

BROADSIDE

1979

JANUARY

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HOUSTON AREA N.O.W.

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Six years ago this month, the Supreme Court of the United States decreed that the right of a woman to bear a child or to terminate an unwanted pregnancy was a matter for that woman to decide for herself. For the first time, the element of choice, not chance or legal edict, would control the childbearing or non-childbearing of American women. The scenes we had witnessed and the stories we had heard of butchered women and botched self-abortions would no longer be seen or heard in the land. Women could now decide for themselves whether they would be mothers, doctors, teachers, mechanics, students, or any combination of any of these and an unlimited number of other life choices. The self-determination of American women would no longer be frustrated by laws that made it legally,

financially, and/or socially compulsory for women to accept a childbearing role that they did not want, could not afford, or were not physically or psychologically suited for. Did the dream of freedom of choice really come true?

The answer is both yes and no. A new consciousness did begin to rise in the land in the minds of hundreds of thousands of women and men. Children should be wanted; women should decide their own destiny; to be or not to be a parent should be an individual act of conscience. At the same time, however, a hard-core, well-financed, politically-motivated and inspired entity began to emerge and play on the passions of those who were bewildered by the change or did not understand the concept of personal choice or who found the new freedom an affront to their religious or moral beliefs. Poor women were the first to lose the freedom of choice, an act of Congress no less. Clinics, doctors, the pregnant women themselves were harrassed and intimidated. The call went out for a constitutional amendment that would prohibit all abortions. States were targeted, Texas one of them. The steamroller continued.

This story does not need to end as it seems it must. Houston Area N.O.W. has endorsed and supports a series of workshops that will take place Saturday, January 20, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in room 116 of the Science and Research Building of the University of Houston. The topic will be the freedom of choice and what we can all do to preserve it. Speakers will include Father Joseph O'Rourke, national head of Catholics for Free Choice; Patricia Beyea, director of the ACLU Campaign for Choice, and others. Workshops will cover many topics and will feature such contributors as Dr. Nikki Van Hightower and Billie Carr. For information or an offer to help, call Joan Glantz at 524-5925. There will be a \$3 registration fee.

STATE COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a meeting of Texas State N.O.W. on Saturday, January 20, in Austin. If you are interested in attending and want more information, call Jan Stevens at 445-2220 in the evening. It's a delight to meet with and come to know many of the other Texas feminists who hail from all over this large state of ours.

TITLE IX

For those of you interested in learning more about the work going on here in Texas in the area of monitoring Title IX compliance, plan to attend a workshop later Saturday after the State Council meeting. It will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the home of Barbara Duke, 1803 Pearl, in Austin. The purpose of this workshop will be to show concerned persons how to use Title IX monitoring kits to work with local school districts. For more information, call Frances Hicks at 488-8574

NATIONAL NOW TIMES

If you are not receiving your National NOW Times, free to every N.O.W. member, write to 425 13th St., NW, #1048, Washington, D.C. 20004. It is a wealth of information.

JANUARY MEETINGS

Houston Area N.O.W. has changed its long-standing meeting dates from the first and second Wednesdays of each month to the first and second Thursdays. In addition, we have a new home for our gatherings, the World Trade Center, 1520 Texas. There will be no program meeting on the first Thursday this month; however, our business meeting will take place Thursday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium on the first floor. There is parking space on the side of the building, and we do urge you to exercise appropriate caution in going to and from your car in the city night. This meeting is open to all interested persons and is a good way to get to know all of us in Houston Area N.O.W. We are certainly interested in getting to know you!

DUES

You may have noticed that national, state, and local membership dues have risen to \$30.00 per year. This is due to an increase in national dues from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Your money, your moral support, you yourselves are the ingredients of the success that the women's movement has enjoyed. Continue your support of N.O.W.'s efforts to achieve equal rights and dignity for all of us, women and men.

COPY DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting items for the February Broadside will be January 22. Please send your announcements or observations to our address on the back page or call me, Linda Jones, at 933-0962 in the evenings.

USEFUL NUMBERS

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OF THE

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N.O.W. CONTACTS

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Bay Area N.O.W.	Dorothy Howard	486-0752
Southwest N.O.W.	Lynn Mutchler	665-5773
Northwest N.O.W.	Regina Pongrass	492-2945
Montrose N.O.W.	Peggy Hall	522-4468

USEFUL NUMBERS

W.I.R.E.S. (Women's Information and Referral Exchange Services)
527-0718

Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union
869-9530

Rape Crisis Coalition
(Through Crisis Hotline) 228-1505

Shelter for Battered Women
(Through Crisis Hotline or W.I.R.E.S.) 228-1505 or
527-0718

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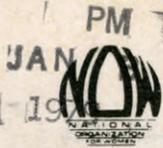
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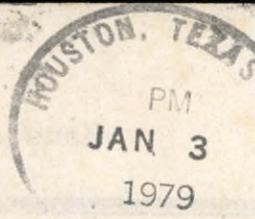
broad·side

- 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

The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Houston Area N.O.W. or N.O.W., Inc.



Houston Area N.O.W. Chapter
 National Organization for Women
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HERIZONS

Address Correction Requested

BROADSIDE

IS FREE WHEN YOU JOIN NOW.

- I want to join N.O.W. and enclose \$30 for chapter, state and national dues.
- I enclose hardship dues of \$16.50 for chapter, state and national dues.
- I'll pay in two equal monthly installments of \$15.00 (regular) or \$8.25 (hardship).
- I want to subscribe to BROADSIDE and enclose \$4.
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Mail this form to:
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 Houston, Tx 77006

My U.S. Congressperson is _____
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