



UNIVERSITY NEWS



NOW at the University of Houston, Founded March, 1981

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SECTION 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

SECTION 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SECTION 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

(complete text)

M. J. Sommerfeld - President; E. G. Feld - Treasurer; R. Daumas - Membership;
J. Evansgardner - Public Relations; S. Forschler - Action Team Coordinator.

April, 1982
Volume 2, #4

Newsletter layout and paste-up by Rossann Daumas

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The ERA is still alive and fighting in Oklahoma. While it was defeated in the Oklahoma House, the ERA can be ratified by OK legislators during a special session. This is not a far-fetched notion. Oklahoma's Governor Nigh has announced that he will call a special session if passage of the ERA looks likely -- i.e. if at least one other state passes it. Oklahoma broke the logjam on the 19th (Suffrage) Amendment in special session in 1920. They also gave 18 year olds the right to vote in a special session.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a proposed National bylaw that JoAnn and I wrote while we were in Oklahoma. We took advantage of the opportunity to lobby activists from other states who were also "missionarying" in Oklahoma. Please read it, even though the print is small. It is a follow-up to the page 2 article in the last issue.

I was thrilled to see all the work done in the chapter while I was absent. RossAnn Daumas and Ellen Seaton took care of a multitude of details and crises. In addition, Ellen along with Cynthia Reyna and Susan Marlow organized the March Program Meetings on Women's Academic Status. The two meetings (at 1 and 7) were very different. Janet Chafetz, (main campus) and Jean Quataert, Nan Bruckner and Gretchen Mieszowski (Clear Lake campus) aroused spirited debate with their very different approaches to the questions about women's studies proposed by the program committee. I was glad I got back in time to hear them.

If there are other issues you are interested in addressing, or if the meetings have not been at convenient times for you, please call (783-9730) or write me about what you'd like to see.

With summer approaching, my schedule undergoes dramatic shifts which sharply limit my available "free" time. Therefore, it is imperative if the chapter is to continue to grow in its scope of actions, that you, the *raison d'etre* of this organization, take the initia-

tive for programs, tables, taskforces, newsletter, etc. This would not mean signing away your life. In general, a commitment that focused your time and energy in a particular area could easily be contained within 10 hours per month. RossAnn is organizing information tables on campus two times a month. She said it took her around 20 minutes to do the organizing before the day of table. Add this to the 4 hours (2 hours/day) working at the table, and for under 5 hours of her time, the chapter got 2 new members, 9 message brigades, 25 people signed up as interested in the newsletter. NOT BAD. And doing a little really makes you feel a lot better.

While during the last 2 months we've had more people active than ever, people need to feel comfortable taking the initiative for developing actions, programs, etc. Therefore, because I believe people do more if they believe they know what they are doing, the Texas State NOW Task Force Coordinator, G. K. Sprinkle and I are organizing a NOW Workshop for June 12. It will explain how to set up Action Teams, Issue Taskforces, including how to make media contacts, how to gather needed information and resources, plus all the basics on phone banking, petitioning, letter writing, etc. Please plan on coming. It seemed especially appropriate to plan for such a Workshop because here in Houston (as is obvious in our chapter) NOW has enjoyed tremendous growth in new members and new chapters within the last year.

I'm going to try to call you within the month to discuss what you feel comfortable doing in your NOW chapter to help end sexism.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a flyer for the Margie Adam concert we are sponsoring this month. I hope you will find a good place to post it. On the back you will find a review which will/may make you unable to miss it yourself. Hope to see you there.

Jeanne Sommerfeld

MARGIE ADAMS IN CONCERT

FRIDAY APRIL 16 8 PM

AGNES ARNOLD AUDITORIUM, UH Central Campus

Tickets: \$7 at door, Heidi's or Wilde & Stein Books or at the Heights Bookstore; \$6 for UH students at ACCESS, & NOW members from Chapter presidents in advance.

ACADEMIC STATUS OF WOMEN - PART II NOW at UH PROGRAM MEETING

WEDNESDAY APRIL 21 7:30 PM

Cascade Room, University Center, 2nd floor

A panel of student, faculty, staff, community women and faculty spouses will discuss instances of sexism on UH campus.

About this newsletter

The purpose of this article is to answer any questions you may have about who gets this newsletter and who produces it.

First of all members get it unless there has been some screw up. We are still sending it by first class mail so it will be forwarded if you move and give the post office a forwarding address, even though you have not sent in a change of address to the chapter. If you haven't given the P.O. a forwarding address, we will get it back. When that happens, we try to find you and update our address list. (Members should note that they will not receive their National NOW Times if they do not send a forwarding address to National. These are sent second class mail and when they cannot be delivered to the addressee they are usually filed in the round file. Sometimes a friendly postal carrier will deliver them anyway, but it is rare.)

Secondly, non-members get them if they

- a) attend a meeting and sign up;
- b) sign an ERA or Reproductive Rights Permission Card, or indicate an interest in receiving our newsletter at an information table;
- c) are recommended by a friend in NOW,
- d) hold a position described in the faculty/staff directory that makes us think they should know about us;
- e) are a departmental secretary/administrative secretary who can circulate this newsletter within a department.

If the label on this newsletter has a CC by your name, you have received a Courtesy Copy for one of these reasons. Anyone with a U of H mailing address can continue to receive courtesy copies by letting us know (see form below). WE WOULD RATHER YOU JOIN, OF COURSE. Our newsletter is entirely funded by membership dues and contributions. Student funds are no longer available for Student Organization newsletters or printing.

Since we must pay postage on off-campus addresses, we cannot continue to send courtesy copies indefinitely and typically send out two, sometimes three, before removing the name of a person from whom we have not heard.

The newsletter is written and assembled in the last 10 days of the month by Jeanne Sommerfeld, Jo Ann Evansgardner, RossAnn Daumas and with help from Judith Swinney and Felicia Becket. MORE HELP IS NEEDED. We must necessarily change our schedule and recruit new workers as Jeanne's commitments outside NOW are making increased demands this Spring and some of the work she has contributed to the chapter must be done by someone else. The work, if done on weekends or in the evenings, is done at the Seismic Acoustics Laboratory, the office of our faculty adviser, Gerry Gardner. If we decide to do it during office hours, we must find other space. Ideally there should be an initial 2-3 hour planning meeting, after which each worker goes off with writing assignments. This would then be followed by an 8 - 10 hour workday when typing, editing and paste-up are carried out. Decision making is by consensus or majority vote of those present, with the president having a strong voice since s/he is the spokesperson for the chapter. Typically we type and lay out the original so that the finished copy is reduced to 75% of it's size -- this makes the print smaller, but results in more information spreading for our printing dollars. The final production step is collating, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing - usually on an evening two or three days after the BIG day. Helping produce the chapter newsletter is a rewarding way to get involved in chapter activities. It is one of the few tasks feminists undertake where the pay off is almost 100% positive!

Jo Ann Evansgardner

We're urging all readers and friends of NOW at UH Newsletter to sign up on the membership form in this newsletter. The membership dues start at \$11. This is a real bargain considering the numerous things the \$11 can do. As a member of NOW you would receive the monthly National NOW Times which informs you and updates you with what is going on at a national level. It would be nice to eliminate the sentence "I wish I had known ..." from our vocabulary - especially when there was an issue that you feel strongly about and could have taken your own personal action on. The National NOW Times will help you in that way and other ways! The Texas NOW Newsletter and the chapter newsletter are the second and third reasons for joining.

Another positive thing about an increase in members is that the more members, the more our influence will be felt here on the campus, where is it surely needed, and the more delegates can represent us as a group in National NOW policy making conventions where our special needs can be considered (see proposed national by-laws change proposal elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Please join NOW. Your input is important. If you are already a member, look over the list of visitors to our last meetings (on the back of the membership list) and personally invite any you know to join. Or sign up a classmate or co-worker.

Rossann Daumas
Membership

NOW at the University of Houston MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and NEWSLETTER REQUEST FORM

(Please check blanks as appropriate for you)

1. I wish to join the National Organization for Women, NOW at the University of Houston, Central Campus. (Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$11 to \$35. This amount is divided among the Chapter, Texas NOW, and the National. Please send an amount for your dues according to your circumstances.)
2. Enclosed are my dues in the amount of \$ _____. (Make your check payable to "NOW at the University of Houston, and send to:
NOW (Membership), Box 509,
University Center, 4800 Calhoun
Houston, TX 77004
3. I would like to continue receiving a Courtesy Copy of the Newsletter. (U of H campus mail address only - please use MAIL address as listed in UH phone book.)
4. Please discontinue sending me the newsletter.
5. I would like to talk to someone to get more information about NOW.

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

TOWN, STATE, ZIP _____

PRECINCT NUMBER _____ (from voter registration card)

HOME PHONE _____ OTHER PHONE _____ (hours)

UH CAMPUS MAIL ADDRESS _____
(This form can be mailed to us free via CAMPUS MAIL to address above.)

Urgent Urgent Urgent SJR 110

Jo Ann Evansgardner

THE HATCH AMENDMENT - S.J.R. 110

"A right to abortion is not secured by this constitution. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to restrict and prohibit abortion: Provided, that a provision of a law of a state which is more restrictive than a conflicting provision of a law of Congress shall govern."

This is the wording that was approved by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee when it voted this outrage out to the full committee. Now the full committee has passed S.J.R. 110 (with a vote of 10 - 7) to be debated and voted on by the Senate. We learned as we typed this issue that THE BILL HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 3RD -12. IT IS URGENT THAT WE CONTACT OUR SENATORS, BENTSEN AND TOWER AT ONCE, BY CALLING THEM AT THEIR LOCAL OFFICES.

- DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW -

Both Bentsen and Tower have indicated some support for reproductive choice, but SJR 110 was constructed to get Congress "off the hook" and pass the matter on to state legislatures. It does not prohibit abortion outright, so our elected representatives may feel they can be "opposed to a constitutional amendment that would prohibit abortion" and yet vote for this bill. The major point to get across to them in our phone calls is that we want them to

OPPOSE ANY AMENDMENT OR BILL WHICH COMPROMISES THE REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE WE NOW HAVE UNDER THE SUPREME COURT RULING OF 1973.

Senator Tower's local phone number is 226-5673.
Senator Bentsen's is 226-5496.

- DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW -

Additionally, we urge you to write out your personalized copy of the following letter, (written by Pat Kuhlmann, president of Bay Area NOW) and carry it

around with you for the next day or so, get friends and neighbors to sign it and send it QUICKLY to both Tower and Bentsen. The information about Paul's survey is particularly important and they need to know that we know it.

- DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW -

Dear Senator _____ (Tower) (Bentsen)

We appeal to you to vote against SJR 110 and any similar amendment or bill which compromises the choices that women now have in regard to their condition of pregnancy.

Your vote on this issue is crucial for all women in this country. Do not pass the buck to the states. We are counting on your integrity. The Supreme Court in 1973 gave us the right to choose, invoking the constitutional right to privacy in this serious and sensitive matter. You would not lightly hand back to the states any other constitutional right, we are sure. Therefore, do not sacrifice this right, either, by ducking the issue and sending it to 50 different state legislatures.

Although you may be under pressure from a well organized minority, all the polls show that an overwhelming majority support a woman's right to choose. In our own area, Congressman Ron Paul just published results of a poll with his own constituents. He personally favors an amendment severely restricting abortion, but the poll showed that 58% of his constituents are against any legislation which restricts "abortion on demand" (his phrasing).

We trust women to make their decisions in consultation with their religious, moral and ethical values and we are trusting you to respect our integrity in judging what is best for ourselves and our families.

- DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW - DO IT NOW -

The Voting Rights Act Extension S1992

This bill, to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and to extend the effect of certain provisions, is sponsored by Senators Charles Mathias, (R-MD) and Edward Kennedy, (D-MA) and co-sponsored by 62 others, including our own Lloyd Bentsen. It is identical to H.R. 3112, which passed the House in October 1981 by a vote of 389-24 and which is supported by all Civil Rights groups including NOW.

It's key provisions are:

- * the clarification of Section 2 by providing that "discriminatory results" is the standard of proof in voting discrimination cases;
- * liberalization of the bail-out provision so that covered jurisdictions can "bail-out" if they have complied with the Voting Rights Act for 10 years and have met the other criteria;
- * the continuation of Section 5 which requires pre-clearance of any changes in the electoral voting practice or procedure for covered jurisdictions;
- * the extension of the provision for bilingual election materials and voting assistance.

Despite the overwhelming House vote on H.R. 3112, and 64 co-sponsors on the identical Senate Bill, the Reagan administration is attempting to gut the extension of the Voting Rights Act. In the series of Senate hearings the majorpoint of contention centered over what legal tests will be used to prove discrimination.

Opponents (Reagan administration and Orrin Hatch) insist that a results standard will lead to proportional representation, quota systems, bloc voting and the intrusion of the Federal Courts into elections at all levels of city and state governments. Supporters argue that the quota/proportional representation arguments are "red herrings." They charge further that there has been persistent mis-statements about what the law has been and of what the amendment will do.

Remembering that two Black women, (Julia Wilder, 69, president of Pickens County Voters League, and Maggie Bozeman, 51, president of the local NAACP) have been convicted of voting fraud by an all-white jury, and jailed in Alabama, it is clear that passions run high and that clear federal legislation is needed. Although it is incredible that any court could sentence a 69 year old woman to a 5 year prison term for helping 39 absentee voters cast ballots, and that both the Alabama and US Supreme Courts could refuse to hear the case, what the case tells us that voting rights are bitterly contested.

So intense pressure must be organized to stop attempts to cripple the Voting Rights Act. Senator Bentsen must be thanked for his co-sponsorship and Tower must be encouraged to co-sponsor. It is important to stress to both that we want them to pass S.1992 without any weakening amendments. If you can't write, take time to call their local offices, THIS WEEK. SENATOR Bentsen's local phone number is 226-5496; Senator Tower's is 226-5673.

PERSONAL BEST

A Film for Everybody

ROBERT TOWNE IS FAMOUS for his screenplays (*Chinatown*, *Shampoo*) so it's perhaps surprising that his first effort as a director is a film in which visual qualities nearly dominate narrative. *Personal Best* is about competitive athletics and relationships, and like both has very little plot. Instead, Towne lets the camera explore the elusive boundary between sex and sensuality. The movie features a lesbian relationship in which the two women aren't tormented, demented or about to be convented and, not incidentally, raises the question no one dared speak to Billie Jean King last year—just why are there so many lesbians in sports?

The film is set on tracks and fields from Eugene, Ore., to Cali, Colombia. Its epicenter is San Luis Obispo, where the Cal-Poly team trains for international competition. Tory (Patrice Donnelly) and Chris (Mariel Hemingway) meet at the 1976 Olympic trials, get involved, then live, train and compete with each other. After three years they split. When they meet again at the 1980 non-Olympic trials, Chris has a boyfriend, Denny (Kenny Moore), in tow. Both women have had to deal with all the problems of love and sport: getting hurt, recovering, starting again, getting old.

What's bad about the movie—its gloppy soundtrack and syrupy lapses into overlyricism—are overshadowed by what's good. *Personal Best* captures the naturalness and diversity of friendships among women athletes. They are intense or warm or both, and they are dominated by what is regarded in the rest of society as simply a sexual object—the female body.

Insiders and outsiders.

Towne makes the rest of society, that large part of the population not engaged in world class athletics, marginal. The two women read and shop once in awhile, but they go to class offscreen, between windsprints and pressups. The simple act of keeping all non-athletic activities out of sight neatly summarizes a subculture that protects itself by standing marginality on its head.

Women's sports until recently, haven't just been rarified and marginal. They've been outlawed because of their association with lesbianism. When I played tennis at a university 10 years ago, I did an anthropology project that allowed me to ask about the presence of lesbianism in sports. The automatic first answer, from straight and gay athletes: "There aren't as many as you think." That was usually followed either by heterosexual credential-mongering (long lists of boyfriends, accounts of herpes) or by a sheepish acknowledgement that, yes, if you really thought about it, there was a fair amount of same-sex diddling. In those days, anyone who eyeballed the local physical education program could see it was a haven for, if not lesbians, at least for women with a lesbian style—a forthright, independent, competent way of

moving that bore no resemblance to the uncoordinated softness of traditional femininity. The threat of being called a lesbian kept a lot of women away from sports that weren't either heterosexual in style—like figure skating, with its vamped female impersonator costumes, or pre-sexual, like gymnastics, with its dominance by children.

Personal Best couldn't have been made 10 years ago, before the explosion of interest in fitness and before the infusion of big money into some sports (pioneered by the reluctantly lavender Billie Jean).

Tory wears the recent lesbian haircut of choice: a cloche of dark hair that sets off her strong features. She has a face and firm, supple command of her body that dares anyone to call her dyke. Chris, with her wispy hair and barmitzvah boy voice, is the post-outlaw jock, a regression to an androgenous mean. Ten years ago Tory would have been a cute butch and Chris a questionable femme. Now they look womanly. What used to be lesbian style has become a variation of being fit.

I suspect this change is more of a relief to women who are doing sports for the first time and to male sportscasters than for athletes, who've always had more to get exercised over than lesbianism. Competing in sports involves a thorough demystification of the physical, and to the extent that lesbianism is a sexual issue, it also gets demystified in *Personal Best*. The full frontal nudity and crotch exposure of the movie suggests that the sexual can elide naturally into the simply physical. The film indicates how little athletes can conceal in the normal course of their days. Outsiders regard the juncture of the thigh and the pelvis, between the legs, as an erotic area. The same area on a high jumper is exposed regularly to any dumb Howard Cosell who happens across the track. That accounts for the lack of reverence for things sexual in this movie: the jokes and ease between male and female athletes. To them, there's no mystery about what bodies look like or how they work, from any angle.

For amateurs, that lack of mystery can be enormously liberating. A friend who started exercising in her late 20s told me she had never realized her body was "normal" until she started taking showers in a locker room after running. She saw herself for the first time as having one body out of many possibilities rather than an impossibly goofy version of an ideal. Professional athletes also use that public information of the body, but in a more specific way. They read bodies for strengths and weaknesses that will help them win their event. A good athlete reads competitors the way lovers read each other. They use the cues the body gives—changes in breathing or positioning of hands, feet (toes, curled or uncurled?), legs, whatever—to assess what works best. What *feels* best? And how do you make it feel better? Competitors get better by pushing each other into the sensual pleasures of excelling.

Sex and sports.

The analogue to sex goes deeper. Individual sports require a concentration on self, on sensation, on developing tension, on establishing rhythm, on finding the one spot in the body that makes the whole thing work so it all ends in an ecstatic physical integration.

The paradox of sports, like the paradox of sex, is that the most intense concentration on oneself yields the most exquisite pleasure, but only if proper attention is paid to the competitor or lovers who makes it all possible. The difficulty in Tory and Chris' relationship is the confusion between competing and loving. No matter how similar the two enterprises seem, they ultimately diverge. The intimate physical knowledge lovers and athletes have of each other is used for different purposes: for lovers, to deepen their trust; for athletes, to be best. Tory's apparent defection to self-interest is easy for Chris to believe because the two realms collide and it's easier to think ill of a competitor than well of a lover.

When the two women split it's because Tory has been, deliberately or not, responsible for the younger woman's first sexual experience. It's a knowing plot twist because, for an athlete, the fall from innocence or grace isn't sex, it's an injury. If sex provides a taste of the world to come, injuries specify the dregs of the here and now. An injury makes clear, as Tory acknowledges to Chris before the last race, that someone who is younger, faster and stronger inevitably comes along. Their scene together is the movie's resolution. When Chris tells the injured Tory, "I know exactly how you feel," she's speaking literally, and that knowledge finally gives the two women emotional equality.

The resolution sets up a nice version of a familiar modern scene. For friendship to survive, old lover must meet new lover. Tory and Denny meet and regard each other with embarrassed curiosity and ambiguous emotions the situation instills.

Towne gives Tory her final moment of dignity. "He's pretty cute," she says, "for a guy." The line is one of two or three that gives the lie to reviewers who think this movie isn't about lesbians. It is, and Tory, with her wedge haircut retrieved from the aggressively heterosexual Dorothy Hamill, is clearly not off to the war between the sexes. The war among the hurdlers will be enough.

There's more to this movie than the appearance of a starlet from Idaho with a famous name and a bunch of crotch shots. That's because there's more to sports than the uncoordinated literati like to admit. Robert Towne has made the most pro-woman movie I've seen in years, and he's done it with a felicitous combination of the camera and the typewriter.

By Barbara Presley Noble

IN THESE TIMES MARCH 17-23, 1982



Warner Bros. Inc.

SEXISM IN SPORTS AT UH

Sharon Mehrhoff obtained the following data concerning athletic scholarships for women and men in UH:	
WOMEN	
Basketball	\$25,606
Track	\$42,540
Tennis	\$22,760
Swim/Dive	\$27,355
Volleyball	\$16,535
Baseball	\$00,000
Golf	\$00,000
Football	\$000,000
TOTAL.....	\$134,795
MEN	
Basketball	\$54,555
Track	\$49,714
Tennis	\$15,150
Swim/Dive	\$25,800
Volleyball	\$00,000
Baseball	\$45,605
Golf	\$17,750
Football	\$340,691
TOTAL.....	\$549,265

The following letter contains information about another urgent problem. After reading it, you may wish to write something similar yourself. I urge you to do so.

Marjorie Mecklenberg,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs,
Room 725H, 200 Independence Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Mecklenberg,

I am writing to advise you of my opposition to the proposed changes in regulations about contraceptive counselling and prescriptions for teenagers and would like this letter entered as "public comment" during the 60 days prior to April 23rd.

I oppose the new rules requiring notification of parents of teens 17 and under by agencies dispensing prescriptions for contraceptive devices. Since a recent survey has shown that more than 2/3rds of teenagers attending family planning clinics had waited several weeks to as long as a year after beginning sexual activity before attending the clinic, primarily because they were afraid their parents would find out, my opposition is based on the following expectable consequences of a law requiring notification of parents,

1. the number of teenagers who would seek contraceptive help would be greatly decreased - perhaps as much as 50%;
2. the less contraceptive help teenagers receive, the more unintended pregnancies in girls who are themselves but children;
3. the more unintended and probably unwanted pregnancies in girls 17 and under, the more abortions, and particularly, given the current federal legislation forbidding financial aid, the more illegal, medically unsafe abortions and consequent injury and even deaths;

4. the more unintended pregnancies, the more additional child mothers and children on welfare;

Taken all together, the regulation your department proposes is not only inhuman in its lack of concern for the welfare of young sexually active women, it will cost this country millions in welfare dollars. Also, since the present administration seems determined to make the welfare system even less adequate to the needs of those forced by their circumstances to depend on charity whether federal or private, the proposed revisions practically guarantee a skyrocketing growth of an "underclass" of socially and educationally deprived citizens - something no humane government would encourage.

Finally, there is a remarkable inconsistency in two positions which the public proponents of these revisions hold - namely that big government should stay out of citizens personal lives and that big government should require betrayal of the confidential relation between doctors and their patients. If the confidentiality of patients 17 years of age can be so easily abrogated by the state, is not the confidentiality of all medical records jeopardized? I think so, and I am shocked that a party that claims to represent a defense against big government should be responsible for this attack on the individual's privacy.

The exception in reporting for teenagers with a documented family history of child abuse, sexual abuse or incest, recognizes that there is real danger in violating a young female's confidential records with her medical advisers. It will be the responsibility of the United States Government and your agency if a young female is hurt or killed in a murderous attack by a family member on being informed that she has sought contraceptive protection.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Ann Evansgardner, Ph.D.

Mayor appoints sexist

by Jo Ann Evansgardner

I cannot help wondering if our newly elected Mayor would have been as glib in her response to critics of her appointment of a self-avowed sexist, if he were branded by his own words of being a racist. I hope not. It has taken a long time to get the consciousness of the evils of racism to the point where a Mayor of a major city would understand the need to appoint a black police chief and we can't afford to lose those gains. But I am disappointed, to put it mildly, with Whitmire's appointment of Jerry E. Smith. Anyone who refers to elected delegates to a national, federal convention as "a gaggle of outcasts, misfits and rejects" and to the League of Women Voters, one of the oldest, largest and most progressive women's organizations as "the Plague of Women Voters" does not deserve appointment to any decision-making position in City government and certainly not to a sensitive one like a three-member Civil Service Commission.

I don't care whether Councilpersons Hall, Gorczyński and Reyes were "lobbied" or came up with their objections on their own. They were right on target. If only our mayor had as good a feminist consciousness as she appears to have a black consciousness. Or could it be that she is more aware of a black voting bloc than she is of a women's voting bloc? Certainly looks that way. No matter that many, many women and feminists worked hard in her campaign and contributed their dollars hard-earned at a 59 cent rate. No matter that she is a woman and should be outraged at Smith's general insult to her sex.

I hope she doesn't have to learn about her "woman problem" the same way that Reagan appears to have to learn his -- by being un-elected next time -- because at least she says she is for the Equal Rights Amendment.

I know that politics makes strange bedfellows, but I am distressed to find my Mayor "seeing eye-to-eye" with the likes of Jerry E. Smith.

BY PETE BREWTON
Chronicle Staff

Handwritten: Chron. 3/25/82

Mayor Kathy Whitmire has taken the first step in her planned changes in the city's civil service system with City Council confirmation of her two nominees to the three-member Civil Service Commission.

Attorney Jerry E. Smith, an energy specialist with Fulbright & Jaworski, and businessman Percy Creuzot were confirmed Wednesday and join attorney Josefina Rendon on the commission.

Three councilmen questioned Smith's disparaging remarks about delegates to the International Women's Year conference here in 1977.

Smith, a conservative Republican who was then Harris County GOP chairman, called some of the delegates "a gaggle of outcasts, misfits and rejects." In 1978 he characterized the League of Women Voters as the Plague of Women Voters.

Mrs. Whitmire, a staunch advocate of women's rights, said Wednesday she didn't agree with Smith's statements on the subject, but that he and she see eye-to-eye on her desired Civil Service changes.

Councilmen Anthony Hall, Dale Gorczyński and Ben Reyes voted against Smith's confirmation.

"I have a real concern about his ability to be objective on the commission,"

Reyes said. "He made sexist statements about the women's conference and I am concerned about an individual who makes public statements like that."

Hall said Smith had indicated by previous statements he is "biased."

Mrs. Whitmire said she doesn't think the three councilmen voted against Smith because of his remarks about the women's conference, but that they were "lobbied" by someone opposed to Smith's appointment. She didn't elaborate, referring further questions to the councilmen.

The commission hears all appeals of disciplinary actions taken against city employees by their supervisors and department heads. It can uphold disciplinary action or overturn it. Dissatisfied city employees can appeal commission action to state district court.



Smith



Creuzot



Books—New & Recommended

Kindred, Octavia, E. Butler, \$2.75, Pocket Books

A science fiction novel about a 20th century Black woman's journey back to a plantation and the world of slavery in Maryland 1819. Harlan Ellison calls this "an important novel, filled with powerful human insight and the shocking impact of the most commonplace experience viewed in a new way."

The Salt Eaters, Toni Cade Bambara, \$3.95, paper, Vintage.

Bambara's first novel, about the Black people who inhabit a city in the South. A brilliant portrait of a people searching for the healing power of salt.

Also by Toni Cade Bambara: *Gorilla*, *My Love*, \$3.95.

I Love Myself When I Am Laughing; a Zora Neale Hurston Reader, ed. Alice Walker, \$7.95, paper, Feminist Press.

Hurston was one of the most prolific Black women writers between 1920-1950 in America. She was often praised for her work but condemned for her independence, pride and politics. This collection of her writings is of both literary and historic significance. It provides us with insights into Hurston as a writer and a Black woman.

This Bridge Called My Back; Writings by Radical Women of Color, ed. Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldua, \$8.95, paper, Persephone Press.

A collection of prose, poetry, personal narratives and political theory by Afro-American, Asian American, Latina and Native American women. This collection reflects an uncompromising definition of feminism by women of color in the United States. *This Bridge Called My Back* breaks the silence and begins to document women of color's rites of passage, coming of age and coming to terms with race, class, gender, community and self.

The Black and White Of It, Ann Allen Shockley, \$5.95, paper, Naiad Press.

A collection of stories written about Black and white lesbians. These stories show the effects of racism, sexism and homophobia upon the lives of Black lesbians. The racism in the current women's movement is exposed in these stories, as well as the struggle for the right to love women.

Black sister: Poetry by Black American Women 1746-1980, ed. Erlene Stetson, \$9.95 paper, Feminist Press.

A collection of the writings of often neglected Black women poets ranging from the Lucy Terry poem written in 1746 to the many classic writers such as Phillis Wheatley, to the contemporary voices of Gwendolyn Brooks and Alice Walker, and the exciting newer voices of Ntozake Shange and Gayl Jones.

Meridian, Alice Walker, \$2.75 paper, Pocket Books

The saga of a young Black woman's involvement in the Civil Rights movement during the 1960s and 1970s in the south. Meridian Hill, the protagonist, does not take anything easy. She canvasses for voter registration in the south and becomes a symbol of defiance in the Black communities, as well as a symbol of Black womanhood to the man who loves her.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave girl, Linda Brent, \$4.50 paper, Harvest Books.

An authentic account of slave life in the south written by a Black woman born into slavery in 1818. It exposes not only the crimes of slavery, but also the double yoke of slavery and sexual exploitation under which Black women lived. Linda Brent ran away and hid in an attic crawl space hoping to escape soon to the north. She stayed there for seven years, and many years later, published this account of her life.

The Heart of a Woman, Maya Angelou, \$12.95, cloth, Random.

In the fourth volume of Ms. Angelou's autobiography, she tells about the beginnings of her writing career and becoming politically active. She helps organize a benefit for Martin Luther King, co-stars in "The Blacks," falls in love with a South African freedom fighter and watches her son grow up. This last volume of her autobiography is as rich, honest and heartwarming as the first three volumes.

by Sandra Torkildson

WOMEN, RACE & CLASS, by Angela Y. Davis (*Random House*, \$13.50). With this most recent book, Angela Davis proves again that women's history has been woefully inadequate when it comes to the experiences of black women. Davis enters a developing field that is not quite as well represented in print as the literary side of black women's studies. However, historians of black women and, in particular, black women historians have taken some giant steps recently that should be added to Gerda Lerner's pioneer sourcebook published in 1972, *Black Women in White America* (Vintage). The Association of Black Women Historians, organized in the late 1970s, now publishes a newsletter and has sponsored sessions on black women's history at the annual meetings of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and at the Organization of American Historians. Last year *The Afro-American Woman: Struggles and Images*, edited by black historians Rosalyn Terborg-Penn and Sharon Harley, and originally published in 1978, appeared in paperback (Kennikat); and another notable 1981 book, *Black Women Cross-Culturally* (Schenkman), edited by black anthropologist Filomena Chioma Steady, contains several essays of historical import.

Angela Davis's fine collection joins this slender stream. Although Davis is by training a philosopher rather than a historian, she manages to transcend existing historiography to produce dazzling insights of her own.

The strongest essays in this collection concern lynching and rape. In the long, perceptive "Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Rapist," Davis notes that white supremacists in the South first excused lynching as a necessary measure to prevent black domination during Reconstruction. After white supremacy was assured, lynching continued—as a supposed deterrent against rape. The opponents of black civil rights linked extralegal violence against black men to a crime no one could condone. Thus, blacks were cut off from white support. Davis echoes Frederick Douglass and the turn-of-the-century black journalist, Ida B. Wells, when she calls the black rapist "a distinctly political invention."

In this essay and others (notably in "Black Women and the Club Movement"), Davis describes the black women's organizations against lynching that dated as far back as the early 1890s. She rightly criticizes Susan Brownmiller's *Against Our Will* (Bantam) for overlooking the activities of black women since Brownmiller cites only the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching—a mostly white group that was not started until the 1930s.

As a black woman and a historian, I found Davis's thinking fresh. However, from time to time her analysis grows wooden, conjuring up images of socialist realism rather than a recognizable past, but the lapses are few and minor.

—Nell Irvin Painter

Ms. April '82

"Whatever is unnamed, undepicted in images, whatever is omitted from biography, censored in collections of letters, whatever is misnamed as something else, made difficult-to-come-by, whatever is buried in the memory by the collapse of meaning under an inadequate or lying language -- this will become, not merely unspoken, but unspeakable."

This quotation is from *On Lies, Secrets and Silence - Selected Prose, 1966-1978*, by Adrienne Rich (p.199) It was written about Lesbians, but it applies to all minority groups. As pointed out in our March program meeting on the Academic Status of Women, when people hear "Women's Studies" they think "white women", when they hear "Black Studies" they think "black men." We will correct that.

COLUMBIA, SC—Two volumes which cover a 200-year history of the "Contributions of Black Women to America" are now ready for orders and a June delivery.

The books are the culmination of a two-year research project at Benedict College, with the research and writing funded by the Women's Educational Equity Act Program of the U.S. Department of Education and by the Ford Foundation.

Dr. Marianna W. Davis, professor of English, directed the project—the first effort to bring together under one cover information on black women who made valuable and noteworthy contributions to the growth and development

of the United States from 1776 to 1977.

More than 135 persons across the country worked to produce the 10 separate manuscripts published in the two volumes.

Each of the manuscripts was critiqued and evaluated by three different teams of experts, including a national review panel for each area convened by the Women's Center of Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Included in Volume I are contributions by black women in the arts, media, business and commerce, law, and sports.

Volume II contains information on black women achievers in civil rights, politics and government, education, medicine and sciences.

Each volume carries photographs of many of the black women discussed in the book, a bibliography and index for each of the subject areas, and names of project personnel.

"The materials are written to be read and used by high school students, college students, researchers, curriculum developers, teachers and the lay public," Dr. Davis said. "Because of the limited number of books being printed, I urge you to order now for your June 1982 delivery."

Orders for "Contributions of Black Women to America" should be sent to Kenday Press, Post Office Box 3087, Columbia, S.C. 28230.

COUGAR CLIPPINGS

Women's History Week at UH

UH feminist helps women raise consciousness

By JOSE ALVAREZ
News Reporter

"Women hold up half the sky," says a poster next to the desk. On the wall, next to some photographs from trips to China, is a sign that says, "Often the best man for a job is a woman." The rest of the wall space is taken up by shelves of books on literature, with one wall dominated by books on women.

The room, a small one, is the office of Effie Feld, an instructor at the English department who is active in women's affairs and who teaches the course on women's liberation and literature, in addition to courses on western literature.

"Women will sign up for the course when they are already rethinking their lives. Because they're ready, they really come out with changes in their attitudes," Feld said of the popular women's course she has taught since its introduction in 1972.

"It is taught from a feminist point of view, and it is assumed that women have all the talents, possibilities and potentials that men have. It is a consciousness-raising course because I feel every literature course taught ought to raise consciousness and consciousness."

She said her own consciousness was raised when she read Betty Friedan's "Feminine Mystique" in the 1960s, a time when she was undergoing personal change.

"For me at that time the book was monumental, but now it would not be the same for this generation. It really deals with issues of another generation," she said.

For the class Feld said she has picked time-tested authors, mainly from the 20th century up to 1950, to be on safer ground and not have the course accused by the

university of being trivial.

"We go over a lot of good literature, primarily by women," she said. "I used a bunch of anthologies of mainly short stories by authors such as Katherine Mansfield, Virginia Woolf, Joyce Carol Oates, Doris Lessing, Edith Wharton and Marian McCarthy. I'm very fond of the short story as a teaching tool. I also use two novels every year, Sylvia Plath's 'The Bell Jar' and Kate Chopin's 'The Awakening.' The students really like them because the novels really seem to relate to their own lives."

The literature has two primary themes, Feld said, one focusing on the social changes necessary for

women to become integrated into all levels of society and the other focusing on internal change and women changing themselves. She added that women's literature is still not recognized nationally as a genre in itself.

She said she first taught the course when several upper-level women students petitioned to have the course offered. First taught as a special problems course, it became a sophomore-level offering in 1972.

Feld said she is part of a dying breed of tenured instructors. Although her terminal degree is a master's degree in literature, she received tenure when the university had to automatically

give tenure in 1972 to anyone who had been teaching with the university for seven years. She had been teaching since 1965.

She criticized the university for its attitude toward women and its rejection of a women's studies program proposal in the 1970s by a university committee.

"This university is a male-dominated institution. That is the understatement of the year," Feld said. "There has been an attitude of the university that considers women's courses and women's issues trivial. That attitude is a very pervasive thing. Women's courses have existed at the whim of the departments. The courses have no status and have nothing to protect them. A course is taught if some woman in the department pushes to have the course offered."

The course on women's liberation and literature may not be offered next year, Feld said, because of a change this year by the English department toward a standardized curriculum and a move away from the innovative one which helped give rise to the course in 1972.

"The course would not be offered more than once every four years," said Feld of the rotating system whereby only one of two innovative course options would be offered every semester.

She said the unfortunate turn of events for the course is part of a bad time for minorities and women.

"With Reagan in power, there is now concerted effort against women," she said. "Apparently ERA (the Equal Rights Amendment) is not going to be ratified. This leaves women as the only group who do not have equal rights legally. Even minorities, as bad as their situation is, have legal rights. There is a concerted effort

to take away abortion. The freedom to have abortions is absolutely necessary for women. Without control of reproduction, women cannot have freedom. In employment, affirmative action really no longer exists. The whole picture right now is very discouraging. We have to fight like hell just to hold on to what we've won. We can't relax."

Unlike the U.S. government, where the president is against ERA, Feld said the official policy of the government in China is non-sexist. A member of the US-China People's Friendship Association, she has been to China twice, in 1977 and 1978.

"It is a remarkable society where the role of women is not what it ought to be, but they're really working on it," she said. "There is child care for the children of working mothers. There is health care. One of the first laws established by Mao Tse-tung in 1949 gave women the right to divorce. I don't mean that the women there have arrived, but the changes are astounding when you consider they came from a society where women were nothing but chattel and their feet were bound. Compared to before, they have made much progress."

Feld said she is active in women's affairs and is a member of the National Organization for Women at UH, which began last year and is growing rapidly.

"We have made a lot progress, but, my God, what a battle!" Feld said. "When you see something that's obviously as right as ERA not being ratified, that says something about the hatred that exists for women."

Pointing to the poster saying women hold up half the sky, Feld said, "Actually, the way things are, women hold up more than half the sky."



Effie Feld with feminist poster

Women and the media: Images are not reality

By JUDITH SWINNEY
Staff Writer

"Why are women found in 'soft' news as opposed to section one of the newspaper?" was a question raised last weekend at a seminar on women in the media at the Houston Area Women's Center.

Dr. Jean Quataert, associate professor of history at the UH Clear Lake City campus, was keynote speaker, and discussed the way women are depicted by the media and the historical reasons for the media's attitudes.

"The problem is that the media has picked up very restricted options that were available to women," Quataert said. "The images are not divorced from reality — there are some truth to them. It reflected some of the pressures on middle class women and educated women to behave in a certain fashion."

"But the problem is that the media reflects the very diverse roles and issues that women face — the roles and patterns of living that are typical of women," she said.

The media, according to Quataert, doesn't regard "women's issues" as newsworthy. She believes people need to challenge the notion of what is newsworthy, and women in

the United States ought to be more informed about international affairs and about the status and role of women in other countries.

"What is happening with women elsewhere? Women didn't get the vote in France until the 1940s, and there are still some cantons in Switzerland that have rejected it," she said. "Keeping up with other women is a good way to assess one's own situation, to have it put into some kind of comparative context."

The Women's Center conference, Quataert said, was not just designed for theorizing. She hopes the conference will help bring about some changes. "Many women are offended by some of the media images. What do you do about it?" she said.

KHOU-TV's Alma Newsome spoke at the conference and "indicated that making your dissatisfaction known can be effective, especially these days when the 'traditional media' are feeling threatened by encroaching technology, cable television, for example," Quataert said.

Dr. Patricia Hurley, faculty member in the political science department, expressed her opinion recently that legal issues women are working towards do not get coverage, in general, as a result of "stereotyped notions of what is hard news."

Hurley currently teaches a course on mass media and politics.

"If women want to be in hard news, they're going to have to get themselves in positions of official newsmakers," she said. "If hard news comes out of the bureaucratic structure, and most of the bureaucratic structure is filled with men, I think that will say a lot."

Though more women in television roles are cast as professionals, the advertising industry has far to go in its depiction of women, Hurley said.

"In a study of women in advertising during the years 1970-76, 80 percent of the women were shown in the home. And I don't think those figures have declined significantly over the years," she added.

Hurley touched on the "gatekeeping process," the selection of the news that is determined important enough to be broadcast. "It's set up so that you're not going to change the choice placement of news until you get women in positions of deciding, like the position of assignment editor," she said.

The local television stations have no female assignment editors.

Women's history challenges norm

By JUDITH SWINNEY
Staff Writer

Women's history is a new field of study that challenges traditional notions of what is historically significant, according to Dr. Jean Quataert, associate professor of history at the UH Clear Lake City campus.

Traditional history, Quataert said, has "simply omitted women," as it has "neglected other groups in society."

Women's History Week, March 7-13, Quataert said, helps bring attention to the fact that "women have been lost, that their history has not been regarded correctly, that they have made actually very important and significant and interesting contributions.

"We are Americans because we share a certain history, we share an understanding of the past," she said. "We get our identity, our self-image, in a very broad sense, from history." Quataert believes women have been left out of that history.

The field of women's history is "not a fad, it's not going to go away. It's going to make a permanent contribution to our store of knowledge," Quataert stressed.

Quataert teaches courses in life

cycles and European women this semester as part of UHCLC's women's studies program. She said the courses have been popular and well-attended by students on the 6,000-student campus.

"They were absolutely enthused when they learned what women have been doing in the past . . . and the irony, of course, is that women have been doing an awful lot. It just hasn't been regarded as the 'correct' subject for historians."

The problem with the subjects historians choose to study, Quataert said, is one of "what has been defined as significant historically."

She explained what she sees as the problem with history written from a male perspective: "Historians write about what is significant, and the problem is what has been defined as significant has been male activities."

She cited the history of the Renaissance as an example:

"Renaissance, for a historian, has a certain connotation. It means a time of growing individualism and identity, of self-awareness and of progress and enlightenment. Women historians who have examined the same time

period, however, argue that the position of women, women's status and possibilities for education actually declined. It was a period not of broadening individualism but of restriction on women's possibilities, so that they didn't have a Renaissance — maybe we ought not to even use the term. It was a Renaissance for half of society and a retrogression for the other half."

Several courses at UHCC focus on women: psychology of women, women's liberation in literature, anthropology of women and women in German literature. No women's studies program exists on the central campus, where the Afro-American and Mexican-American studies programs are established.

Quataert said hundreds of universities in America offer women's studies courses and programs. Harvard University was the first to offer a bachelor of arts degree in women's studies.

The history department does offer a course on sex and society in America, taught by assistant professor Steven Mintz, which deals with women-related historical issues. The course explores changes in attitudes

toward abortion, life experiences of men and women, views of gender roles, and of social policy regarding women, children and birth control.

"I deal with the comparative experiences of Western-European and American women," Mintz said. "We ask the question, 'Why does every western European country have the legislative equivalent to the Equal Rights Amendment, yet America has been trying to pass it for 59 years?' We all assume that things are better and more progressive in the United States. But that isn't always the case."

Mintz presents data in the course about current controversies and brings out the fact that these controversies are similar to those of the past.

"Much of the opposition to vote at the turn of the century was led by women, as is the case with passage of the Equal Rights Amendment," Mintz said.

For Mintz, women's history plays a crucial role in the redefinition of what constitutes written history, which he thinks should approach "history as more than the surface of public events." He said history should study "the texture of people's lives . . . looking to everyday events that change our lives."

Quataert disagrees with the

presentation of American history in textbooks being used to teach junior high and high school students. "At best, what you will have is Colonial America, and then you will have a little chapter, non-integrated, on family life, and they'll talk a little bit about women. Then they'll go on to the very serious, significant traditional historical events. It's still marginalized."

Texas is very significant in terms of the style and quality of public school textbooks, according to Quataert. This state tends to set the educational trend for the rest of the nation. "And textbooks are big business," she said. "So far, the big businesses have not accommodated themselves to the very serious, shaking impact that women's history ought to have."

Quataert said pressure from students and faculty on university administrations is the key to getting women's studies programs established.

Students can help in the effort by asking questions about women in history and women's studies, Quataert said. "They can say, 'I'm wondering what happened to women in this course?' or 'how about some texts about women on this topic?' This will bring about change, there's no question about it."

Pedaling cross-country for ERA

By LISA GREGORY
News Reporter

Feminist Dave Dismore pedaled into Houston last week on his Nishiki International 10-speed bicycle on what he calls "the adventure of a lifetime, for the cause of the century."

Dismore is now in the middle of a journey that has taken him from the Santa Monica Pier in California, and tentatively on to the Municipal Pier in Miami Beach, Florida, in an effort to raise "conscienceness and cash" for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Dismore set out from Santa Monica on Jan. 9 with hopes of gaining more support for the ERA, and raising money through penny-a-mile pledges. The 35-year-old bachelor said he has collected "thousands of dollars" so far in his seven-week journey.

He said he believes that ERA will be passed before the June 30, 1982 deadline. Dismore said he wants to turn "apathetic support into activism. The majority of people support the ERA."

COUGAR CLIPPINGS

During Women's History Week, The Daily Cougar recognized it by publishing relevant articles everyday. The articles excerpted on these 2 pages are as large a sampling as we could fit in.

There have also been more than the usual number of stories of interest to feminists throughout the term. The Cougar editor, Marilyn A. Hogarty, is leaving at the end of this term. We will be monitoring closely to ensure that her successor does as well.



(Photo. by Mary Margaret Hansen)

images of birth

By ROSSANN DAUMAS

The Birth Project is an on-going art project which focuses on the creation and distribution of a series of images dealing with the birth process. The project is under the direction of renowned artist Judy Chicago, who started on the project by researching birth images, only to find few in the history of art.

"If men had babies, there would be thousands of images of the crowning," Chicago has said.

The crowning is the point at which the head of the baby is first seen leaving the womb during birth.

"I decided to address the absence of images by creating work that would use that birth process as a metaphor for the creation of life in the largest and most metaphorical sense, i.e., the female as the source of life and the feminine as the affirming life principle," Chicago, creator of "The Dinner Party," said.

Since the beginning of the project, many women all over the

country have showed their willingness to participate — there are now projects all over America in various stages of development. It is important to note people who are not artists by profession are working towards the completion of the Birth Project.

"The Birth Project is allowing women to shape their ideas which consequently will change their lives," Morton said. "We are forming a bond with one another by sharing in the execution of the Birth Project."

These are five major themes around which the images are created:

- Creation of the World
- Birth
- Hatching the Universal Egg — from universal mythology
- Crowning
- Birth Tear

For more information on The Birth Project, call Morton at 527-8438.

WHEREAS the establishing of NOW Chapters on college/university campuses is consistent with NOW policy for creating and supporting the erasure of academic programs, policies, employment practices, materials and language which are discriminatory on the basis of sex;* and

WHEREAS current interpretation of the bylaw, Article III, Membership, seriously inhibits establishing such chapters; and

WHEREAS it is imperative for NOW to organize recognized campus student organizations because they:

1. can influence college/university policy through established means specifically denied to "off campus" groups;
2. have access to student funds;
3. are protected by the principle of academic freedom when raising issues and exploring diverse views;
4. are a needed antidote to anti-feminist student organization such as Birthright, YAF, CARP, Marantha, etc.,
5. provide a positive feminist viewpoint; and

WHEREAS the college/university experience is often critical in the intellectual development of tomorrow's leaders, but presently occurs in a patriarchal environment dominated by patriarchal scholarship; and

WHEREAS once a NOW member, the more likely a NOW activist no matter where the student moves; and

WHEREAS NOW is needed on campuses to provide continuity, feminist information, activist materials and stable national support for feminists and transient student populations; and

WHEREAS without this continuity and support, campus feminist organizations tend to remain havens for hard pressed women rather than catalysts for feminists' continued personal growth as challengers of college/university supported sexism;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the provision in Article III, Membership, which states:

No person who subscribes to NOW's purposes shall be excluded from membership, segregated or otherwise discriminated against within the organization.

shall not be interpreted to prevent chartering of college/university based chapter which are

- 1) formally recognized by their campus administrations;
- 2) restricted because of administrative rules to a specified "college/university community"**,
- and 3) are not otherwise in violation of NOW's principle of non-discrimination as outlined in Board Motion on Philosophy of NOW, adopted unanimously December, 1977, which states

The philosophy of NOW is to oppose any discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, economic status, parenthood, affectional preference or lifestyle.

* NOW Policy Manual - Issues, p. 25, Education Discrimination, NOW Conference Resolution, 1970

The Mobilization of, support for, erasing sex discrimination where it exists in education as in admissions, scholarships, fellowships, loans, textbooks, guidance counseling, division of students by sex in home economic, shop, sports and vocational training. We also urge the erasing of sex discrimination in policies on marriage, pregnancy or parenthood as related to students, faculty and staff,

stocking of libraries with appropriate (non-sexist) books,

day (sic) care for all students, faculty and staff,

(eliminating bias) in hiring, salaries, tenure and nepotism, in appointments such as college presidencies, in teacher training curricula,

the provision of role models outside the traditional sex role stereotypes,

(eliminating bias) in part-time employment and school policies

(eliminating bias) in language, which must be restructured to reflect a society where women have status equal to men.

** Typically, the restrictions to a specified "college/university community" means "students, staff, faculty and alumnae/alumni."

Proposed by Convening Chapter at the main campus of the University of Houston, called
NOW at the University of Houston

March 15, 1982



For information on what you can do to protect our civil rights, open

3. Confidentiality of contraceptive advice and prescriptions is about to be "regulated" out of existence

2. The Reagan Administration is attempting to gut the Voting Rights Act Extension

1. Hatch Amendment to be voted on in the Senate sometime during April 3-12

This month we are under serious attack on three fronts:

URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT



NOW at the University of Houston
Box 509, University Center
4800 Calhoun, Houston TX 77004



Fight for Women's Rights

April, 1982

Calendar

Wednesday, April 7 - 7:30 NOW at UH Business Mtng
Judicial Rm UC 2nd floor; also, 7:30 NOW
By-laws Mtg Provincial Rm - UC - 2nd floor

Sunday, April 11 - 1 - 3 NOW Phone Banking, call
JoAnn for directions to Seismic Acoustic Lab.

Tuesday, April 13 - 8 pm Susan Sontag - Museum of
Fine Arts, Brown Auditorium

Wednesday, April 14 - 11 - 1 Information Table at
Thursday, April 15 - 11 - 1 Satellite UC - Call
RossAnn or just come, spend your lunch hours
helping spread the word about feminism.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16 - 8 pm MARGIE ADAMS IN CONCERT

Monday, April 19 - Women's Lobby Alliance Fund
Raiser - 6 pm Supper (\$4.50) and 7 pm Film
"Rosie the Riveter" (\$3) at Unitarian Church
Fannin St. call 521-0439 for reservations.

Wednesday, April 21 - 7:30 NOW at UH Program Mtg
Academic Status of Women - II Cascade Room UC

THE ERA IS ALIVE...

And being held HOSTAGE by a few Oklahoma legislators.



HELP FREE THE ERA

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(complete text)

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Help Show your commitment to the Equal Rights Amendment by wearing a green ribbon until the ERA is ratified in Oklahoma. Other suggestions for ribbon placement are car antennas, doors, trees, etc.