

# N.O.W. NEWS

Bay Area Chapter

National Organization for Women

Volume VII, Number 11, November 1979



The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Bay Area NOW or NOW, Inc.



## PROGRAM MEETING

### THE ABORTION ISSUE AND THE 1980 ELECTION

7:30 p.m., November 1  
Speaker: Ms. Joan Glantz

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church  
1515 Eldorado (at Cobre Valley)

Joan Glantz, with NARAL and the ACLU, will speak to us on the politics of the anti-choice organizations. She will also discuss some of the current ACLU court cases dealing with abortion.

Program coordinator is Lynn McGregor. Contact her at 488-1901 for further information.

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Bay Area NOW welcomes physically different persons. Our meeting facilities are not always barrier-free, but we are accessible and will be pleased to provide any needed mobility assistance. Given notice, we will try to provide an interpreter for deaf persons and any required assistance for the blind. For further information call Cynthia Sutton at 488-7936.

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NOVEMBER CALENDAR--BAY AREA NOW

- Saturday October 27 all day Texas Abortion Rights Action League (TARAL) second annual meeting, Austin. "Advocacy in the '80s". Call Lynn McGregor at 488-1901 for further information.
- Sunday October 28 12:30 pm - 4:30pm Pro Choice Workshop. Autry House, 6265 Main. See ad elsewhere in newsletter for details.
- Thursday November 1 7:30 pm Bay Area NOW program meeting, Clear Lake Presbyterian Church. Program Coordinator Lynn McGregor; see newsletter cover for details.
- Saturday November 3 8:00 pm Houston Area NOW party, 4600 S. Main Suite 217. All invited.
- Sunday November 4 Isquierda Ensemble. 524-0342 for details.
- Thursday November 15 8:15 pm Bay Area NOW fundraiser for the B.R.A. and local projects. Clear Creek Country Theatre production of "Butterflies are Free." Call Evie Whitsett, 488-1757 for ticket info.
- Saturday November 17 Texas NOW State Council meeting. Call Phyllis Tucker, 944-0033.
- Sunday November 18 National NOW training for Texas activists. Call Jeanne Saletan, 471-2862 for details.
- Saturday and Sunday November 16 and 17 Women's Craft Fair, University of Houston. See details elsewhere in Newsletter.
- Wednesday November 21 7:30 pm Bay Area NOW Business Meeting, 1529 Bonanza, Clear Lake City. Call Evie Whitsett, 488-1757 for details.
- Sunday December 2 8pm Feminist Film Series, Off the Wall Productions, call 524-0342
- Wednesday December 5 7:30 pm Bay Area NOW monthly program meeting--PARTY! Note change of day. Mark your calendar.
- March 9 - June 1 The Dinner Party will be at UH/CHC; for details call Margorie Randal, 488-4396; see also details elsewhere in newsletter.
- .....

Wednesday December 5, Bay Area NOW will be treated to music b Houston's feminist singer/songwriter Rawslyn Ruffin, and magic tricks by our own Peggy Cook. The occasion will be a program meeting/Christmas party combined. Each member is requested to bring wine, bread and cheese, or other munchies. Guests are welcome.

Rawslyn recently opened the Therese Edell/Betsy Libbett concert in Houston and can be heard between women's concerts at the club at Rice University, where she majors in music composition.

For more information call Bonnie Huval, December program coordinator, at 331-0444

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ERA EMERGENCY

National NOW is requesting Public Opinion Messages to President Carter in the case of Idaho vs. U.S. Judge Marian J. Callister has ignored the Justice Department request that he step down for this case, saying that he can render an impartial verdict. The case will test the constitutionality of the time extension for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the rescission process. Judge Callister is regional Representative of the Mormon Church, which strongly opposes the Equal Rights Amendment and the time extension. President Carter can have the Justice Dept. appeal Judge Callister's ruling that he will try the case.

POMs are \$2 (no confirmation copy) for 15 words and will be billed to your phone. Call 1-800-325-5300 to send messages from yourself and family members. Samples: 1) We need a chance for a fair ERA extension trial. Appeal Judge Callister's ruling.  
 2) Conflict of interest: Appeal Mormon Elder Callister's decision to rule on ERA extension and rescission; 3) Callister is member of Mormon hierarchy-opposes ERA and extension. Is fairness possible? Appeal!

B.A. NOW Minutes of Sept. 6, 1979

Marj Randal and Twiss Butler were unanimously elected as Bay Area NOW's delegates to the Women's Resource Advisory Council at the brief business meeting which followed Barbara Tilley's presentation, "Ethical Issues in Human Reproductive Technology: An Analysis by Women."

A chapter fund raiser was proposed for February. Nora Mertz, Evie Whitsett and Jean Bettencourt are the committee to arrange the Lasagne Dinner.

Additionally, program coordinators volunteered--Wendy Rudnicki will plan April's program and Sandra Linton will plan February's or March's program--depending on the final date set for WW IV at UH/CLC by WRS (Translation: WW IV is Women's Week #4; WRS is Women's Resource Services; UH/CLC is a local institution of higher learning that is/is not (circle one) an equal opportunity employer).

Evie Whitsett asked all members to help with ticket sales to the Clear Creek Country Theater fund-raising presentation of the play, "Butterfiles are Free." The tickets are \$5.00 for the November 15 performance.

Evie further informed the members that the Handicapped Women's Task Force was going to use part of its funds to meet part of the expenses to transport the Task Force Chair to the national NOW convention in L.A. She urged B.A. NOW to aid in funding others.

The conflict between the date of the chapter's October meeting and the departure date for B.A.'s convention delegates was noted by Evie. It was determined that it might be possible to meet Oct. 3 rather than Oct. 4, but a site had to be confirmed. The chapter authorized Evie, Marie Stimson and Rema Lou Brown to make all necessary arrangements.

Jeanne Saletan announced that the picketing of the border of unratified states would take place in Texas Sept. 22. Jeanne, as coordinator of the Louisiana effort on I10, asked for help in creating the signs to be used. She circulated a sign-up list for participants and announced that sign makers would meet Sept. 11 at Evie Whitsett's home. Texas NOW T-Shirts for the picketing were on sale for \$5.00.

Ann Cook offered members season tickets for the Off The Wall productions:

- Oct. 5 Robin Tyler
- Oct. 7 Women Folk Singers
- Nov. 4 Izquierda Ensemble
- Dec. 2 Film series

All of the programs, except for Robin Tyler, are to be at Fitzgerald's at White Oak and Studewood. Robin Tyler is to perform at UH Agnes Arnold Hall.

Marj Randal, Christina Haight and Rema Lou Brown brought the news that Dean Cal Cannon at UH/CLC liked the idea of the university hosting the DINNER PARTY and that Chancellor Newman had suggested that the UH/CLC would sponsor the showing of Judy Chicago's tour de force of women's art and women's history. The tentative schedule is March 5-June 2. It was suggested that letters of support and appreciation be written to the chancellor--UH/CLC; 2700 Bay Area Blvd.; Houston, Tx. 77058.

---submitted by Rema Lou Brown

Following is a partial list of chapter positions and resource persons:

Coordinator	Evie Whitsett	488-1757; 488-1777
Treasurer	Marjorie Randal	488-4396
Newsletter	Melissa Weiksnar	528-2283
	Pat Kuhlmann	488-3278
Phone Tree	Cynthia Sutton	488-7936
	Sandy Anderson	554-6416
Publicity	Judy Blanchard	488-1718
Visitors	Gail Anderson	538-1084
	Bonnie Huval	331-0444
Newsletter ads	Peggy Cook	471-6353
Archives and Library	Dorothy Howard	486-0752
Rape & Abuse	Nora Mertz	554-6738
Reproductive Rights	Lynn McGregor	488-1901
Texas NOW and Lesbian Concerns	Phyllis Tucker	944-0033
Textbk. Review	Elizabeth Glenn	482-1067
Aluminum for FRA	Betty Yancy	337-1383
Legal Info	Kay Whyburn	749-3117*
	*Day #: 667-8556 (night)	
Title IX	Twiss Butler	333-4764
ERA	Jeanne Saletan	471-2862
Consciousness Raising	Jane Markley	334-5057

NOVEMBER 15th! NOVEMBER 15! NOVEMBER 15! NOVEMBER 15! NOVEMBER 15! NOVEMBER 15!

That's the date to circle on your calendar! Be there! And if you can't be there, send someone or send money! That's our big fundraiser for late '79. This will be our big special performance at Clear Creek Country Theatre of the play, "Butterflies Are Free." It's a delightful play revolving around a young blind man trying to survive on his own with the added handicap of an overprotective mother and a zany young actress adding obstacles to his life.

The significant factor about this performance aside from a night of entertainment is that all profits from ticket sales will be split between Bay Area NOW and the NOW Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Fund. This is a most important activity and we need the help of everyone in the chapter - from selling tickets to hosting to attending to handing out programs to serving champagne to cleaning up to having fun! PLEASE attend the 11/1 program meeting and sign up for some phase of this project - and also purchase tickets for yourself and your friends. We will also need someone with artistic ability to help with a pre-printed insert to the program and donation acknowledgment sign for the lobby. See Pat or Evie at the meeting. Let's make this the biggest fundraising gala the Chapter has ever had! (Evie 488-1777; Pat 488-3278). You'll have an opportunity to sign up in person at the meeting. However, if you can't be there, please call.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING - by Lynn McGregor

Janis Guerny and Betsy Houghs presented a skit and talk on the giving and getting of welfare in Texas. The problems faced by both the recipients and case workers were discussed. It was brought out that Texas is 48th of the 50 states in the amount given to AFDC (a woman with 1 child receives \$85/mo), that case workers have 150 or more clients to try to assist, and that Texas has a ceiling of 2% of the state budget that can be spent on welfare. The speakers urged us to write to our representatives for more money for AFDC and the Dept. of Human Resources. They also suggested we join IMPACT - a lobbying organization, both state and national, for welfare rights.

The following issues were presented during the business portion of the meeting-

- Freddie <sup>Chadix</sup> announced the film and discussion of the Nestle Boycott to be held Oct. 18 at House of Prayer Luthern Church.
- Marge <sup>Rundel</sup> suggested we give a donation of \$25 to a Uniting Church in memory of Sonja Doughty's husband and mother. It was approved.
- Rema <sup>Brown</sup> Lou announced the AAUW fund raiser to be held Oct. 20th.
- Evie <sup>Winters</sup> brought up several items
  - Suggested we donate \$50 to a Uniting Church as a user of their building to help with fire damage restoration.
  - Had a petition to President Carter to fulfill his pledge for gay rights.
  - Mentioned the newsletter ad for Baubles & Beads
  - The Dec. meeting may be in the Harris Cnty. Park Building.
  - The weekend of Oct. 6th five chapter members would be attending the National Conf. in Los Angeles.

Join NOW: Make check payable to Bay Area NOW, mail to Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Hou 62.

- I would like to become a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW, and National NOW (\$27)
- I am already a National NOW member and wish to pay chapter and state dues (\$7)
- I want to join but need a scholarship
- I am not a member but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for one year (\$4)
- I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to NOW
- As a NOW member, I authorize my name, address, and phone(s) to be listed on the chapter roster.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to NOW

projects locally \_\_\_\_\_

11-79  
4/12



# more than ever

BY  
BETH  
HUDMAN

## NOW Conference Makes History

The 1979 Convention of the National Organization for Women met in Los Angeles, October 4-7. Attended by approximately 3,500 people, including 850 delegates, the convention was highlighted by election of national officers to lead us into the '80s. Eleanor Smeal, current president, was unopposed for re-election, as was Judy Goldsmith, current vice president-executive. Jane Wells-Schooley defeated incumbent Arlie Scott for the position of vice president-action, Sandra Roth defeated Sharon Parker to retain her seat as secretary, and Alice Chapman defeated incumbent treasurer Eve Norman.

Ellie Smeal and the candidates she supported formed a slate, or team, which prompted the emergence of scarves and buttons emblazoned, "Nobody tells me how to vote", demonstrating the independence of NOW members. The team was elected, but with differing margins of victory so that Ellie was not given rubber-stamp approval. Every candidate pledged strong support for all of our issues, stressing that we are a multi-issue organization. ERA remains the top priority, with a strong legislative program for reproductive rights in the works.

One hundred and eleven resolutions were presented by the delegates, but only seven reached the floor for consideration. Those receiving approval call for:

- A massive national ERA campaign, including thousands of ERA Action Teams, lobbying, grass roots organizing, a strong presence not to be ignored at the 1980 Democratic and Republican conventions, boycott intensification, and "continuing focus on ERA ratification as NOW's highest priority."
- A comprehensive reproductive rights campaign, declaring these as "issues of life and death for women, not mere matters of choice".
- Steps toward "eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace."
- Strengthening NOW's "entire organizational effort in behalf of lesbian women," recognizing their double oppression.
- Support for Marguerite Gamble's race and sex discrimination suit against the University of Minnesota School of Medicine.

A resolution calling for the National NOW Times to be a "vehicle for debate" was defeated, and a resolution supporting an ERA march in Richmond, Virginia in January was referred to the ERA Strike Force.

All the resolutions will be available at the November 1 meeting if you'd like to look them over. *The National Board will consider all "left-over" resolutions.*

The opening ceremonies for Saturday morning's plenary included NOW's first marching band. San Fernando Valley (CA) chapter provided stirring music as the state banners from the July '78 March on Washington were carried in. Our ERA ratification campaign colors of green and white were worn by most occupants of the ballroom. President Ellie Smeal gave the keynote address, and those extending Greetings included Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, California Judge Joan Dempsey Klein, and California Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Elizabeth Bird.

One basic change in the by-laws was up for consideration--calling for re-opening conference voting to all NOW members rather than the current delegated conferences--but the body voted to table this change.

The Gala on Friday night really was grand. Singer Vicki Randle and her band gave an incredible high-energy show, and Holly Near and Margie Adam were typically great. California Governor Jerry Brown also stopped by that night to welcome us to California and to let us know he's running for President.

After the fun on Friday it was time to caucus again. Whatever special interest you could think of had a caucus to discuss the resolutions and listen to the candidates. Though they get tiresome at times, a lot of good information was shared at the caucuses.

And that describes the convention--parliamentary manoeuvring sometimes got old, but there was so much going on, so much to see, so much to learn, that the convention theme is really true--NOW, more than ever!



#### REPORT FROM NATIONAL CONFERENCE - EVIE WHITSETT

Five Bay Area NOW members attended conference this year: Phyllis Tucker, Dorothy Howard, Beth Hudman, Marie Stimson and Evie Whitsett. It was an exciting, exhausting, energizing experience! Start planning NOW to attend next year!

#### ANTHONY DOLLARS FOR ERA

Bay Area NOW turned in \$174 at conference to put Susan B. Anthony back to work for the Equal Rights Amendment. Lynn McGregor added five more Anthonys to the fifteen requested by National to fill the roomy pill bottle supplied. Other contributors were Ann Pine, Cyndi Sutton, Sandra Linton, Susan Keene, Melissa Weiksnar, Twiss Butler, Freddie Chiddix, Pat Kuhlmann, Marjorie Randal, Evie Whitsett, Marie Stimson and an unidentified person\* whose contribution was handed to Pat at the "Adam and Even" production moments before she went on stage as a last-minute fill-in! Thanks to all!

\*It was determined later after Pat regained her senses that the contribution had come from Adele Wallace. Thanks, Adele!

#### TWO NATIONAL ERA WORKSHOPS - OVERVIEW AND OUTREACH

Since the ratification deadline extension, NOW headquarters has kept an intentionally low profile, but has been very active. There has been no effort to get an unratified state to vote on ERA, but in all 12 states that had rescission efforts, NOW has been active and successful. A flexible and varied activist recruitment and training program is underway. Training for activists has taken place in 22 states. Activists come in many forms: ERA "nightfighters", full-timers at home, on-call for assignment elsewhere for two weeks or longer. Most volunteer their time and expenses, but National does fund some expenses and a very few salaried positions are available. A wide variety of literature is available. Tasks assigned to such activists vary greatly.

Sunday, November 18, there will be an all-day training session in Dallas. Since State Council is in Fort Worth the day before, several chapter members will make a weekend of it. (Call Phyllis Tucker at 944-0033 for details). Jeanne Saletan will have details of the activist training at the November 1 program meeting, or call her at 471-2862.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE TEXAS BORDER DEMONSTRATION

The billboard event reported on in BANOW NEWS last month (10-79) was so successful that we wanted to share the idea with other states and with National. Betty Yancy got a bundle of the 9/24 UofH Cougar newspapers which devoted 2/3 of the front page to the demonstration. Marjorie Randal mailed a copy <sup>of the Cougar and the front page of the "Evolution"</sup> to the 50 state coordinators and Evie Whitsett took a stack to National Conference along with Jeanne Saletan's flyer "How to Make Signs For ERA Border Picket of Unratified States At No Cost." At the close of National Board on Thursday, October 4, board members were given copies of both, and Barbara Duke, board member from Austin, made an announcement. During the ERA Outreach Workshop, Evie gave a brief summary and passed out the flyer. The 40-50 present were very enthusiastic and many asked for more details throughout the rest of the conference. A woman from Illinois expressed strong interest and was given the only available copy of the 10/79 BANOW NEWS, plus Jeanne's phone number. On Saturday, for the opening plenary session, everyone was requested to wear green and white. The Texas delegation featured many of the border demonstration tee-shirts.

\* at chapter expense (total \$10.80)

At the November 1 meeting, copies of all printed matter will be available and the sheet 'billboards' are to be picked up. If you don't need to take your sheet apart to re-use it, please keep it intact just in case National or Texas decides to do a re-run.

WORKSHOP TAPES

Marie Stimson attended the session on Reproductive Rights: Tactics of the Radical Right Wing. Dorothy Howard covered the workshop on Membership at the Chapter Level. Both purchased tapes on the topics that will be available for check-out from the library. Dorothy-(486-0752).

WORKSHOP ON WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

Bay Area NOW sent a resolution to the 1978 Conference dealing with access and really started a movement. A national committee was formed with Evie Whitsett as a member. The 1979 Conference was totally accessible with the exception of one temporary buffet meal. Two resolutions were sent from the workshop to the Conference urging that (1) NOW take a stand on a wide variety of services and rights for disabled people, and (2) that NOW actively recruit and involve feminists with disabilities at all levels. Note that Bay Area NOW continues to set an example. Our statement regarding access and assistance was printed first in last month's newsletter and offered at Conference as a model.

WORKSHOP ON RECRUITING AND RETAINING ACTIVE MEMBERS

Presentations covered (1) recruiting minorities, (2) chapters near a campus, and (3) starting or reactivating chapters. To recruit minorities, the recruiters first need to examine their own covert racism, preparing themselves to deal with criticisms and questions from all directions. Minority feminists will be accused of not being true to their minority and white feminists will be accused of just using minority people to get their issues across. This divide-and-conquer tactic can be combatted with the idea of joining forces (labor, feminists, minorities, environmentalists, etc.) to achieve mutually compatible goals; i.e., a bigger piece of the pie. While the same groups are usually sexist and racist, there are differences in sexism and racism, and these should not be ignored.

Campus-based NOW chapters have traditionally had problems with chapter stability, carry-through on projects and leader continuity. Chapters do well to base their on-going aspects in the community but make extensive use of student talent and energy for short-term tasks.

Florida NOW leaders have successfully reactivated chapters via an all-day Leadership Training Roadshow. The Roadshow concentrates on three topics: the ERA, and two non-controversial topics chosen respectively by State and Local leaders. Indiana NOW has created new chapters by holding State Councils in an area where there was a concentration of at-large members. The local members arrange food and space for the meeting, dialog with State leaders before the Council, attend the meeting and then form a chapter. (Four new chapters out of three such ventures!)

For NOW,

*Evie*

11-79  
7/12

I was asked for a report of the national conference of the National Organization for Women held in Los Angeles, October 5-7. Originally I intended to report on the politics, caucuses, workshops and resolutions which were presented at the conference. However, my thoughts kept returning to the people that attended. Approximately 3000 women, men, and children from all parts of the country gathering together (at their own expense) to debate, plan, and fight the battle of equal rights for all people. Doctors, Lawyers, Educators, Cooks, Dishwashers, Factory Workers, Homemakers, Bankers, Writers, Politicians, etc., all assembled in one place with the belief that.....

No Woman should ever again suffer the mental and physical anguish of violence imposed upon her by a society of man-made laws;

No Woman should ever again suffer the demoralizing effects of employment or credit discrimination because of her sex or age or race;

No Woman should ever again suffer the devastating results of hunger or poverty;

No Woman should ever again be refused the opportunity to participate in the sport of her choosing or denied admittance to the educational field of her choice;

No Woman should ever again be discriminated against or harassed because of her sexual preference;

No Woman should ever again be denied accessibility to education, employment opportunities, recreational facilities, etc., because she is physically different;

No Woman should ever again suffer the loss of not having the opportunity to make her own decision about reproductive rights;

No Woman should ever again be unpaid for being a homemaker.

Our grandmothers, mothers, sisters have fought and in some instances died for these issues. If we are not willing to continue the battle for equality, then we do not deserve to expect the rights that should be ours. We may have differing views on the issues involved. We may disagree about the importance of the issues. We may disagree about the implementation of the issues, but these issues are the injustices which we all suffer. These inalienable rights belong to US - The Women of the World.

We MUST pass the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

We MUST insure that every state passes an Equal Rights Amendment.

We MUST all work, sacrifice, and cooperate to make this goal a way of life for ourselves and our children. For our children are our future.

The organization that can actuate these issues is the National Organization for Women.

NOW...MORE THAN EVER

*Phyllis A. Tucker*

Phyllis A. Tucker  
Bay Area N.O.W.

\*\*\*\*December newsletter deadline is Wednesday Nov. 21 for untyped materials, and Monday Nov. 26 for typed entries. Mail or drop off articles to Pat Kuhlmann, 2002 Richvale, Clear Lake City, 488-3278 (Mail: Houston 77062)

late flash: Under consideration: combined newsletters with Galveston County Now. Bulk mailing. If interested, call Evie Whitsett, 488-1757

11-79  
8/12

'All minority females are at the bottom and . . . the best way to lift the top is to raise the bottom'

# More minorities urged for NOW, meeting in L.A.

□ Betty Friedan: Liberated women are family's only hope / Page 39

By Nancy Day  
Examiner Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — "We have to change the complexions of many chapters and our national organization," declared labor organizer Addie Wyatt in urging the predominantly white National Organization for Women to include more minorities in its nationwide membership.

NOW has 110,000 members from every state. No figures are kept on racial and ethnic background, but it was apparent by looking around the convention floor that there were few black or brown faces.

Everyone who spoke at NOW's 12th annual convention here endorsed getting more minorities into the nation's largest feminist organization. At yesterday's session, however the five new officers who gave their election thanks were all white and seated on one side of the podium; the major speakers, all minority women, sat on the other.

Wyatt, international vice president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, held aloft a politi-

cal cartoon showing "a black sister running with chains on both her legs," one depicting sexism, the other racism. The caption read "Double Trouble."

Feminists are often asked why there is not more minority participation, said Wyatt, a black woman from Chicago, suggesting the only reply that makes sense is to stress that the struggles are shared.

"If you take the chain of racism away, I am still bound by sexism," said Wyatt. "If you take the chain of sexism away, I am still bound by racism."

A black woman from Washington, D.C., who began her campaign speech in Spanish, was defeated in her race for national secretary of NOW. Sharon Parker lost to incumbent Sandra Reeves Roth (547-284) who ran on a slate with the other four successful candidates for national office.

Arlie Scott of Boston, a white who ran for vice president-action, also lost (539-291), disappointing lesbian activists.

Although the national goals of the organization were endorsed by all the candidates, a significant minority of the voting delegates believed that the executive board should more fully



NOW President Ellie Smeal and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley after he addressed the group

Associated Press

reflect the membership NOW has and hopes to attract.

Eleanor Smeal, 40, was re-elected to a two-year term as president. A full-time homemaker from South Hills, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh, when she was elected in 1977, Smeal has seen her husband, son and daughter on a commute basis since then. Her family is moving to Washington, D.C., where NOW is headquartered.

Being a NOW officer is a full-time paid job. Smeal will make \$8,000 annually under the new budget. The

other officers will be paid \$34,000 each, with annual cost-of-living raises of 7 percent.

The other new officers are Judy Goldsmith, vice president-executive; Jane Wells-Schooley, vice president-action; Roth, and Alice Chapman, treasurer.

The delegates also adopted major resolutions on lesbian and reproductive rights and plans for stepping up the battle for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Strong endorsement of abortion

and lesbian rights will not damage the campaign for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment if the public understands the issues, President Smeal said.

These positions were the key policy resolutions adopted by delegates to NOW's annual convention held here the last three days. Smeal called the convention "the most unifying and spirited" since the feminist organization was formed in 1966.

Abortion is only one part of NOW's reproductive rights campaign, she said.

The full range of family planning and birth control methods and education will be part of this effort and any presidential candidate who seeks their endorsement must give "guarantees" of action on these issues, she said.

NOW will be telling people nationwide that the proposed "Human Rights Amendment" introduced in Congress is not only antiabortion "but would outlaw IUD and the pill."

These issues are of interest to all Americans of child-bearing age, she said.

ERA ratification will get top priority.

Asked whether the emphasis on lesbian rights would set back that effort, particularly in unratifying states in the South, she said they are separate issues.

But, she added, "NOW is for all human rights," and said the right wing in this country has distorted gay rights and abortion issues to attack the ERA.

Many of those at the conference wore buttons with "50¢" on them, signifying the proportion of wages paid women nationally compared to those paid men.

Dorothy Height, director of the National Conference of Negro Women, a coalition of 27 national black women's groups formed in 1933, pointed out that minority women earn \$3 to every \$5 earned by white women.

"Until all of us have advanced," Height said, "none of us are secure in our advancement."

"All minority females are at the bottom," she said, "and I've found the best way to lift the top is to raise the bottom."

## MARGARET SANGER — "THE WOMAN REBEL"

For those of us who came of sexual age during the era of the Pill, it is hard to believe or understand that dissemination of birth control information and methods was once a crime in this country. But the fact remains that the first part of this century saw people jailed on charges of obscenity because they sent birth control information through the mails. A widespread birth control movement was still seen by many as a threat to American society as late as the 1940's. Birth control has been practiced by nearly all societies for centuries, indicating that people have always wanted control over reproduction. Types of population control and contraception practiced in the ancient world and in modern preindustrial society included infanticide, abortion, sterilizing surgery, melting vaginal suppositories, internal medicines, douching, intra-uterine devices, condoms, diaphragms, and varieties of the rhythm method. The 19th century saw much of this technology suppressed for various social, political, and economic reasons: it was this suppression which led to a widespread movement with reproductive rights as the unifying issue.

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[Nov. 1979]

## SANGER, continued

In her book, Woman's Body, Woman's Right, author Linda Gordon states that "the birth control movement passed through three distinct states ... (each) identified with a different term for reproductive control." The first stage was "voluntary motherhood"; it emphasized choice, freedom and autonomy for women and was supported by feminists in the second half of the nineteenth century. The second stage, 1910-1920, produced the term "birth control"; it emphasized autonomy and empowering the powerless-the working class and women- and saw the organization of separate birth control leagues. The 1930's and 1940's produced the third stage, "planned parenthood", which emphasized planned child spacing and family size, and governmental population planning.

Probably the most well known champion of the movement was Margaret Sanger, who invented the phrase "birth control" in 1915. Sanger came from a family of 10 children; her father was a Socialist who earned a living carving tombstones. Her mother was a practical woman who accepted most of the responsibility for the family; she was a frail woman whose poor health, caused by t.b., was aggravated by repeated pregnancies. Sanger was influenced by her mother's situation; she took up obstetrical nursing, tending to women in New York City's poorest neighborhoods. The death of one of her patients from a septic self-induced abortion prompted Sanger to action and a life-long commitment to a single cause.

In 1911, Sanger began writing articles on sex education for the "New York Call", a socialist newspaper. In 1912, the Post Office said that her article on venereal disease was unmailable under the Comstock law (barring "obscene" material from the mails.) In 1913, Sanger went to Europe with her husband and children and discovered while there that birth control was respectable and widely practiced. According to Linda Gordon in Woman's Body, Woman's Right, "the entire future course of birth control in the United States was influenced by Sanger's European "education" on birth control." Upon her return to the U.S., Sanger decided to publish an independent, feminist paper which she called "The Woman Rebel." The paper emphasized birth control, but supported other causes deemed "radical." The paper was suppressed by the Post Office in 1914 and Sanger was indicted on nine criminal charges, including two counts of obscenity. Fearing that a jury would be unsympathetic to her cause at that time, Sanger fled to London to avoid trial. Before she left, she drafted a birth control pamphlet, "Family Limitation," and had friends mail it for her. While abroad, she learned that her husband had been arrested for distributing the pamphlet and sentenced to thirty days in jail. Sanger returned home in October, 1915 to face her own trial and found a movement of birth control agitation and organization in the eastern, midwestern, and western parts of the country. In February 1916, the government, influenced by growing public support for Sanger, dismissed the charges against her. In July 1916, Sanger organized a birth control clinic in Brooklyn where she, her sister Ethel Byrne, and Fania Mindell dispensed contraceptive information. One of their patients was an undercover policewoman who arrested them for dispensing contraceptive advice without medical indication. They served thirty days in jail.

By 1920, it was legal for doctors to give contraceptive advice; the birth control movement had lost its early identification with radical activism and was supported largely by middle-class women. Sanger's efforts during the 1920's were directed at involving professionals in the movement. In 1920, she founded the American Birth Control League which lobbied for legislation to remove all restrictions on doctor's rights to prescribe contraception. In 1923, she founded the Clinical Research Bureau, whose primary purpose was the medical study of contraception. By 1930, there were 55 birth control clinics in the U.S. The 1930's saw mass commercialization of contraception but it was still illegal to mail contraceptive information. In 1938, federal bans on birth control were removed; that year also saw the American Birth Control League and the Clinical Research Bureau merge into the Birth Control Federation of America. In 1942, this organization changed its name to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a national organization for birth control. Planned Parenthood, with Sanger as honorary chairperson, helped lead the medical, social-work, and mental health establishments to support the sexual rights of women.

Although retired, Sanger continued to travel not only in this country, but also abroad, speaking out for the need for birth control. In the early 1950's, she introduced Katherine McCormick, a wealthy heiress, to Dr. Gregory Pincus, who was doing research on steroid compounds. McCormick's financial support and Pincus' research led to the development of the Pill.

Margaret Sanger died on 9-6-66; by the end of her life, she had been showered with honors, including a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960. She had had many critics during her career. Even those who supported her goal often disagreed with her style; they accused her of being domineering, self-aggrandizing, and uncompromising. Whatever the reasons for Sanger's decision to make birth control a career, rather than just a cause, we owe a large debt of gratitude to this remarkable woman.

Janette Barrington

FT. WORTH NOW

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[Nov. 1979]

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# REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ will be attending the Pro-Choice Workshop.  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail to: Women's Group, First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, Houston, Texas 7701.

**NATIONAL ABORTION  
 WEEK [OCT. 22-29]:**

# Pro-Choice

**Legislative, Legal, and Psychological Issues Concerning  
 a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion.**

## SPEAKERS:

**JUDITH LEVIN, Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union**  
**BILLIE CARR, National Democratic Committee**

Sponsored by the Women's Group, First Unitarian Church  
 Texas Abortion Rights Action League  
 Women's Equity Action League  
 American Civil Liberties Union, Houston Chapter  
**TIME?** 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Sunday, October 28, 1979  
**PLACE?** Alutry House, 6285 Main Street  
**COST?** No charge. Donations will be requested.  
**CHILDREN?** Free childcare will be provided.  
**BOOTHS?** Information tables will be set up.  
**INFO?** For more information call: 524-5925.

ATTENTION ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPERSONS  
 STUDENT, PROFIT AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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### THE FIRST ANNUAL WOMEN'S CRAFT FAIR

The University of Houston University Center Bldg.  
 Entrance 1-A

Saturday, November 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.  
 Sunday, November 18 from 12:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The fair will provide an opportunity for artists and craftspersons of all types to market their wares and for area women's organizations to make available to the community information on their purposes and activities. Proceeds will go toward funding of the proposed Houston Area Women's Center Facility.

Interested individuals and organizations may participate for a one-time booth rental fee listed below. A percentage of profits from items sold is not required, but donations and items for raffle will be appreciated.

Slides or photos of items to be sold or brochures on organizations must accompany the registration form along with a check or money order for booth rental.

If you or your organization would like to participate, please send registration form, check or money order, and slides, photos, or brochures by October 28, 1979 to:

Marilyn E. Perryman  
 4001 Caroline  
 Houston, Texas 77004  
 Home Phone: 520-7121 (Evening only)

For further information call:  
 792-4403, (day-time)  
 Leave message for Marilyn Perryman.

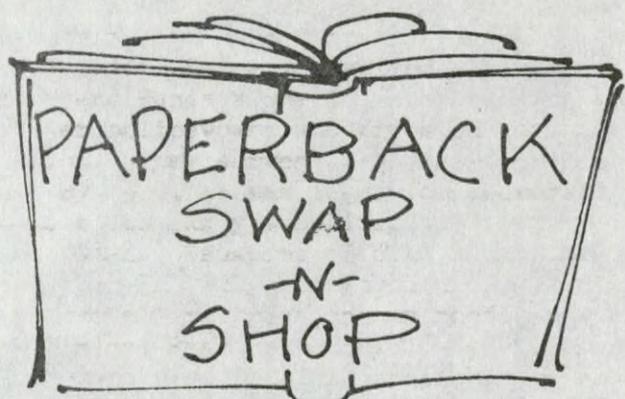
Yes, I would like to participate in the First Annual Women's Craft Fair!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ / Organization or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nite \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Booth: \_\_\_\_\_

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