



NOW

THE
broadside

HOUSTON CHAPTER
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Vol. 3, No. 8

BROADSIDE

December 1972

...  *here is neither*

male nor female:

for ye are all one

in Christ Jesus.

Gal. 3:28

broadside

SIMULTANEOUS DISCHARGE OF ALL THE GUNS ON ONE SIDE OF A WARSHIP . . . ANY STRONG OR COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK, AS BY CRITICISM . . . A SONG, CHIEFLY IN 16TH- AND 17TH-CENTURY ENGLAND, WRITTEN ON A TOPICAL SUBJECT, PRINTED ON BROADSIDES, AND SUNG IN PUBLIC . . . , BY A PROFESSIONAL BALLADEER . . .

THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, UNABRIDGED EDITION

Comment

The Houston Women's Center will open Saturday, January 6. We plan to have the Center open from 10 to 4 Saturdays and from 7 to 10 weekday evenings. Meetings will be permitted to continue past closing time and task forces may use the building at any time.

Persons will be asked to sign up as Center "supervisors" for an evening or Saturday. A sign-up sheet for January will be available at the December NOW meetings.

The "supervisor" will have the key to the Center and the workshop. She/he will stay at the front desk to be receptionist, librarian and the telephone operator.

The Center will have a "work board" which will have notes concerning work needing to be done, such as addressing, typing, filing and cleaning. We will be an equal employment opportunity employer. Anyone, regardless of sex, race, age or ability, will be put to work.

The Center is seeking feminist books and magazines for its library. If you have feminist literature you would like to share, drop it by the Center.

We are also soliciting office equipment. If you know a possible source, please let me know (or pursue it yourself). Donations will be tax deductible. Initially we need desks, tables, chairs, file cabinets, typewriters and general office supplies. Of course, we will accept more exotic equipment or furniture, such as rugs, projectors, etc.

Childcare will be another area needing volunteers. We would like to provide childcare for all meetings at the Center. Willing "babysitters" will be asked to sign up. The person chairing a meeting will be responsible for arranging for a child care person.

We also will need toys, books, and games for the children. TV would probably be a blessing on crowded nights. Bring your donations by the Center when it opens, January 6.

For those who missed it, the cleaning and painting were fun, probably because of the good company. Plan to be in on the other projects.

Parrish Hirasaki

P.S. NOW 1973 dues should be paid by January. Pay now and help us open the Center with everything complete and the budget in the black. Save National NOW the additional expense of mailing out bills, which they plan to do February 1. Send your renewal payments to NOW, P.O. Box 58202, Houston 77058. We will forward the National dues before the deadline.

BROADSIDE STAFF

EDITOR: Susan Hedding
ART DIRECTOR: Geny McConnell
CONTRIBUTORS: Parrish Hirasaki
Martha Mc Ferren
Jan Jackson
Yolanda Garza

NOW OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Parrish Hirasaki
333-2297
VICE PRESIDENT: Peggy Hall
528-3424
SECRETARY: Muncy McKinney
944-5534
TREASURER: Ann McClung
488-0148

TASK FORCES AND COORDINATORS

BROADSIDE: Susan Hedding
667-5443
CREDIT: Susan Butler
664-9534
EDUCATION: Kay Whyburn
667-8556
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Parrish Hirasaki
333-2297
FUND RAISING: Marlyne Kilbey
664-4121
MEMBERSHIP & ORIENTATION: Geny McConnell
481-3601
POLITICS & LOBBYING: Helen Cassidy
748-5369
REPRODUCTION & ITS CONTROL: Jeanne Necaize
665-3287

National Organization for Women
P.O. Box 58202
Houston, Texas 77058

If you have a question about Houston NOW or any aspect of women's rights, call one of the following numbers:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| A.M. | P.M. |
| 333-3270 | 333-3270 |
| 748-5369 | 748-5369 |
| | 333-2297 |

Because guest parking at the University of Houston is virtually non-existent, members are asked to ride to meetings held on campus with persons who have U of H stickers. We have approximately 25 members all over town willing to provide rides.

Call Melva Burnam at 465-9059 to get the names and phone numbers of those near you.

TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION

In addition to the Houston Independent School District, there are numerous small school districts in the immediate Houston area. The Education task force is planning to attend textbook hearings in each of these districts in order to present non-sexist alternatives to the many discriminatory books presently in use. To do this the task force needs volunteers.

Kay Whyburn, task force coordinator, will have a calendar of the local district hearings and volunteers may sign up at the December business meeting. The group plans to have training sessions in January to prepare volunteers for the hearings.

REPRODUCTION

The Reproduction and Its Control Task Force is planning a Medical Referral Service to be conducted from our new Women's Center. As a part of this service, we will be compiling a list of Houston area physicians (particularly obstetricians and gynecologists) who have provided high quality care to women. We need your help in creating and maintaining this list. If you have had personal experience with a physician whom you would like to recommend, please call Tess Wells, 864-0314. We will need the physicians's name, address, approximate fees, his attitude and approach toward women, and any other remarks you feel are relevant. This works the other way, also. If you have had a bad experience with a local physician, we'd like to know about it.

MEMBERSHIP

While there are no orientation meetings for the month of December, the Membership and Orientation task force will resume the monthly series of four sessions in January.

Geny McConnell, task force coordinator, reports the November orientation program a real success. NOW has gained new members who are not only enthusiastic, but also knowledgeable about all phases of the movement.

Beginning with the January sessions, the orientation program will be open to all NOW members.

EMPLOYMENT

A formal complaint filed by the Employment task force against Rice University is currently under investigation and the group expects a decision from the HEW compliance office shortly.

Members of this task force are interviewing NOW members to ascertain whether local employers are complying with federal guidelines concerning discrimination. Where noncompliance is found, letters will be sent to the offending company stating that NOW is aware of the problem and will take action if corrections are not made within a reasonable period.

FUND RAISING

The fund raising task force will sponsor a "Seminar On Contemporary Women" to be offered during the spring semester at the College of the Mainland. This series will be part of the school's continuing adult education classes and Houston

NOW will receive \$400 for its sponsorship.

The Seminar will consist of eight lectures to be given by local feminists. Participating will be: Marlyne Kilbey; Carol Weiner, Helen Copitka, Helen Cassidy, Jeanne Necaise, Peggy Hall, Jan Glover, Muncy McKinney and Parrish Hirasaki.

FEMINIST HISTORIAN TO SPEAK

Carol Weiner, Ph.D. historian, will discuss major cultural influences on Western culture and on women's lives at the December 6 business meeting at the University of Houston. Dr. Weiner teaches a course on "History of Women" at the U. of H., and a history course at Texas Southern University.

Discussion will be open this meeting on the proposed resolutions to be offered at the NOW National Conference. (See November minutes elsewhere this issue.)

U OF H TO OFFER FEMINIST COURSE

The University of Houston is offering a course on "Psychology of Women", led by Dr. Marlene Kilby, this spring semester for a three-hour credit (#490T, section 5738). The class will meet from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays.

The course will include discussions of biological and psychological differences of the sexes, both theory and data (results of empirical investigations), feminist writings, and projects by the students. The fall semester's course had 32 students, including five males.



JOIN **NOW** SUBSCRIBE TO THE BROADSIDE
(Members receive issues free)

- I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF NOW (\$15.00)
- I AM NOT A NOW MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSPAPER (\$3.00)
- I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ TO NOW

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
P. O. BOX 58202
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058

MINUTES

"NO ONE IS LIBERATED IN A SEXIST SOCIETY"

November 1 -- Parrish opened the meeting with a reminder for all members interested in attending the NOW National Conference to have their 1973 dues in by December 7. Only paid members will be allowed to vote at the convention.

A resolution was suggested that the National Convention be discussed at the December meeting. Two additional resolutions were brought to the attention of the group so that they may be considered before a December vote.

The first of these resolutions proposed that the next National Conference be held in Houston and that there should be guidelines for scheduling future National Conventions. The second resolution introduced the possibility of creating a national task force on Women Over 40. Suggestions and thoughts on these resolutions will be welcomed at the December business meeting.

The National Conference of Jewish Women has formed a group known as "Justice for Juveniles" to investigate discrimination in detention centers, juvenile homes, etc. Contact Sandra Lerner, 729-7623, if you are interested in working with this group.

Parrish opened the program, titled "Favorite Comebacks to Most Often-Asked Questions," with a list of relevant employment facts:

*In answer to the statement, "Women don't need to work," 35% of working women are single; 35% of the husbands of working women earn less than \$7,000; and only 30% of working women are married to men making more than \$7,000.

Although more than 40% of the workers in the U. S. are women, 27% earn less than \$5,000 (compared to 7% men), and only 2% earn over \$11,000 (compared to 30% men).

*Women stay on a job longer; 5.5 years for women as opposed to 5.4 for men.

Helen Cassidy then spoke on ways to prepare yourself to speak on the subject of feminism and a means of defense when you are speaking to a group.

Helen described her first speech, "I thought I needed stacks of notes, but I found that no one opposed to my point of view had a rational objection. You must remember, however, when you go to speak you must have

a sense of humor. After all -- you are right, they are wrong."

In answer to a question about bra burning, Helen suggests, "When we talk about freedom and equality, you talk about underwear. Any woman who burns her bra is crazy -- it's the only support we have."

The most effective response to a hostile man in the audience is to remain polite and soon the women in the room will begin to turn on the man.

The question, "But my wife runs me anyway," is best answered by reminding the man if his wife had a life of her own she would leave him alone.

Helen states the best answer to the question, "Are you a liberated woman?" is to reply, "No one is liberated in a sexist society."

Helen bases her belief in the movement on the fact that it is humanistic. "Our culture is based on the dual roles of dominance (male) and submissiveness (female). If we teach little boys to win in sports, then they will want to win in Vietnam. If they are told not to cry, they won't learn tenderness.

"These stereotyped roles have warped our culture and we are all being rendered impotent by this society. Women have been impotent for years because of this. It is possible to share power without participating in the dominant/submissive death grip of our culture.

The final question was, "Do you believe in women's liberation?" to which Helen replied, "Aren't I a woman?"

Marlyne Kilby

Ph.D. PSYCHOLOGIST

announces the opening of an office for the practice of radical therapy for women.

664-2313

2211 Bellefontaine

Houston, Texas 77025

NOW ACTIONS ACROSS COUNTRY

FLORIDA

Jacksonville NOW has incorporated a profit-making entity, Options, Inc., as "one attempt to meet the needs of funding services for women while at the same time creating employment and job training for women."

Options, Inc. will feature a retail store for paperback books and handcrafted items, a NOW business office, a research and lending library, meeting rooms and a crafts workshop. Women will be taught how to make craft items in their own homes as well as in the workshop.

About 25 people have agreed to purchase shares of stock at \$25 per share, with NOW seeking more stockholders.

NEW YORK

The Feminist Sexuality Project of NOW is sponsoring a survey to discover women's real, but often unspoken preferences in relations to sex. The results will be publicized in order to give better definition to the feelings of women concerning sexual matters.

To do this, the project is circulating a questionnaire (anonymously). For a copy, write to S. Hite, Feminist Sexuality Project --NOW, 28 East 56th Street, New York, New York 10022

Women Make Gains In Texas Legislature

Harris County made political history by electing two women to the Texas Legislature.

Senfronia Thompson, 33, a Democrat, and Kay Bailey, 29, a Republican, will serve in the House of Representatives.

The only other woman from Harris County to serve in the legislature is Sen. Barbara Jordan who was elected representative for the newly created 18th Congressional District. Barbara is the first black woman from the south ever to be elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.

Senfronia was unopposed for

representative of District 89, and Kay, a lawyer and television personality, defeated her Democratic opponent, William Adair, in a race in District 90.

One of the most exciting state legislative races was in Fort Worth where Republican Betty Andujar, a member of the State Republican Executive Committee upset Democratic Representative Mike Moncrief for a Senate seat.

Other women in the Texas House of Representatives will include--Eddie Bernice Johnson of Dallas, Sarah Weddington of Austin and Chris Miller of Fort Worth.

Calendar of Events

| 1972 | | DECEMBER | | | | | 1972 |
|------|-----|----------|-----|-------|-----|-------------------------------|------|
| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT | |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 <i>1917 W McKinney</i> | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 <i>Jay Evans</i> | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

JAN. 18 -

DECEMBER 2 -- HOUSE PAINTING. Come to the Houston Women's Center, 3602 Milam to help with interior painting. Bring brushes and rollers if you have them. 9:30 a.m. until it's finished!

DECEMBER 6 -- NOW BUSINESS/PROGRAM MEETING. Child care available. University of Houston Student Center, Corpus Christi and Fort Worth rooms. Meeting begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. Come at 7:30 and socialize. Carol Weiner, Ph. D. historian will discuss major cultural influences on Western society and on women's lives.

DECEMBER 13 -- FUND RAISING TASK FORCE. 5840 Gulfton #86. Home of Jeanne Necaie. 7:30 p.m. This meeting will formulate plans for a Feminist Film Festival.

DECEMBER 13 -- REPRODUCTION AND ITS CONTROL TASK FORCE. 5840 Gulfton, #86, home of Jeanne Necaie. 8:30 p.m.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Essay

Male Member Uncertain Concerning Men's Place In Women's Movement

(Ed. note. All NOW members are urged to submit essays concerning any phase of the Revolution. If you wish, essays will be published anonymously.)

People, both men and women first become involved in the movement in many ways. There are two main divisions. There are those who are already in the movement and then become radicalized and others who are already radicalized and then join the movement. My entrance took the form of the latter.

Rummaging around a bookstore, I came across a novel by Marge Piercy. Its theme was the youth revolutionary movement and it intrigued me. I found myself gathering books on the youth movement, the SDS, etc., and suddenly subscribing to the Los Angeles Free Press and the East Village Other.

In the course of "studying" other revolutionary movements I found myself carrying books home; books such as the Female Eunuch, Sisterhood is Powerful and Woman in Sexist Society. I would sit crosslegged by the bed reading them to my wife. She became interested, and although I encouraged her to join, I found my feeling ambivalent about my own involvement in this particular aspect of a cultural revolution. I was unsure about the reception a male would receive. After my wife attended several meetings alone, I finally went with her.

The first thing I noticed was the way women began to come out of themselves at these meetings. I found these women gathering themselves together and you could almost feel the suppressed rage and hostility. It seemed as though for many years these women had found themselves in untenable positions. And yet didn't know what to do about it.

Although they had all of the things society considers desirable, two cars, disposals, etc., they were

miserably unhappy. It seemed as though past reaction had been to blame themselves and all of a sudden they found themselves with other women who felt the same way. It dawned on them that perhaps the problem was not with themselves, but with the culture. Suddenly they were not wrong -- society was.

This seems almost immediately to convert to hostility and anger. Once the tension was redirected from guilt to anger they began almost a catharsis of emotion, venting their hostility.

One of the things I like about NOW is that it provides an outlet for this energy once the catharsis has taken place. It seems to me that NOW cures this rage and redirects it to meaningful goals.

In reading about splinter groups in the movement such as the redstockings, and the early feminists, I saw that many became ingrown and are now defunct because consciousness-raising became an end in itself with no action. NOW provides both consciousness-raising and action so that when a NOW member is asked, "What is it that you do?", there is an answer. They can talk about abortion reform, equal employment, childcare or any one of a number of things.

As a male, I am very ambivalent about the extent males should become involved in the Revolution. I have had and continue to have many problems with this. There are sections of the women's movement that do not allow men to become members, and I am not so sure they may not be correct.

Men have problems as well as women, but the basis of the oppression of white men is not sex. While it's true there are certain things required of men because of their sex, the enemy of men is not sexism.

Black people have said that their enemy is not segregation -- it is racism. Women have said their enemy is not discrimination -- it is sexism. White males need to find their enemy

and thereby define themselves, for it is by defining your enemy you define yourself. And for want of a better term, I shall refer to their enemy as inhumanity.

From a male point of view, any liberation movement teaches us something. The black movement has not taught us what the women's movement has, and will, teach us. Most whites were not exposed to the growing pains of southern blacks, but everyone knows (or as Sam Ervin says, "has") a woman.

To me, the movement asks two questions:

Are you a chauvinist? There are many devious ways to answer no to that, but if you decide to take the bit in your teeth and answer, "Yes, I am a chauvinist," then you are not through with it.

Because the second question is, "What are you going to do about it?" And as long as you are in the company of women, this question is going to be repeated over and over again.

And if you do decide you are going to do something about it; if you decide you are going to stop being a chauvinist. If you say to yourself I will no longer be a part of the oppression, then you have gotten yourself into a very tricky situation.

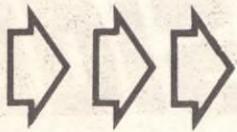
In order to abandon chauvinism, one must abandon the bulk of his cultural conditioning. While he is doing this, he is subject to the censure of other men and also many women.

The question for men is -- is it worth the price?

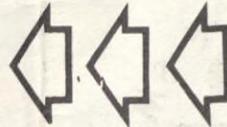
I think it is. I believe that although my reason for thinking this is not clear to me, it is exemplified by the things I have seen in the company of women who are liberated. I have noticed a real increase in the ability and capacity of women to love each other. The competitiveness of the early movement has withered to allow women to be more honest. And this to me is the most encouraging sign of all.

For if women, who have traditionally been taught to be competitive with other women, can learn to love each other, then perhaps so can men.

Nevertheless, I don't believe the elimination of sexism would solve the problems of women, at least not totally. Just as the elimination of capitalism wouldn't necessarily solve the problems of men. I think men are going to have to begin their own liberation movement. But it will not be a male liberation movement -- it will be a human liberation movement. And it will be led by PEOPLE, regardless of sex.



Recommended Feminist Reading



Fatherless children and husbandless mothers have always been classified into a special niche in American society -- illegitimate children to be pitied and their mothers to be scorned. Although this is not always so today, the change in attitude is agonizingly slow.

Two recent books deal with this subject, but through extremely opposite points of view. Although one will make you laugh and the other make you cry, they are not to be missed.

MOM, THE WOLFMAN AND ME. By Norma Klein, Pantheon Books (ages 10 to 14), \$4.50.

"They have to have been married," she said, "You couldn't have been born otherwise."

Eleven year old Brett has no trouble setting her friend straight. She is a matter-of-fact, unselfconscious child who refuses to consider herself pitiable. In truth, Brett feels kind of sorry for everyone else -- for her friends who have regular parents, her neighbor whose divorced mother spends all her time desperately seeking another husband and for all children who must endure a set bedtime, an organized meal or a patronizing attitude.

When Theo (a bearded bear of a man who Brett dubs the Wolf Man) enters her mom's life, Brett fears the worst -- marriage. Brett likes her life just as it is. And through her eye of perception, we share the tension of the novel: will Mom and Theo go the the way of all flesh --

from love to marriage to baby carriage?

LOVECHILD, By Mary Hanes, Lippincott, \$5.95.

In this candid and absorbing account of unwed motherhood, Mary Hanes suddenly finds that love for her newborn son does not come easily.

The men in Mary's life seem to intensify her self-absorption, "There was no one I cared about at all, when you got right down to the warm-in-the-skin level."

At the last minute, she is rescued from her alienation (somewhat melodramatically) by a consciousness-raising women's group. Mary welcomes "the great rush of first self-love, an exhilarating, powerful joy. . . God damn it, I was a human being."

Mary at last finds herself falling in love. Although still somewhat confused, the outlook is promising.

The story of hate and prejudice, of helplessness and despair and triumph is not an easy story to read, but it must not be missed. Every woman who has had to fight to discover her worth as a human being will find strength in this powerful book.

February Conference Not To Be Missed

"Revolution: Tomorrow is NOW" is the theme of the 6th NOW National Conference to be held in Washington, D.C., February 17-19.

The conference will follow NOW tradition and be a whirlwind of education, excitement and entertainment. No NOW member who can afford to go should miss this opportunity.

Several thousand feminists from all over the nation will gather to plan the next steps in the Revolution. Workshops will be conducted on all phases of the Women's Movement. National Task Force Coordinators will share plans and achievements with interested feminists, so that there will be a great exchange of ideas and opinions from diverse sources.

Meeting the dynamic women who are leaders in the Movement is itself enough to make the trip worthwhile.

Persons planning to attend the

National Conference should be a 1972 member of NOW or have paid dues by December 7. Many NOW members are expected to attend the Conference and there is a chance that registration will be limited.

Plane fare will be about \$150 based on a minimum of 16 in the group. Hotel rates at the Statler-Hilton, where the conference is being held, are \$18.00 single, \$13.50 double and \$10.00 triple. You may make other arrangements yourself.

The plane will leave Houston on Friday evening, February 16. The return reservation will be for Monday p.m. However, the special fare allows for persons to return on different flights.

Persons planning to attend the Conference should get the following form to Parrish Hirasaki or Poppy Northcutt as soon as possible.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE RESERVATIONS

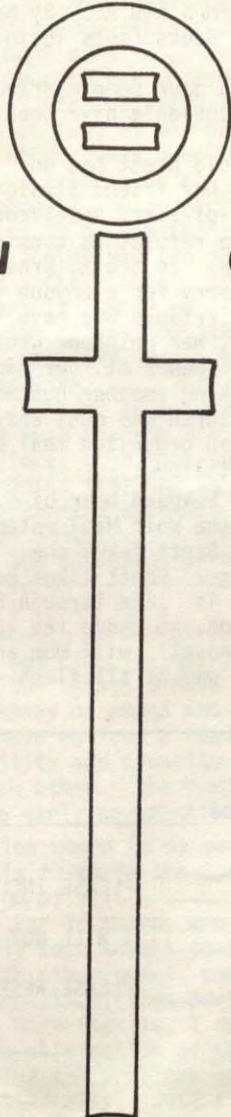
Name: _____ Phone: _____

- ____ PLEASE INCLUDE MY RESERVATION IN THE GROUP AIR FARE.
- ____ I WILL NOT RETURN WITH GROUP AND WILL MAKE MY OWN RETURN RESERVATIONS.
- ____ PLEASE RESERVE A SPACE FOR ME AT THE STATLER-HILTON.
- ____ SINGLE, \$18.00
- ____ DOUBLE, \$13.50
- ____ TRIPLE, \$10.00
- ____ I NEED _____ PERSON(S) TO SHARE MY ROOM.

RETURN TO PARRISH HIRASAKI, POPPY NORTHCUTT OR MAIL TO NOW, PO BOX 58202, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058.

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