



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.

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Newsletter layout & pasteup by Rossann Daumas

President's Column

April's issue of University News was quite literally packed with local, state, and national news and actions. As I look over the layout of this issue and my notes for this column, the focus is surprisingly different. The emphasis this month is on NOW. The issues highlighted are ones that effect NOW on a national level (our bylaws amendment proposal,) local level (developing Houston Area Council of NOW chapters,) and on the chapter level (discussion of continuance of NOW at UH's membership in Women's Lobby Alliance.)

I see this issue as doing some spring housecleaning -- by taking the time to focus on how and why we interact with each other, we build an organization strong enough to survive crises and strong enough to support both us and our principles when we need support.

To begin with - the Houston Area Council of NOW Chapters. As many of you know, we've been working within an informal structure for several months. Unfortunately, this loose structure fostered different assumptions and appeared to escalate misunderstanding between the chapters. Due to these problems, we have made a decision to develop formal bylaws and policies. The proposals that came out of the small committee delegated to make them, are a first step towards building NOW power in Houston.

However, the consensus reached does not reflect the vision I had for a Council of NOW chapters. I would like to see NOW strong enough in Houston to make elected officials answerable to NOW because they cannot ignore our strength, among other things.

An excellent example of this type of strength is the Gay Political Caucus in Houston. The GPC through hard sustained effort has built an organization from which candidates seek endorsement. The GPC did not focus on electing gay politicians - they focused on developing raw political power, i.e. they held politicians responsible at the voting booth for their actions. As important, they did not, when working for an acceptable candidate, lose sight of their GPC identification. Therefore the candidates could not afford to lose sight of the GPC priorities.

To develop this type of strength requires not only hard work (a resource not lacking in NOW) but a commitment to the idea of a strong National Organization for Women.

One might ask "Why a Council? Why not just have one big chapter in Houston?"

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<p>Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 pm NOW at UH Business Meeting</p> <p>Discussion of chapter participation in WLA Jeanne Saletan (WLA founder) will speak</p> <p>University Center</p>	<p>Thursday, May 13, 7:30 pm</p> <p>FEMINIST INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERING at JoAnn & Gerry's 4393 N. Macgregor</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 pm NOW at UH Program Meeting</p> <p>Topic: "Why NOW?" Discussion on the purposes and principles of NOW from how it got where it is to where (and how) it should go, especially in Houston</p> <p>University Center</p>	<p>Saturday, June 12, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm</p> <p>TEXAS NOW & NOW AT UH PRESENT: ISSUES ORGANIZING WORKSHOP</p> <p>Learn supporting arguments, tactics, resources for the fight for women's rights.</p> <p>University Center</p>

Judith Knee, Mid-atlantic Regional Director and Chairperson of National NOW's Bylaws Committee called after the National Board meeting April 16, to report that the Board could not support our proposal. In part this was because what we were proposing was "substantive", not "clarifying" according to NOW's official parliamentary. Probably more important however, according to Judy, is the unanimous feeling as revealed by the discussion, that allowing such a change is in fact giving someone outside NOW control over who can be a NOW member.

Judy urged that we work to develop more understanding among members and national officers (i.e. lobby everybody) and put off formal consideration until the 1983 Convention. She also pointed out that all the people who have to plan the 1982 convention are concerned that this particular convention will be very "political" since we will be choosing a whole new leadership team. If the ERA is not ratified, that also will make it a more than average exciting convention in which bylaw proposals could get lost.

If we decide to go ahead and make it a proposal for a bylaws change (rather than ask for the Board to agree to "clarify" their interpretation of Article III i.e. change it), we must, to get it on the agenda, get the support of two states, or of 50 chapters, or of 500 members.

Judy suggested that in order to make it a proper proposal for a bylaws change, we submit the underlined addition to Article III.

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

SHOULD FEMINISTS VOTE FOR A "PRO-LIFER"?
(letter to Frances Farenthold)

Dear Ms. Farenthold,

I am writing in response to your endorsement letter of Tom Bass. It is always important to learn the views of politically active women.

I am very disappointed in it's content. I cannot imagine what the 'payoff' for you is. Even loyalty to an old political ally does not seem a credible explanation for your endorsement of a man who by his vote clearly demonstrated (despite his supposed support for equality between women and men) that he is either too dumb to understand what his vote said about his true feelings about women (i.e. fetuses are more important) or is susceptible to political pressure against the interests and expressed wishes of the majority of his constituents or is supremely confident that women are too dumb to understand what his vote meant for women. There can have been no doubt in his mind, unless he simply refuses to believe every professional poll in Texas and nationwide, that the majority of people support the Supreme Court decision re abortion. The difference between Tom Bass and Mike Andrews is that we NOW know we can't trust Tom Bass. Support for him after his vote against women is like taking an asp to our bosoms.

When a person votes to restrict the constitutionally guaranteed right to abortion, it is a litmus test for feminists. Regardless of his protestations and yours, what his vote to close the abortion clinic at Jefferson Davis Hospital meant, ideologically, is that he does not believe that women are people who have consciences and can make wise decisions.

Continued on p. 6

This shall not be interpreted to prevent chartering of college/university based chapters which are restricted because of administrative rules to a specified "college/university community" if they are
(1) formally recognized by their campus administrations;

and

(2) not otherwise in violation of NOW's principle of non-discrimination as contained in ARTICLE II, Statement of Purpose.

We have until June 12th to solicit the necessary support and get the proposal in. We will discuss this at the next business meeting. Be assured that we can continue as a "convened" chapter in the interim period. However, we cannot be formally chartered under the present interpretation of the bylaws.

I am anxious to get us chartered because until we are we inhabit an unclear and insecure 'limbo'. It appears from our inquiries that no college/university based chapter has been chartered. That means that NOW is essentially but informally creating a "special category" -- i.e. is treating college/university chapters differently from other chapters. That is unpleasantly reminiscent of the way men treat women in male dominated groups. And when "they" don't like something you do, you lose. The OSU chapter in Stillwater is right now in jeopardy. I think every unit which calls itself a chapter should have the same rules applied to it. There should be no "slipping through the door" by some special, even mildly devious method. National NOW does have a rule that a chapter must complete the requirements for chartering within a specified time limit.

Jo Ann Evansgardner, Convenor

Feminist Notes

FRANCES T. FARENTHOLD
ATTORNEY AT LAW
3000 MAIN STREET, SUITE 032
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77008

Tuesday

Dear Doctor Evansgardner -

I am in receipt of your letter of April 16 - and I am responding to clarify some 1972 Deconated convention history. It was I that presented the minority position on reproductive freedom to the Convention and spoke to that issue on the Convention floor. The majority ~~my~~ position supported by Gong McGowan was presented by Shirley McHain. Secondly, in great part the efforts made for my candidacy for the via-presidential nomination was an outgrowth of the feminists treatment on the part of McGowan as regards the Seeking of the South Carolina Delegates and the Reproductive Freedom issue.

Further if your efforts are successful as far as the Andrews candidacy are concerned I think you should be aware that he opposes 'abortion on demand' (his language not mine) "except in the case of rape or incest"

Sincerely

Frances T. Farenthold

Women's Lobby Alliance

3

Pro

Women must gain real economic and political power in order to have equality. The National Organization for Women's statement of purpose emphasizes the necessity to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of society. Women must have equal access in the areas of education, politics and occupation. Radical changes in our society must be accomplished to realize equal opportunity and equal responsibility for women and men. Participation in the Women's Lobby Alliance is a means for NOW members at the University of Houston to effect NOW's goals.

The Women's Lobby Alliance (WLA) statement of purpose says the WLA "is organized to facilitate and coordinate the lobbying efforts of participating organizations and to educate the community about women's interests toward the creation of a society in which women and men have equality under the law and both sexes share full participation in every aspect of that society."

There are 22 organizations currently participating in the Women's Lobby Alliance. Each is represented by its legislative chair at scheduled legislative council meetings. There are no at large or individual memberships. The WLA is not an organization, but a coalition for networking and shared coordinated action.

The legislative council meetings are work sessions where bills are evaluated, progress is monitored and lobbying strategy is developed. A joint plan is made to publicize a bill (such as the 21 anti-choice bills before the last Texas legislative session) or government policy decision (currently such as axing affirmative action and restrictions on birth control for minors.) Representatives then go back to their organization members to generate letters and/or visits to legislators and administrative policy makers.

Joint press releases and letters to public officials taking a position on an issue are made in the name of the individual organizations, not the WLA. Our NOW chapter, as well as each member organization chooses whether or not to support a given action. The organization's name can never be used without specific authorization. The active involvement of NOW chapters assures the consideration of NOW concerns.

Information is gathered, exchanged and action promoted on issues such as reproductive rights, Equal Rights Amendment, sex equality in education and employment, family concerns, discrimination (sex, sexual preference, race,) violence (domestic, "defense" war, rape,) and the list could go on.

The member organizations acting together through the Women's Lobby Alliance have sponsored the following workshops: Spring '81, How to Lobby Effectively for Women's Issues; Fall '81, Women's Issues in Congress: You Can Make the Difference; Spring '82, Campaign Skills Workshop: Getting Involved in the '82 Elections.

More coordinated actions include:

- * Chartering a bus twice during the last Texas legislative session to lobby legislators and attend key committee hearings.
- * Neighborhood canvassing for reproductive choice.
- * Reproductive rights speaker training.
- * Jefferson Davis Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy Clinic controversy - alerted participating organizations to activate their members.
- * Press event at the Women's Center on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.
- * Picketing at the Right to Life Convention.

Con

NOW at UH should not renew its membership in the Women's Lobby Alliance (WLA) because:

1. National NOW policy has been generally opposed to coalitions (and/or alliances^o) except for single events, such as a rally in support of an issue that NOW supports.
2. Work that goes into a coalition is work that is not put into building a strong NOW.
3. Membership in WLA costs money which could be spent supporting the work of this chapter.
4. The WLA is essentially a competing organization.

On the first point, NOW's opposition to membership in coalitions is based on 15 plus years experience. We have learned that members of NOW consistently put more work into coalitions than have the members of the other participating organizations. Yet the decision-making in the coalition is shared among organizations. Too often the NOW positions, supporting arguments, and tactics get weakened, trivialized, or lost, because of the tendency of coalitions to defer to their most moderate, middle-of-the-road members in order to keep them in. This tendency to 'defer to the middle' reflects our political history i.e. to govern this country it is necessary to keep squarely in the middle of the road. But NOW's objective is not to govern America - it is to develop the power base to require feminist change. We are not a political party. Change organizations cannot by definition be middle-of-the-road - they must be 'out in front' not 'in the middle'.

NOW positions, arguments, and strategy are not the result of individual whim or arrogance. Lengthy collective, feminist study, discussion in feminist workshops and finally, parliamentary debate at national NOW conventions occur before any policy is adopted. They are therefore not only hard won, but infinitely more feminist than positions, tactics and strategies developed by non-feminist controlled organizations, which are in the majority in coalitions. When a coalition weakens or disowns them in its discussions or actions, NOW members experience a real and personally felt loss. Inevitably, their resulting disappointment in and criticism of the coalition produces hard feelings at best and serious rifts at worst. That doesn't have to happen very often to produce a strong antipathy to NOW participation in coalitions.

Secondly, work that NOW members put into a coalition (even when it does not result in a rejection of NOW or its policies) is essentially lost to NOW. No one who has not struggled to build and maintain a NOW chapter, council of chapters, state organization, or in the early days, a viable National Organization for Women, can perhaps appreciate how painful this loss is. By and large, NOW members have only their time, energy and work to contribute to fighting sexism. Money is scarce and the opposition is both cruel and powerful. Women who work in NOW risk more than their contribution of work. Although as women, we are well trained to put our own interests second, giving our work to an organization whose priorities, actions and agenda we do not control is denying it to NOW, which we do control and which richly deserves our support. We should not forget that if there were no NOW, there would be no recognition of our need for constitutional equality and control of our reproductive lives. Every major liberal organization was on record as opposed to ERA, except the BPW. No organization would even consider the repeal of criminal abortion laws.

(both PRO & Con continued on p. 4)

Pro

Lobbying experiences have taught how critical the electoral process is. Currently, information on incumbents' voting records and candidate endorsements by member organizations has been exchanged and is now being distributed. Information on the importance of and how to participate in the political process at the precinct level is also being distributed.

One goal of the WLA is to provide contact for equality minded individuals not affiliated with any group. Numerous individuals have joined activist organizations as a result of the policy of encouraging affiliation with member groups. Sharing information between groups has also encouraged "cross" group membership. NOW has particularly benefitted. The active participation of NOW in the WLA has enhanced the NOW image in the Houston area community. Involvement of NOW chapters in the WLA does not conflict with NOW's purpose, but provides strength for implementation of NOW goals.

Cooperation and reciprocity between organizations through the means of the Women's Lobby Alliance has provided a continual sharing of vital information. United action has been made possible which has truly resulted in the sum being greater than the parts. Together, we, will not only survive in the 80's, we will move forward.

Nancy Cowart George

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.)

Con

Thirdly, although NOW at UH voted to join the WLA last summer, paying dues to another organization as an organization, is really spending membership money improperly. People join NOW so that NOW can take action, not so that it can pay another organization to do some of it's work. Whatever WLA is providing in the way of information and coordination of actions should and is more likely to be provided through the mechanism of Texas State NOW if we give it our work as well as our allegiance.

Finally, it follows that WLA, as any group seeking to use the volunteer work of women to forward it's agenda, is essentially a competing organization, whether or not it's agenda is similar to NOW's. NOW members and chapters, working together and backed up by the resources of the strongest autonomous national feminist organization since the twenties can do the work better and faster, if they decide that that is their priority.

Jo Ann Evansgardner

Feminism Lives

We would like an evening of sisterhood* to become a regular monthly event of our chapter. A group of us met at Brenda Congdon's in April and enjoyed an evening of being with other feminists. We talked -- and laughed -- and griped --and it did our spirits good! We got to know each other better and left feeling less "alone" in the world! Our program and business meetings are so filled with activities that often we have little time for socializing/supporting one another.

The May Feminist Social Gathering will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 13 at 4393 N. Macgregor (741-4009). Try to fit the gathering or a work project (newsletter, info table, etc.) into your schedule this month and see how much better a little sisterhood* can make you feel.

* ED. Note: Sisterhood is, of course, used here as a generic term for solidarity. Men who wish to share and create feminist strength are welcome.

2nd ED. Note: Feminist Social Gathering while descriptive, is somewhat long and not very inspiring. Therefore JoAnn and I are offering a \$10 gift certificate to Heidi's (A Woman's Store - 1905 W. Alabama) for the person who comes up with the most clever title for this new concept in our chapter. The decision will be made by Brenda Congdon and Kathy Kimler Altobelli, as the prime movers of the "gathering".

Jeanne Sommerfeld

Women Seen As Political Force

by Clay F. Richards, UPI Political Writer

WASHINGTON (UPI)—If the Equal Rights Amendment dies June 30 without the approval of the three more states needed for ratification, it could unleash one of the strongest forces in the nation today.

For a decade since Congress first approved ERA, the Women's Ratification Drive. Supporters of ERA say if it is not ratified by the deadline, they will start all over again, but the political clout of women will be felt in a much different and wider reaching way the second time around.

The decade long battle for ERA has been a political training ground for women. Even if they lose the war, they have learned well how to play the game. The troops in the National Organization for Women and sister groups who

have fought for ERA now know how to lobby legislators, run candidates for office, hold news conferences, raise money, stage rallies, and effectively use both the news media and paid advertising to get their message across.

But in the coming decade these skills will not be used toward a single goal such as ERA ratification, but the whole wide range of issues facing women ranging from family, crime, jobs and related economic issues. Most impor-

Please turn to Pg. 6, Col. 1

ERA Countdown



April 1, 1982
to
June 30, 1982
91 Days

Nourishing Ourselves

Body and Soul



WOODY SIMMONS

in Concert May 18

Woody Simmons is a musician whose music will re-vitalize you in way that top 40, etc., can't. She is extraordinarily talented, having not only written the music and arrangements for her new album, but also produced it.

COME TO THE UNITARIAN CHURCH AT 5210 FANNIN ON MAY 18
and hear Woody's music
Tickets are \$6

This concert is produced by Hazelwitch Productions

Issue Organizing Workshop

Texas State NOW will sponsor an all day workshop on Saturday, June 12th, at the University of Houston Central Campus in Houston. The workshop, "Organizing Activities on Feminist Issues," will be a nuts and bolts approach to setting up task forces and doing effective actions. It will cost \$3.00 for pre-registered NOW members, \$5.00 at the door. Non-NOW members fee is \$5.00, preregistered or at the door. No NOW member will be denied participation because they cannot pay. However even those who cannot pay must pre-register to be assured a spot.

The topics to be covered include:

- * An overview of organizing taskforces
- * Carrying out the NOW program locally
- * Working with the Media
- * Setting up a speaker's bureau
- * Action Activities/outreach
- * Participating in hearings
- * Petitioning and phonebanking
- * Fundraising

While these are general activities that are part of all issue task forces, the speakers will give specific examples of how these techniques can be and were used and the results. It is imperative that feminists be prepared to organize against bad legislation at Federal, state and local levels. This workshop will help prepare individuals and chapters to work on issues.

Many people have approached Texas NOW because they wanted more information on organizing their issue. This workshop will provide it. Experts on these topics will speak at the workshop. They include: Yvonne Broach, Rema Lou Brown, Elaine Kimzey, Pat Kuhlmann, Jeanne Saletan, G.K. Sprinkle, Jan Stevens, and Vicky Worsham. These Texas NOW leaders will share their skills and experience with you.

In order to provide the best facilities, please fill out and return the registration form below. The fee includes a kit on organizing a task force. The kit is available for \$2.50 for those who cannot attend the

workshop. Child care will be available free; please indicate your needs on the form. In order to provide the best possible child care please respond by June 1.

Make checks payable to Texas NOW. Please send completed form and check to NOW at the University of Houston, Box 509, U.C., 4800 Calhoun, Houston, TX 77004 before June 8, 1982.

REGISTRATION FORM

Organizing Activities on Feminist Issues
Saturday June 12th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

I will attend, enclosed is my \$3.00 as a NOW member

I will attend, enclosed is my \$5.00 as a non-NOW member

I can't attend, please send me a kit for enclosed \$2.50.

I will need special equipment. Indicate need: _____

I will need child care. Children's names and ages: _____

 Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Charge at door is \$5.00 for everyone.
 No NOW member will be turned away because of inability to pay, but please preregister to assure spot.
 Send check and form to NOW at U.H., 4800 Calhoun, Box 509, U.C., Houston, TX. 77004 before June 8, 1982.

NOW at UH has received a request for a letter of support to be included in a grant application packet. Sylvia Sanchez, a doctoral student in the College of Education and Professor Judith Felix are submitting a proposal for an educational equity grant for minority women.

The grant is designed to prevent the double discrimination in education among racial, ethnic and/or linguistic minority girls and women. Among

their goals are the establishment of a Skills Bank relevant to areas of concern to the education of minority women and promotion of research concerning both policies, practices and attitudes which lead to this double discrimination and policies which would promote educational equity.

We have invited Prof. Felix and Ms. Sanchez to present their proposal to NOW at U.H. at our May 5th business meeting. Please try to attend.

President's Column, from p. 1

Multiple chapters within a city provide increased leadership opportunity and training, and the possibility of addressing issues particular to a given locality. A council of NOW chapters does not pre-empt individual chapters' autonomy. What a Council can do is to combine strength in numbers with gained expertise in organizing into a structure that can focus OUR strength in the most politically effective way.

On another level, the Texas NOW Task Force Chair, G. K. Sprinkle, has put together an Organizing Workshop to take place on our campus on June 12th. This workshop was conceived because of the influx of new members into NOW (particularly evident in Houston where we had four new chapters become active this year.) It is designed to introduce old as well as new members to tried and true methods of issue organizing. It will show you how to take your energy and direct it in the most efficient way. Workshops of this nature send participants back to their chapters and lives stronger and better equipped to fight for women's rights.

One more positive note (pun intended) The Margie Adam's Concert was a tremendous success. Not only did we enjoy, we made money. Over 400 people attended, participated in a vibrant exchange of energy with Margie, and went home inspired. NOW at UH received 40% of the net income (profits) - resulting in the addition of \$151.27 to our depleted treasury.

Finally, at our May business meeting, Jeanne Saletan, founder of Women's Lobby Alliance and Bay Area NOW member will present the case for our continuing membership in WLA. (Elsewhere in this newsletter, Nancy Cowart George and Jo Ann Evansgardner have written pro and con essays.) Please consider this issue and try to attend the business meeting.

Jeanne Sommerfeld

We invite contributions to gleanings - short newsnotes of interest to women and feminists.

Feminist Notes. from p. 2

Practically, what his vote meant, and your support for him can be interpreted to mean, is that right wing attacks on poor women are OK, just so long as he supports the ERA, a few jobs for "qualified" women, and plays the game according to the old, liberal rules. But be reminded, when ERA is enacted it will initially at least be meaningful and useful only to women with the resources and money to use it to defend themselves; jobs for "qualified women" will not be very much help to the "unqualified" poor, and playing the game according to old, liberal rules is counter productive for women. The right to choice, right now, is what poor women need. Some number of such women in Houston are right now going to pay with the rest of their lives for the lack of it. Some may have already died for the lack of it.

I intend to work to defeat him, and to encourage every feminist I know to do likewise. And I am writing this letter to you to protest your endorsement. Your support of him reminds me of an article Germaine Greer wrote about the 1972 Democratic convention in which you and other self-acknowledged feminist women participated in support of another "liberal" man, George McGovern who also betrayed us on this issue. At the time I was offended by her conclusion that "Women sold themselves cheap." Now I have some personal sense of what outraged her.

I have several "litmus tests" that I apply to politicians, and feminists, who have responsibilities to constituencies, such as intelligence, fair-mindedness, justice for the poor and under-represented -- but support for each individual woman's right to the integrity of her body is absolutely bottom line. The politician who cannot support this does not deserve our support and votes, nor can s/he qualify for the proud title of feminist.

Sincerely yours,

Jo Ann Evansgardner, Ph.D.

We invite contributions to "Feminist Notes" - a page of opinions on feminist issues.

Texas NOW Labor Task Force

Barbara Bensch, Texas NOW Labor Task Force Chair is interested in compiling a list of NOW members who are also union members. This list will help her both in providing resources to chapter task forces on labor and in outreach to labor unions.

If you are a union member, please send your name, address, phone number, occupation, your union's name and local to: Barbara Bensch, Oglesbee Village, Route 9, Bx 3, Huntsville, TX 77340.

All information will be kept confidential.

Texas NOW/PAC

Political Action Committees (PACs) are an important new tool in electoral politics. The right wing National Conservative Political Action Committee (NC/PAC) demonstrated this all too clearly in last November's elections. Texas NOW has organized NOW/PAC to be used for (or against) campaigns here in Texas. NOW/PAC has requested NOW members to contribute a mere 1% of their annual income to support our PAC.

Please send your contributions, in whatever amount you can afford, to: Phyllis Tucker, NOW/PAC, c/o NOW at UH, Box 509 UC, 4800 Calhoun, Houston, TX 77004

Gleanings

Firm found negligent in tampon suit

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — A federal jury found Procter & Gamble Co. negligent Wednesday and ordered it to pay \$300,000 for the death of a woman who developed toxic shock syndrome after using its Rely tampons.

The decision was a victory for Michael Kehm, who filed suit against Procter & Gamble claiming the tampons were responsible for the death of his wife, Patricia, 25, in September 1980.

Kehm, a 29-year-old service manager for a car dealership with daughters ages 4 and 1, said immediately after the verdict that he was "trying to collect" his thoughts and would comment later.

Frank Woodside, a lawyer for the company, said P&G representatives were disappointed in the verdict, but felt the company itself had been cleared since the jury did not award punitive damages.

The trial, which began April 5, was the second trial against Procter & Gamble involving toxic shock. Earlier this year, in Colorado, a jury found P&G liable but awarded no damages to the plaintiff, a young woman who recovered from TSS.

Four Cedar Rapids doctors, including one who performed an autopsy on Mrs. Kehm, testified she died of TSS. Procter

& Gamble claimed a uterine infection, stemming from Mrs. Kehm's use of an intrauterine device, was responsible for her death.

Kehm's attorney, Tom Riley of Cedar Rapids, based his case on two main points — that P&G did not adequately test Rely and that the company had evidence of problems with the product but failed to warn its customers.

Toxic shock syndrome was identified and named in 1978. But it was not until 1980 that the federal Centers for Disease Control noted an increase in reported cases and that the vast majority involv-

ed menstruating women, nearly all of whom used tampons.

Symptoms of the disease include diarrhea, vomiting, high fever, low blood pressure, a sunburn-like rash and peeling of the hands and feet. It is a rare disease, striking about five people per 100,000 and has a mortality rate of about 5 percent.

P&G withdrew Rely from the market on Sept. 22, 1980, six days after the CDC issued its second study, which said women who used Rely were two or three times more likely to contract the disease than women who used other tampon brands.

'Roget's Thesaurus' drops sexist words

LONDON (UPI) — Roget's Thesaurus, the reference book used by writers to find the perfect word for 130 years, banned "male chauvinist" terms from its new edition after a three-year editing project, the Sunday Times reported.

The word "mankind" has been replaced by "humankind," the word "countrymen" is now "country dwellers" and for "rich man" Roget's suggests "rich person" instead, the report said.

Editor Susan Lloyd said the sexist words were dropped to make the language less misleading.

"In Roget's day, if you used a word, 'caveman,' people probably had a mental picture of cavewomen and cavechildren as well as cavemen.

"But research has shown that if you use the word 'caveman' today, people think of men, not women," Lloyd told the Times.

Miss Lloyd was responsible for the overhaul in which 20,000 words were added or reclassified to cleanse the reference book of "male chauvinist" tendencies, the newspaper said.

glean v. gleaned, gleaning, gleans—to gather (grain) left behind by reapers. To collect (knowledge or information, for example) bit by bit: "records from which historians glean their knowledge".

(American Heritage Dictionary)

Southwestern Bell agrees to \$47,700 settlement in sexual harassment case

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. has agreed to pay \$47,700 in an out of court settlement to a senior stenographer who alleged sexual harassment by her supervisor in a federal court trial.

The settlement was reached Tuesday after a lawsuit filed by Maria Y. Gamez, 35, of Pasadena, had been in a jury trial for 4½ days in the court of U.S. District Judge Woodrow Seals. The case had not yet been submitted for jury deliberations.

By the terms of the settlement, Mrs. Gamez will be paid \$30,000, another \$2,700 for court costs and will receive a Bell transfer to Milwaukee. Her attorney, David Lopez, will be paid a \$15,000 fee by Bell, he said.

Mrs. Gamez alleged in her lawsuit, filed last June, that while employed as a stenographer in Bell's Houston marketing department she was denied promotion and told she would not progress unless she submitted to the sexual advances of her supervisor. The supervisor has denied the charges.

Marlin Gilbert, an attorney for Bell, said Bell agreed to the settlement "as a matter of trial tactics" but declined to be more specific.

He said the sexual harassment case was "the first one in the Bell system." He said the supervisor's current status with Bell is "a personnel matter."

All-woman team prepares to scale 22,493-foot mountain peak in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (UPI) — An all-woman climbing expedition from the United States pitched its last high-altitude camp and geared for an assault on Mount Ama Dablam's 22,493-foot summit, the Ministry of Tourism said.

In a radio message on Sunday to the ministry, a team member said the women pitched the camp at 19,619 feet a week ago and planned in recent days to make their first bid for the top of one of the world's highest mountains.

The team member said all nine climbers were in good health and weather conditions were fine.

Susan Giller, 29, the team's leader from Boulder, Colo., said in the Nepalese capi-

tal before departure for the peak, "We hope to climb the mountain in two groups of four climbers. But everything will depend on the condition of the mountain."

The last high-altitude camp was the second beyond base camp at 16,100 feet.

"The climb beyond the second camp will be especially difficult, involving ice climbing," Miss Giller said in Katmandu. "It will be rocky. It is steep, and there is very little to hold onto."

The women — eight Americans and one Swiss — were ahead of schedule for the climb, which is the first ascent on the southeast ridge of the mountain. They had expected to reach the 22,493-foot summit by May 15.

Suit demands veiled judges

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A suit has been filed before Pakistan's highest Islamic court challenging the appointment of women judges who refuse to wear the chador, the head-to-toe veil.

The suit contends such appointments violate the teachings of the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

THE WIZARD OF ID by Parker & Hart





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.

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
 (complete text)

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



Calendar

MAY, 1982

Wednesday, May 5, 7:30 pm - NOW at UH
 Business meeting in University
 Center. Discussion of chapter
 participation in WLA. Jeanne
 Saletan (WLA founder) will speak.

Thursday, May 13, 7:30 pm - Feminist
 Informal Social Gathering at
 Jo Ann Evansgardner's - call her
 for directions.

Tuesday, May 18, 8 pm - Woody Simmons
 Concert - Unitarian Church,
 5210 Fannin, \$6. Call Jeanne
 Sommerfeld for information.

Wednesday, May 19, 7:30 pm - NOW at UH
 Program meeting in University
 Center. Topic: "Why NOW?"
 Discussion on the purposes and
 principles of NOW, from how it
 got where it is to where (and
 how) it should go, especially in
 Houston.

Sunday & Monday, June 6-7

ERA WON'T GO AWAY DAY

in State Capitols of 4 best bets,
 Florida, Illinois, North Carolina
 and Oklahoma. Plan NOW to be in
 your nearest state capitol for
 one or both of these days. Look
 for airline bargains, etc., in
 order to be there. Plans for this
 4 state show of strength are
 being finalized NOW.

Saturday, June 12, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.

University Center

NOW ISSUES ORGANIZING WORKSHOP

Learn supporting arguments,
 tactics, resources for the fight
 for women's rights.