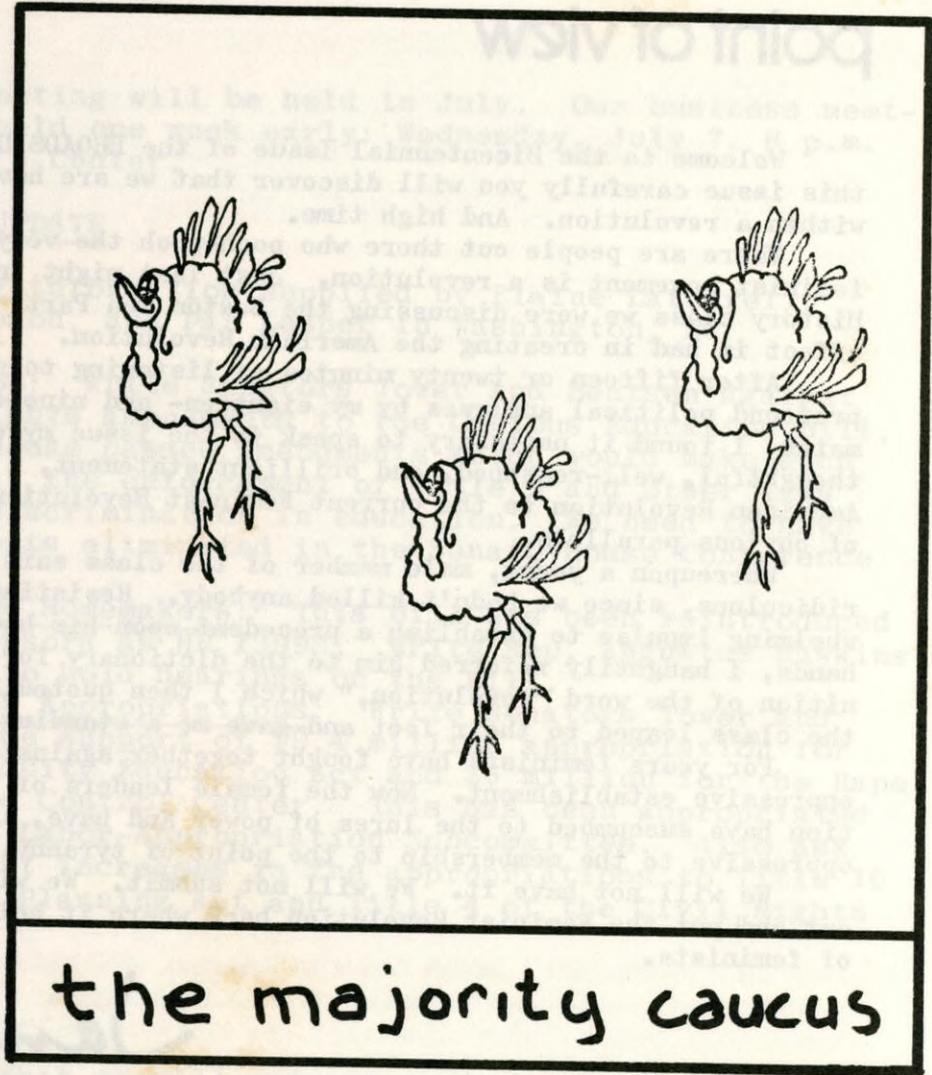


BROADSIDE



Vol. 7, No. 7

Houston Area NOW

July 1976

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point of view

Welcome to the Bicentennial Issue of the BROADSIDE. If you read this issue carefully you will discover that we are having a revolution within a revolution. And high time.

There are people out there who pooh-pooh the very idea that the feminist movement is a revolution. Just last night in my American History class we were discussing the Boston Tea Party and the catalytic effect it had in creating the American Revolution.

After fifteen or twenty minutes of listening to somewhat less than profound political analyses by my eighteen- and nineteen-year-old classmates, I found it necessary to speak to the issue myself. In my deep, thoughtful, well-reasoned, and brilliant statement, I likened our own American Revolution to the current Feminist Revolution, citing all sorts of obvious parallels.

Whereupon a young, male member of the class said such a notion was ridiculous, since we hadn't killed anybody. Resisting an almost overwhelming impulse to establish a precedent upon his body with my bare hands, I haughtily referred him to the dictionary for the precise definition of the word "revolution," which I then quoted. Amazingly, half the class leaped to their feet and gave me a standing ovation.

For years feminists have fought together against a male-dominated, oppressive establishment. Now the female leaders of our own organization have succumbed to the lures of power and have, in turn, become oppressive to the membership to the point of tyranny.

We will not have it. We will not submit. We will throw the rascals out and put the Feminist Revolution back where it belongs--in the hands of feminists.

Jan

broad·side

- 1: a sheet of paper printed on one or both sides and folded
- 2: any strong or comprehensive attack, as by criticism
- 3: the simultaneous discharge of all the guns on one side of a ship

ALERT!

No program meeting will be held in July. Our business meeting will be held one week early: Wednesday, July 7, 8 p.m. at the Women's Center.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following information supplied by Elaine Latourell, Melissa Thompson, and Pat Leeper in Washington, DC:

Education: Write Senators Tower and Bentsen against anti-civil rights amendments to the Omnibus Education Bill, S2657. The House passed amendments which would make much more difficult the enforcement of Title 9 and other laws prohibiting discrimination in education. We need to have these amendments eliminated in the Senate-House Conference Committee.

Displaced Homemakers: This bill has been reintroduced with more sponsors as HR 13993. Write Rep. Augustus Hawkins and urge him to hold hearings on the bill.

Labor-HEW Appropriations: Write Senators Tower and Bentsen to urge support of \$9.4 million appropriation for the Women's Equity Education Act and \$6 million for the Rape Prevention and Control Center. This has been appropriated by the Senate Labor-Appropriation Subcommittee. Also ask them to support increases in the appropriations to Title 10 of the Family Planning Act and Title 4 of the Civil Rights Act.

ALERT, ALERT!

Don't forget that we will vote on a proposed bylaws change regarding our local election procedures at the business meeting to be held August 11.

Abortion: Keep the pressure on both Representatives and Senators not to interfere with a woman's right to choose. The forced-pregnancy people continue to be active and so must we.

Betty Barnes

A SUMMARY OF RECENT EVENTS

or,

Those Turkeys Are Still At It

In Atlanta....

Every NOW member in the Southern Region received prior notice of the Southern Regional Conference held in Atlanta April 23-25. That notice contained a preconference registration blank with an explanation that any member could request a partial or full waiver of the registration fee by simply making a written request prior to the conference. People who showed up at the Conference without making such prior requests were charged the full registration fee.

During a discussion of adoption of the Rules of the Conference on Saturday morning, a motion to allow waiver of the registration fee at the door failed, 71-76. A motion to allow registration at a reduced rate failed, 76-88.

Saturday afternoon, Martha Gaines was overwhelmingly elected Southern Regional Director by about 130-50.

During the plenary session, a resolution was introduced that "no NOW member be denied attendance at any regional conference" (a back-door attempt to guarantee waiver of registration fees at any time). This resolution was substantially defeated.

In Abilene....

A resolution identical to the resolution introduced in Atlanta was defeated and the procedure adopted by the Southern Regional Conference was approved.

In Cleveland....

The NOW National Board met the weekend of June 5-6. The first item on the agenda was consideration of the invalidation of the Southern Regional Conference. They discussed the agenda for 10 hours. During the discussion a motion was made that the matter of the Southern Regional Conference be referred to a committee for conciliation and that, meanwhile, Martha Gaines be seated on the Board. The motion failed by a vote of about 20-9, with Martha Gaines voting. A point of order was then raised that Martha should not be voting and she was told not to participate. At that point, Martha stated that the Southern Region did not recognize the Board's authority to invalidate the Conference and that she was the Southern Regional Director and would continue to act as such.

The Board then voted to invalidate the Southern Regional Conference and declared that Martha Gaines was not the Southern Regional Director.

In addition, the National Board angered the Midwest Region by: (1) Trashing the Illinois ERA mobilization, and (2) Refusing to appoint a nominee of the Midwest leadership to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Wendy Winkler, appointing instead a Majority Caucus sympathizer

In Pittsburgh....

Eleanor Smeal, Chair-One of the National Board, sent a letter dated June 12 to all Chapter Presidents in the Southern Region. The letter notified the South that the Board had invalidated their Conference and had voided the election of Martha Gaines. The letter went on to state that the Board would appoint a new Southern Regional Director and polled the chapter presidents as to whether they wanted: (1) a written poll by the National Secretary; (2) another Southern Regional Conference to be held within 90 days; or (3) reaffirmation of the appointment of Martha Gaines.

REACTION FROM THE MIDWEST:

Mary Anne Sedey, Midwest Regional Director, had a few things to say to the National Board. Excerpts from her statement follow:

"Your peremptory closing of the national office was designed to get the administration of the organization out of our region. As a result, the administration has been in turmoil for six months.

We offered you one of the Midwest's finest leaders, who came to you with the overwhelming support of the region. You chose to repudiate the will of the Midwest and in an act of political patronage appointed one of your own.

You have trashed the most successful national action of the year. Our president has called into question the principles of those who do not support her, implying that our feminist vision is somehow not correct. She doesn't know what our vision is because she doesn't talk to us.

Not content to punish the South, you have also punished us for our independence from you. At the recent Midwest Regional Conference, an overwhelming majority of those present voted to establish a committee to investigate the fiscal and administrative condition of the national organization and propose a plan to protect Midwestern chapters. It is their intention to make specific recommendations to change the nature of the Midwest Region's relationship to National NOW."

july

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
<p>WOMEN'S CENTER 3602 Milam 524-5743</p> <p>Mon-Thur 7-10 PM Saturday 12-3 PM</p>	All Meetings at Women's Center unless otherwise noted.				1 Pam Hamilton	2 Closed
4	5 Closed	6 Glenna Cloud	NOW Business Mtg. 8:00 p.m.	Employment Counseling 8 p.m.	9 Closed	10 Marian Chenier
11 Closed	12 Cindy Millis	13 Donna Duerk	HCWPC Policy Mtg. Unitarian Church 7:30 p.m.	15 Beverly Horton	BROADSIDE Deadline	Women's Center Clean-Up Day 12 - 3
18 Closed	19 Claire Noonan	20 Suggie Casey	HCWPC Program Mtg., Unitarian Church, 7:30 p.m. Employment-Compliance TF, 8 p.m.	22 Norma Lee Ann Robinson	23 Closed	24 Renee Rabb
25 Closed	Employment Discrimination Counseling 8p.m. 26 Mark Delaquaize	27 Catherine Curtis	HCWPC Program Mtg. Unitarian Church, 7:30 p.m. 28 Denise Krause	29 Chris Meave	30 Closed	31 Jan Pierce



REACTION FROM HOUSTON AREA NOW:

At the business meeting held June 9, 1976, members of Houston Area NOW voted unanimously to send the following letter to the NOW National Board of Directors:

"We are appalled and disgusted by your recent decisions at the National Board Meeting of June 5-6.

You have obviously decided to follow an elitist, bigoted path taking unto yourselves the authority to make all decisions for the entire National Organization for Women. It is ironic that a group which appointed itself in a manner which violated the bylaws of NOW should presume to tell an entire regional conference that it must obey the exact interpretation of the bylaws that the non-elected group decides is right.

You may consider yourselves to be an all-knowing elite who can command the peasants. We do not view you in such a light nor do we view NOW as a body where the membership's role is to obey the orders of the self-established elite. The membership of the National Organization for Women demands and expects decisions of the organization to be reached in a democratic fashion, by majority rule.

The Southern Regional Conference was a meeting where decisions were reached democratically--with full discussion and then majority vote. Are you, who call yourselves the "Majority Caucus," afraid of majority rule? Do you fear that if the majority of NOW members make the decisions in NOW, you and your actions will be repudiated?

Martha Gaines was overwhelmingly elected by the vast majority of Southern Regional Conference attendees, in accordance with the NOW national bylaws. You presumed to declare her election invalid and to choose a Southern Regional Director for the South. Yet most of you are NOT from the South, so this action was in violation of the national bylaws.

You decided to treat the South differently from all other regions. You decided to make rules after the event and apply them to that event. Making an action illegal after the fact is contrary to fundamental principles of justice and liberty.

In addition, due to real economic discrimination, Helen Cassidy was not present at your meeting to voice the wishes of the majority of the Southern NOW members. Were you so afraid of Helen's voice that you refused to give her travel money in time that she might attend? Or did you simply wish to express further your prejudice toward an entire region of the nation? Or was the failure to reimburse her promptly simply another example of your continuing incompetence and ineptitude?

You have violated every principle of democracy, decency, and justice in your actions, not only toward the South but also toward the Midwest.

You have exposed yourselves for the elitist bigots (rather than feminists) you are. In Philadelphia some of you spoke of Chapter Rights and the grassroots. We now see that you meant none of that.

Your illegal, illegitimate actions of June 5-6 are indicative of a deep and abiding illness in NOW. This cancer is destroying us.

Unable any longer to stomach your continuing destruction of NOW and the Feminist Movement, the Houston Area Chapter of NOW hereby repudiates your actions and denies your authority. We will move without National so we can work on feminist concerns unhindered by your undemocratic, stupid, and incompetent actions. We will work with other chapters in the South through our Regional Director, Martha Gaines.

We want to create a new feminist society and we will do it in spite of you."

We do it

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BROADSIDE STAFF:

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Jan Pierce
Marion Coleman
Bert Clapp
Debbie Ryan
Carolyn Elliott
Denise Krause
Renee Rabb

ABORTION INFO

* EMPLOYMENT-COMPLIANCE

LEGISLATION

MASCULINE MYSTIQUE

MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC RELATIONS

* SEXUALITY & LESBIANISM

SPEAKERS BUREAU

* UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

* WOMEN'S CENTER

* denotes active task force

Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152

Pam Hamilton, Linda Smith

Betty Barnes 487-2489

Craig Roberts 524-6517

Nancy Kuykendall 664-4152

Helen Cassidy 524-3009, 748-5369

Pokey Anderson 526-7828

Ann Robinson 528-7454

Beverly White 782-1768

Nancy Landau 783-8547

Renee Rabb 524-5743

TEXAS NOW NEWS

New Texas NOW officers elected at the recent State Conference held in Abilene include Barbara Duke of Austin, State Coordinator; Tommy Brent of Beaumont, State Communications Coordinator; and Teri Chandler of Dallas, State Treasurer. Frances Hicks of Bay Area was elected Region Two Membership Coordinator. The next Texas NOW Council Meeting will be held in Austin on July 17 at the Women's Center.

*****GOLD STARS*****

Thank you, Anonymous Benefactor, for giving After You're Out, a fascinating book, to our library. Thank you, Charlotte Poole, for the garbage bags and batteries for the phone-answering machine. Extra special thanks to Chris Meave for mowing our pitiful grass. Thanks for the work crew for additional yard work: Linda Jones, Nancy Kuykendall, Renee Rabb, Jan Pierce and Elyse Peavy. Kuykendall receives a purple heart (with ovarian clusters) for cutting her finger with the hedge clippers. It's healing nicely.

FEDS WAFFLE

Insiders report that the federal government is crawling on the idea of establishing separate credit files for married folks (one file per spouse). If you're basically opposed to couples being joined at the hip in the sight of god, country, the IRS and the Greater Houston Credit Bureau, complain to: Secretary, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve Board, Washington DC 20551. Docket #R-0038.

John Pierce, currently on assignment in Rio de Janeiro as BROADSIDE Bureau Chief of South American Affairs, will be returning to the United States in the near future. We look forward to his reports which we feel will reflect a global perspective hitherto missing in this publication.

The Editor



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- I enclose \$ _____ as a donation to Houston Area NOW.

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