-
September 10, 1797

In 1796, back in London, Mary met William Godwin, an English writer. They decided to marry when Mary was three months pregnant, only for the sake of the child. This child was to be Mary Godwin Shelley, author of Frankenstein.

On September 10, 1797, ten days after the birth of this second daughter, Mary Wollstonecraft died at the age of 38. She would have been bitter indeed if she had known that future literary reference works would list her under "Godwin" rather than her real name.



sex prejudice

has been the chief hindrance in the rapid advance of the woman's rights movement to its present status, and it is still a stupendous obstacle to be overcome.

This world taught woman nothing skillful and then said her work was valueless. It permitted her no opinions and said she did not know how to think. It forbade her to speak in public, and said the sex had no orators. It denied her the schools, and said the sex had no genius. It robbed her of every vestige of responsibility, and then called her weak. It taught her that every pleasure must come as a favor from men, and when to gain it she decked herself in paint and fine feathers, as she had been taught to do, it called her vain.

—Carrie Chapman Catt, 1902



Sugar And Spice AND AN M-16 RIFLE

The George Washington University Women's Liberation position paper on the question of the draft was entered into the record of the Armed Services Committee hearings February 10.

The hearings are on the Administration proposal to extend the draft for two years.

The women's group asked to give testimony before the Committee when the Washington Post account of the hearing (Feb. 9) mentioned that the question of conscription of women came up and Senator Barry Goldwater was quoted as saying: "We have enough trouble with women without giving them M-16 rifles." National Capital Area NOW and Northern Virginia NOW and the GW Women's Liberation protested to Goldwater and demanded an apology. They felt, more importantly, that the point should be made that the ERA was defeated because of the draft question and that their position should be a matter of record. Women, with the passage of the ERA, would have the obligation of military service but not be required to serve functions for which they are not fitted, any more than men are so required.

Carol Vance read the statement into the record and said that Senator Goldwater to be accurate should have said "Women have enough trouble without giving them M-16 rifles." Beverly Fisher, also of WL, and Flora Crater, North Virginia NOW president accompanied Carol.

We Told You So

Sir John Baker, emeritus professor of mechanical sciences at University of Cambridge, England, says women make the best bosses. "But men, who have held the whip-hand for centuries, don't like taking orders from a woman," reported Sir John.

Sir John said one reason women boss better is that they learned patience and "how to cope" when they ran a home. The research committee headed by Baker urged a program to get more women into mathematics and the sciences.

YOUR ROLE IN WAR AND PEACE

As to warfare, which our ultra males are so sure to fall back on as proof of their essential dominance: warfare is not a social process at all, but a social disease, freely admitted to be most characteristic of the male. It is the instinct of sex-combat, over-developed and misused.

---Charlotte Perkins Gilman,
1912

now has "common cause"

"All women are poor," Aileen Hernandez, NOW national president, told a seminar on feminist strategies for the seventies on the opening weekend of the NOW Center for Women's Studies in Los Angeles.

She pointed out that most working women receive low wages and most women in the upper economic levels receive their living from a husband or father, so NOW is not the wealthy organization many people expect because its members do not have the money available to give.

Our lack of funds is also part of the reason why we have "common cause with all disadvantaged groups," Aileen said, and she added that we must define our cause as part of the total cause.

She called for some basic economic changes in American society, saying, "We can't tolerate five per cent unemployment. We must have full employment or we will have to have priorities again, and women are always at the bottom of those priorities."

Among the strategies Aileen suggested for the coming decade was that "We've got to learn more about how the system operates."

"We must make it clear that the price of not doing what we ask is very high," Aileen said, and suggested that we unelect a few officials rather than concentrating on electing our own. - Los Angeles Chapter NOW NEWS

HERE WE GO AGAIN...

ERA - Washington

ELRA - Austin

Resolutions proposing an equal rights amendment have been introduced in every Congress since 1923. The latest one is the Equal Rights Amendment which has just been introduced in the Senate and in the House of Representatives of the 92nd Congress 1st session. Senators Birch Bayh(D.-Ind.) and Marlow Cook(R.-Ky.) introduced it as Senate Joint Resolution 8 and 9. Representative Martha Griffiths(D.-Mich.) introduced it in the House as House Joint Resolution 208. Both resolutions have been referred to the Judiciary Committees of their respective bodies. Adoption of the amendment would require a 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress and ratification by 3/4 of the States.

The proposed amendment states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." The purpose of the amendment is to clarify the legal status of women which has not been defined by the Federal Constitution and varies from State to State. The original Constitution, founded on the English Common Law, gave no recognition to women as legal "persons." Although the 14th amendment forbids the taking of life, liberty, or property without due process of law and extends the equal protection of laws to every person, it, like all other provisions to the Constitution, means what the Supreme Court interprets it to mean. There has been no 14th amendment case alleging discrimination on account of sex in which the Supreme Court has held that a law classifying persons on the basis of sex is unreasonable and therefore unconstitutional. The Supreme Court has extended the 14th's provisions to include as "persons" corporations, juveniles, schoolchildren, and criminals. Women are not "persons" and therefore are not granted "equal protection of the laws" guaranteed to all men by the 14th amendment. The only constitutional recognition extended to women is the 19th amendment insuring the right to vote without regard to sex.

If the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified, some of the things it will do are: declare unconstitutional state laws limiting and restricting the hiring and employment of female workers or prohibiting women from working in certain occupations; guarantee women and girls admission to publicly supported educational institutions under the same standards as men and boys; place the burden of proving the reasonableness of disparate treatment on the basis of sex on the United States or the State rather than making the individual discriminated against show the unreasonableness of the discrimination; require equal opportunity in employment of the Federal, State, and local governments; make the welfare of the child become the primary criterion rather than the automatic preference to the woman. Women would assume, within their means, equal responsibility for alimony and support of children; and obligate women to military service but not require them to serve functions for which they are not fitted, any more than men are so required.

The 1970 Equal Rights Amendment was defeated in the Senate by crippling amendments proposed by Senator Ervin(D.-N.C.) to permit exempting women from the draft and by Senator Baker(R.-Tenn.) to attach the "prayer" amendment. Hard work must be done if the 1971 Equal Rights Amendment is to be ratified. We do not yet have the votes to win. We must get them. Write your Senators and Representatives urging them to vote for the Equal Rights Amendment. If you don't know your Congressmen, call Betty Barnes at GR-2-3316 after 5:00p.m. for their names and addresses.

It is deplorable that in this year of 1971 in a country founded on democratic ideals one half of its population is denied the fundamental rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws.

More than a decade has passed since an equal rights amendment to the Texas constitution was first proposed. This year the Texas Equal Legal Rights Amendment was passed unanimously by the Senate. On February 23, following a hearing in Austin, the ELRA was referred to a "friendly" subcommittee of the House Constitutional Amendments Committee.

Over 100 women from across the state heard Hermine Tobolowsky, legislative chairman and past president of Texas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, urge the committee to "Make every law in this state apply exactly the same way to every citizen in this state. Give the citizens of Texas the right to vote on this amendment." "It is a travesty on justice," Ms. Tobolowsky argued, "that when Texas passed its first civil rights act in 1967, women were excluded. They are still excluded."

Hawthorne Phillips, judge of 107th District Court and former executive assistant to the Texas Attorney General, also spoke in favor of the amendment. He urged the committee to "enable the people of the state to express their own beliefs and their own ideas about equal protection under the law."

The proposed amendment reads: "Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, creed, color or national origin."

Representative Rex Braun of Houston, sponsor of the bill, is optimistic about the passage of the bill if "it is not killed in committee." "I have 110 committed votes. One hundred are needed for passage," he said. "It is long past due that the women of Texas have equal rights with men. We can't call ourselves a 20th century legislature if we fail to pass this bill."

If the bill passes it will be presented to Texas voters in the 1972 general election.

Although a number of discriminatory laws were repealed in the 1967 session of the legislature,

many remain on the books. The amendment not only would remove these laws, it would ensure no discriminatory laws could be re-enacted.

Section 109 of the Probate Code states that if the parents live together, the father is the natural guardian of the minor children during marriage. Because of the wording of this statute, doctors usually refuse to perform surgery and often hospitals refuse to accept a child unless the father's consent is obtained. This statute allows the father to put a child in an institution without the mother's consent. The mother as well as the father should be the guardian of the child.

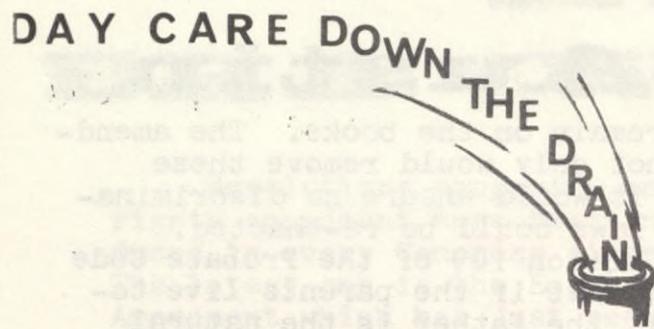
Article 5172 in the Texas Statutes (regarding work hours for women) is included in a list of statutes headed "For the Protection of Females." It actually handicaps them because it prevents women who do certain kinds of work from getting overtime pay for more than an hour or two a day. The statute does not prevent her from working 24 hours-- it only prevents one employer from having her work more than the specified time. She can work eight additional hours a day for another employer which to him would not be overtime and deserving of overtime pay.

Article 4618 regarding homesteads does not have the word abandoned in it. Court decisions have upheld the right of the husband alone to abandon the homestead and sell it without the wife's consent.

Penal Code Article 1220 states that homicide is justifiable when committed by the husband upon one taken in the act of adultery with his wife. This article needs to be repealed, thus making the husband subject to a murder charge the same as the wife is now should she kill one engaging in adultery with her husband. Murder should be murder.

The Equal Legal Rights Amendment must be passed. A vote for the women of this state can be delayed no longer. Equal treatment for women and men under the law is an idea whose time has come.

DAY CARE DOWN THE DRAIN



Recently, four gold-plated faucets with crystal handles were installed in the Texas Senate ladies' lounge. The remodeling also included the installation of antique chandeliers, velvet couches, a bed, and gold carpeting. The cost was \$15,000.

Naturally, all this was done in anticipation of an influx of women senators in coming years, but since there is only one woman senator at present, Senator Barbara Jordan of Houston, perhaps the money could have been spent a little more wisely. Fifteen thousand dollars would provide one year of quality day care for seven to ten children.

LEGISLATION TO WATCH....

S. 31 Senator Nelson's bill to provide during times of high unemployment for public service employment for unemployed persons. In November, 1970, the unemployment rate for women 20 years of age and over was 5.5% as compared to 4.2% for men. WRITE AND ASK THAT A PROVISION BE INCLUDED TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON ACCOUNT OF SEX IN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.

S. 300 Senator Edward Kennedy's bill to establish the birthplace of Susan B. Anthony in Adams, Massachusetts, as a national historic site.

H.R. 1746 Augustus Hawkins' bill to further promote equal employment opportunities for American workers.

H.R. 916 Albert Mikva's bill, The Woman's Equality Act of 1971 to carry out President's Task Force Report on Women's Rights and Responsibilities.

Women's liberation is men's liberation, too. No more alimony, fewer boring wives, fewer childlike wives, no more so-called "Jewish Mothers" who are simply normally ambitious human beings with all their ambitiousness confined to the house, no more wives who fall apart with the first wrinkle because they've been taught their total identity depends on their outside, no more responsibility for another human being who has never been told she is responsible for her own life, and who sooner or later says some version of "If I hadn't married you, I could have been a star." And let's hear it one more time, no more alimony.

--Gloria Steinem, at Vassar College commencement, 1970

COMMUNISTS & CATHOLICS

AGREE??

The Italian Communist Party and the Pope agree. Abortion should not be legal. Il Movimento di Liberazione della Donna (Women's Lib in Italian) is holding its first national congress in Rome. IMLD calls the stand preposterous since it's the working class and poor who suffer from clandestine abortions.

INITIALS TO KNOW

ERA- Equal Rights Amendment
FCC- Federal Communications Commission
OFCC- Office of Federal Contract Compliance
EEOC- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
FEPC- Fair Employment Practices Commission
WRO- Welfare Rights Organization

Sis and the old family firm

by Barbara Lane Farley

It isn't that we are altogether opposed to the fatherly pride that prompts Dear Old Dad to take Junior into the family business. We are not, after all, ready to destroy the System, as more radical women would wish.

Therefore, it will not be necessary to tear down signs and obliterate ads reading "Smith & Son", "W.W. Jones & Sons", or "Wilson Brothers".

It is just that we wistfully (but with increasing anger) want to see signs, ads, and letterheads reading - "Smith & Daughter", "W. W. Jones & Daughters" and "Joe and Sarah Wilson, Sibs!"

If our own male kin have no confidence in our abilities, failing to understand that it just isn't enough to let SIS "do the books", write some letters and sell behind the counter - if they can't see that Sis needs at least the same recognition that Brother gets (and the same salary and share of the business's future), then what hope have we of enlightening the non-kin of the business world?

No Sis or Daughter should lend her support to family business that denies her equal rank and privilege with Sonny Boy.

It has been our observation too that a father will often lend a son the money to start a new business but will fail to give his daughter that opportunity because he has no confidence in her ability to conduct a business. (He saves the dough to give her an expensive wedding).

Right on, Senator!

Senator George S. McGovern (D,SD) announced in Washington that he is declining an invitation to the annual Gridiron Club dinner March 13 because the group of newsmen excludes women.

At the Gridiron Dinner on March 14, 1970, women protested with a picket line carrying signs such as "Gridiron studs are sexist bigots."

WHY THE BANKS WERE CLOSED

The banks were closed February 15 and no mail deliveries were made. Some thought it was George Washington's birthday. Some knew better. In Houston, it was Susan B. Anthony Day.

On February 10, Brenda Badgley, on behalf of Houston NOW asked the City Council to designate February 15 Susan B. Anthony Day. "In a country that observes National Hot Dog Week, it is the rule rather than the exception that birthdays of famous women go unheralded," Ms. Badgley told the Council.

Convinced, the Council directed Mayor Louie Welch to issue a proclamation. In it Welch said, "Susan B. Anthony... personifies, more than anyone else, the progress in the achievement of women's rights in the United States."

He invited all citizens to share in observance of the day "as an appropriate means of paying tribute to a woman who has contributed so much to the strengthening and development of our democratic society."

Welch also congratulated Houston NOW "on the work being done in the area of women's rights during the present era."

and they say women talk too much

The first vote on Rule 22 for filibuster reform took place on February 18. Besides the many amendments to the ERA that Senator Sam Ervin(D.NC) had introduced and waiting their turn he had the big stick of the filibuster to finish it off. So we need to work now to help those Senators who wish to reform the procedure. One reform suggested is to require a three-fifths vote to cut off debate instead of the two-thirds vote presently required. It is important that you CALL, WRITE, OR WIRE YOUR SENATOR TO SUPPORT REFORM OF THE FILIBUSTER RULE. We must anticipate our future battles. We also can hope to change Senator Ervin's mind.

letters

Dear Laura, Helen:

My sister (in blood as well as in the movement) Peggy Hall Mazeika recently sent me your "Place in Space" newsletter. Let me congratulate you on a fine piece of literature. I especially like the "Her-story" section since I am soon to teach a Woman's History Course. The comments on women's image in the media were of special interest to me also since I am Public Relations Chairman for the Rochester chapter.

Keep up the good work, and I'll send you a Rochester newsletter soon. The title BROADSIDE is pure inspiration.

Best regards,
Anne Hall
Rochester, N.Y.

CONSIDER THIS...

To the Editors:

I read recently about a Los Angeles Municipal Judge, Wilbur G. Dettmar, who ordered Marguerite M. Buckley, an attorney, to go home and change clothes. He told her, "Either you want to be a woman or you want to be a man. You can take your choice, but not in my courtroom."

The courtroom is not, despite what Judge Dettmar thinks, a private place of abode, nor is the law his personal treasure to dispense as a reward, nor is a person required to conform to his standards of dress in order to be a woman.

In this country beset as it is by monumental problems, far be it from me to be concerned out of proportion by the rantings of one petty dictator... BUT IS HE JUST ONE OF A KIND?

B. H.
Houston

TIT-FOR-T(H)AT?

To the Editors:

I would like to comment on a recent example of the double standard in action. I read that in Rainham, England, the town's United Services Workingmen's Club said its all-male committee had decided not to let the members' wives hold a male striptease show on their ladies' social night because it would "lower the tone of the club." However, the

male members were going to have a girl stripper on their stag night.

It seems to me that whenever the subject of nudity comes up, men are always willing to play ball... as long as it's not their balls that are being used!

Name Withheld

LIFE GITS TEDJUS DON'T IT

As if dealing with the finest minds of the 12th century daily and being inundated with sexist insults, teeming and lurking everywhere, were not enough, feminists must sometimes argue with family and friends. Puzzled by her work, hostile to the assumption of her new independent stance, or jealous of the time she invests in the women's rights struggle, they can make life difficult and painful.

Norman Mailer, Stokely Carmichael, and Spiro Agnew can be dealt with. They're not people we live with and/or love. And their arguments are blatantly sexist, not unsettling questions couched as concern. "Why do you spend so much effort on this?" "Don't you think that if you worked this hard on your job you'd make more money than a man?" "Do any of these projects accomplish anything?" And the clincher. "Do you really believe you'll ever live to see all these changes come about?"

Perhaps the best thing to do is recite the NOW Bill of Rights under your breath, count the number of amendments to the U.S. Constitution which do not safeguard women (all but one), and say in your kindest tones what Susan B. Anthony once replied to a similar question: "I often think that my work has been very like that of subsoil plowing, that I have only been preparing the ground for cultivation by those women who are reaping the benefits of fuller opportunities and higher education."

MARCH-8th

**INTERNATIONAL
SISTERHOOD**



**National Organization for Women
Houston Area Chapter
P.O. Box 384
Bellairre, Texas 77401**

**houston
chapter**



**national
organization
for women**