

H E R I Z O N S

Coalition of Suburban NOW Chapters Newsletter

Northwest NOW

Southwest NOW

Montrose NOW

Volume 3, Issue 7

August 1978

C A L E N D A R

- August 15 Southwest NOW, Jungman Library, 7 pm
Movie, discussion on Rape
- August 11-13 TWPC Conference in Brownsville
- August 16-18 TEXTBOOK HEARINGS, Austin.
- August 19 Texas Now Council Meeting, Austin
At the Capitol - 10 am - 4 pm.
- August 20 Montrose NOW - 11 AM Brunch, 1803 Fairview
- August 26 CELEBRATION! Contact Peggy if you want to picnic;
call Lynne if you want an evening party, possibly
viewing video tapes of the movie "Hester Street"
or episodes of "Turnabout".
- August 31 Summit - NWPC - Fundraiser for ERA
- September 14 Northwest NOW - call Regina for details

Status of the ERA Extension HJ 638

Passed out of the House Judiciary Committee amended to extend for 39 months (until June 1981). Now in House Rules Committee to determine schedule for it to come to the floor. Will likely pass in the House however a filibuster is threatened by Senator Byrd in the Senate.

Write your legislators: Senator Bentsen - for - Rep. Gammage, Jordan
Senator Tower - against - Rep. Archer, Eckhardt,
Brooks

Houston BREAKTHROUGH is having a subscription drive. TODAY send a year to all your friends, A Birthday gift in honor of Women's Suffrage Amendment, passed August 26, 58 years ago. P.O. Box 88072, Houston 77004.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 19th AMENDMENT

August 26th, 1978 will be the 58th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage amendment. This has become a holiday for the second wave of feminism. I would like to invite all five chapters to join together for a party and/or picnic. I am open to any and all suggestions. What would you think about one of these:

1. Art festival and craft show; music, food, entertainment.
2. Party for members to view video tapes Lynne has been saving.
3. Picnic in a park with a pool, tennis, softball.

Please discuss the possibilities and let me know. 522 4468

Peggy

Lynne Mutchler and Peggy Hall began another course in Curing Math Anxiety. This time it is a course ala Carte at University of St. Thomas. The first class was held July 11. The turnout was good. Hopefully, the math logjam will be broken for yet another set of sisters.

HOUSTON AREA FEMINIST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION - your credit your is open to serve you three days every week. Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday from 11:30 to 4, 7 & 5 respectively. 2418 Travis ****527-9108

VOLUNTEERING AT WOMEN'S CENTER SHELTER

For ten long years I was a battered wife. Because I had learned first-hand about the total lack of support available to women who are beaten by their husbands, I eagerly awaited the opening of the Women's Center Shelter. Ever since attaining my freedom five years ago, I have wanted to help other women who are trapped in the battering cycle. I immediately volunteered to work at the shelter two weekends in a row, two weeks after it had opened.

Working at the shelter has provided a succession of surprises. I did not expect the anxiety and nightmares which haunted me as my first day of volunteering approached. I had no idea that such a residue of fear remained after five years. Of course, once I went to the shelter the fear dissipated. It seems to have been replaced by a little sadness, a little anger, and a lot of joy.

When I first arrived at the shelter the women living there were not as happy to see me as I was to see them. I soon realized that their lives went on before I got there and after I left; I was an interloper. I learned, sadly, that a very few volunteers did not always treat the residents with the respect which they deserved as human beings. There have been volunteers who haven't understood that we battered women are ordinary people. We are sane and competent women. We love our children and we hate being beaten.

The best surprise of all has been that I have liked so many of the women so much. I do not like people easily, but I have been awed by the strength, the intelligence, the organizing ability, the sisterhood which I have seen among the residents of the shelter.

The shelter needs wise and compassionate volunteers. It also needs money, clothes, sheets, towels, and some one to take the kids to the park occasionally.

R. Burnet Oliveros

7/16/78

NORTHWEST HOUSTON CHAPTER OF NOW * MEETINGS: 2nd THURSDAY OF MONTH

President	Regina Pongrass	492-2945
V. Pres./ Publicity	Elaine Oliver	468-73-48
Secretary	Mavis Morris	465-5888
Legislative Chair	Jenny Coon	667-2019
Program Chair	Barbara Lane-Farley	461-3212

MONTROSE CHAPTER OF NOW * MEETINGS: Last Sunday of the MONTH

President	Peggy Hall	522-4468
Vice President	Kay Wyburn	661-8556
Secretary	Martha Mazeika	522-4468
Treasurer	Burnet Oliveros	526-0664

SOUTHWEST HOUSTON CHAPTER OF NOW * MEETINGS: 3rd TUESDAY OF MONTH

President	Jeannie Moffatt	981-4634
Vice President	Laura Woliver	869-0739
Treasurer	Pat Berger	437-4272
Secretary	Monica Anderson	776-0132
Rape Task Force	Gail Padett	528-7051

YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION

THERE'S SHELTER!

The long-awaited shelter for battered women and their children opened its doors in early June and--just as Del Martin predicted--has been crowded since. More than sixty women and children have sought shelter from husbands, "lovers," and rapists for periods of hours, days, and weeks. Volunteers have staffed the well-furnished house just north of downtown and have learned a great deal about both violence and cooperative living efforts in these past few weeks.

The shelter is sponsored by the Houston Area Women's Center and is precariously funded for a six-month trial period. The house itself is one of Santa Maria Hostel's residences and Alice Seaman, the hostel director, has endeared herself to us all by doing the thousand "little things" that keep it going--like stocking the freezer with sandwiches, keeping an extra doorkey handy, and saying repeated "You can do it. You can do it!" ly

The shelter has eleven beds and many sofas and large chairs. As the only shelter in Houston that will admit women with children over ten years old, it has a high percentage of children and teenagers sleeping in all available spaces. Many of these people have left their own homes suddenly with only the clothes they were wearing and little idea where tomorrow would find them.

Volunteers are needed to stay in the house for shifts of four to eight hours, depending on time of day or night--the night shift volunteer sleeps in and stays all night. The volunteer on duty serves as the person in charge, making decisions about handling new admissions and any household dysfunctions. Since few emergencies have arisen, volunteers have served primarily as supporters, the ones willing to listen and sympathize.

Put your feminism to the test by pulling a shift twice a w month. It's an exciting way to learn how women from varied backgrounds think, live, and deal with the problems of battering. Call WIRES at 527-0718 to contact the shlter to donate your time, food, money, ~~xxx~~ clothing, or household items. It's women helping women.

FROM HOUSTON FOR THE ERA

by LYNNE MUTCHLER

When the national board was planning the July 9th march in Washington, someone said, "Wouldn't it be great if 100,000 people showed up?" Well, they did, and it was! Just before the march, NOW was expecting maybe 10,000 or 15,000, with an outside chance that 30,000 would show up. The actual crowd was estimated by the National Park Police, who see lots of crowds, and have no reason to overestimate. The Park Police are convinced that at least 95,000 people marched the 1.7 miles from the Washington monument to the U.S. Capitol!

I know that for sure 160 marched with Texas NOW, and another 20 or so Texans marched with CLUW or the Women's Political Caucus. We estimate that the Texans spent between \$5000 and \$3000 getting there. And that does not include the purchase of white clothing to wear, to emulate the suffragists who made similar marches when Women's Suffrage was the burning issue.

Picture the mall between the Washington monument and the Capitol covered with vanilla ice cream. That is what it looked like at 11 a.m. as the march began. Interspersed here and there are pennants stuck in the white stuff. The pennants are banners of purple, gold and white.

They are very similar to the banners the suffragists carried.

An hour after the head of the procession reached the capitol steps, we were still sitting on the grass of the mall waiting our turn to walk. It was hot and there were long lines at all the drinking fountains. Many felt light-headed from heat and dehydration, and some passed out, during the march. By the time the Texas NOW contingent got to the Capitol grounds, the crowd had swelled out beyond the steps, beyond the grass, and was wading in the pool. Until the Park Police chased them out of the pool.

I did not stay to hear the speeches from Ellie, Gloria, Bella, Midge, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Elliot Gould and the others. It was too hot, too crowded, and I had lost my mother and my child. It took 3 hours, 3 police forces, and finally the help of my NOW sisters to find them again.

Not a lot was accomplished that Sunday afternoon except to show the nation and the legislators (who are very slow learners where our interests are concerned) that we mean to have our ERA--it will not vanish no matter how many times they sell it short or trade it away.

Thousands stayed in Washington on Monday the 10th to lobby their congresspeople,

→have YOU WRITTEN YOUR H.J.R. 638 LETTER FOR TODAY?

HERIZONS
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