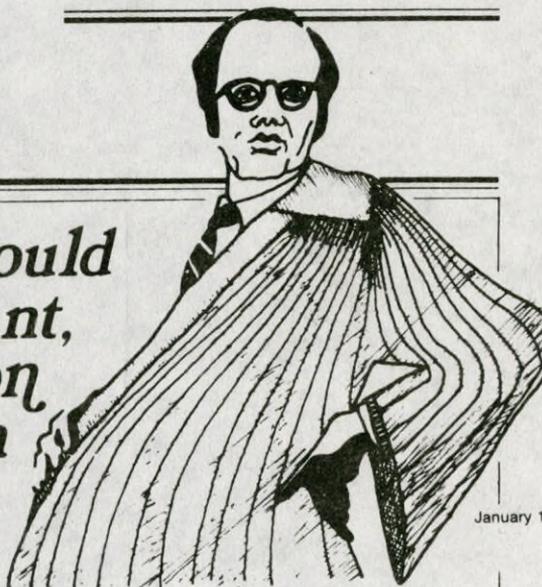




*If men could
get pregnant,
abortion
would be a
Sacrament.*



January 1978/Ms./87

CALENDAR

- Jan 4 Bay Area NOW Program Meeting: Update on Abortion Rights, with Special Reference to Texas. Joan Garfinkel Glantz, ACLU, will provide the update on recent developments. Lynn McGregor is program Coordinator. Call her at 488-1901 or 749-2401 for further details. Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m., The Uniting Church, El Camino Real and Reseda, Clear Lake City.
- Jan 4 National Meeting, Association for Women in Science, Inc. Castilian Room, Shamrock Hilton Hotel, 6:30 p.m., no registration fee. Services of A.I.W.S. include a National Registry, Employment Exchange Service, Newsletter, and career development network.
- Jan 18 Women's Rights Coordinating Council (WRCC); Texas at Crawford (World Trade Center) 7:30 p.m.
- Jan 20 9:30 a.m. Abortion Anniversary workshop. Morning speakers will be Fr. Joseph O'Rourke, head of Catholics for a Free Choice, and Pat Beyea, of the national American Civil Liberties Union campaign for Choice. Afternoon workshops on legal, legislative, media, medical, religious, education, and community organizing aspects of Abortion. Convene at University of Houston, Rm 116 of Science and Research (Cullen and Holman). Admission \$3; scholarships available. More details will be finalized by and announced at Jan 6 BANOW meeting.
- Jan 20 Consciousness Raising (CR) Demonstration and Sign-up meeting. Uniting Church, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
- Jan 20 February newsletter deadline. Mail material to Melissa Weiksnar, P.O. Box 2197, Houston TX 77001. Phone her at 965-3032 to forewarn her of arrivals.
- Jan 27 1st CR session, 1529 Bonanza, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Local Columnist Dubious About Women's Rights

[In recent columns in the DAILY CITIZEN addressed to housewives, Joann Janney told how her husband had decided that women's rights - and specifically the ERA - were a bad idea because the three Women's Libbers in his office were always whining about their rights instead of getting the work done.]

Mrs. Janney's columns too often appear inspired by the cloying lyrics of "Tea For Two." She is blissfully, indeed dangerously, unaware of the cruel facts of life.

It is unfortunate that her husband and other "males" should react against equal rights for women with backlash and vague accusations of "stridency" and "incompetence." This has not been my experience or that of my three daughters, all of whom have jobs.

There are many women who choose to value themselves by how much they can bring in because they have only their earning power to support their families. Many are widowed, many are divorced. A marriage license is not a guarantee that the female partner shall be forever supported. Then, too, there are the women who do not marry, often by their own choice. What of these women? The first "beautiful paycheck," now often earned at high school age, will only be the first of many to pay the house note, utility bills, food, and the necessities of life. Volunteerism can be rewarding, but it never does anything for your credit rating.

More than half the women in this country are working outside the home. The reason is economic and it is valid.

-- Sally Stewart

Women Students Found to Have Less Confidence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A study of 2,076 female and 1,271 male undergraduates at Brown University, the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Wellesley College, Barnard College, Dartmouth College and Princeton University found the women have lower self-esteem and lower aspirations than men, although their grades are about the same.

The study was released Friday by Lois Monteiro, coordinator for the study at Brown University. In it, 46 percent of women and 54 percent of men said they thought they would hold a doctorate; 49 percent of women and 61 percent of men said they were confident they were well-prepared for graduate or professional school.

Golda Meier Obituaries Reveal Sexist Bias

Eulogies on deceased Israeli leader Golda Meier provided a handy run-down on methods used by people in the news business to downgrade the eminence and authority of a world leader who is a woman.

NBC Nightly News never refers to "Menachem" but they spoke glowingly in a special report of "Golda" or "Mrs. Meier" - God forbid that she, a woman, should be referred to as "Prime Minister Meier." Noting that she hated to be called "Grandmother of Israel," a wire-service report in the Houston Post went on to call her that anyway. Everyone praised her cooking.

Perhaps the meanest ploy was the repeated stress on the notion that a woman can be a world leader only by sacrificing her children's welfare and her own peace of mind. Note the use of the words guilty and failure in the following excerpt from a N.Y. Times News Service piece reprinted in the Houston Chronicle (and supplied by Sally Stewart):

At the end of her life she was still feeling guilty about the years during which she had neglected her children and about her failure to devote herself to the kibbutz rather than to public life. "There is a type of a woman who cannot remain at home," she once wrote. "In spite of the place her children and family fill in her life, her nature demands something more; she cannot divorce herself from the larger social life. She cannot let her children narrow her horizon. For such a woman there is no rest."

It remains for someone of the caliber of columnist Ellen Goodman, however, to comment perceptively on the tragic, but unsurprising, fact that Meier herself felt obliged to parrot this nonsense.

-- Twiss Butler

Surprising tradition ????

Interest in reducing family size led to abortions

By TOM OVERTON
Post Reporter

9-27-78
THE FIRST LAWS regulating abortion in the United States were not passed until 1827, but large numbers of women continued to ask for and perform their own abortions after that date, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian says.

Carl N. Degler, delivering the Fourth Annual Ervin Frederick Kalb Lecture at Rice University recently, said, "I couldn't find any feminists who advocated birth control, much less abortion. And yet what is striking is that you have large numbers of women having abortions."

Degler was referring to the 19th century — a time when the size of the American family decreased by one-half. "Even though it was illegal in virtually every state — certainly by the time we got to the second half of the century — literally hundreds of thousands of women had relied upon it, providing silent testimony to the interest in and success at reducing family size." Degler said the widespread recourse to abortion "speaks volumes for the important role of women in reducing the fertility of the 19th century. For it could be invoked when the husband was uncooperative."

In an interview, Degler said abortion was not always the controversial moral issue it is today, and ironically, the moral issue first was raised by the medical profession, not by leaders of organized religion. Because doctors did not know until 1827 that the woman possessed an egg fertilized by the man, it was thought that life began after the fourth or fifth month of pregnancy, when the fetus began kicking or moving around.

"Before then, it was reasonable to say something happens, but we don't know what it is, and then we begin to feel movement after the fourth or fifth month, and everybody, of course, said, 'This is where life begins,'" Degler explained. Before 1827, the woman was considered "sort of a nest" for the growing fetus, he said.

From reading medical literature of the time, Degler discovered that "married, respectable, Christian women" would come into doctor's offices and ask for abortions. "And the doctors would say, 'No you shouldn't have this. It's not right. It's killing a living thing.'

"The woman would reply, 'No it isn't. It hasn't quickened and therefore nothing is alive.'" Instances like this one led to educating women on how life begins,

while at the same time doctors were clamoring for abortion laws, Degler said. Although abortion has been practiced for centuries, the first law passed against it was in England in 1803, and the first United States law came 24 years later.

Most states had made it a crime by the 1860s, but some waited until just before the turn of the century. Even after abortions were made illegal, women continued to have them. Various methods were passed along from woman to woman in folklorish ways, Degler said.

Referring to the woman in South Carolina who used a knitting needle to abort a 5- or 6-month old fetus, Degler said, "That's what they did, that's what they used. They always talked about their knitting needles."

Other methods range from the hilarious to the dangerous. Books recommended jumping up and down and riding a fast horse. All kinds of quack medicines were sold, most of which made the mothers violently ill, Degler said. Not everyone could abort a fetus as Scarlet O'Hara accidentally did when she fell down the stairs in *Gone With the Wind*.

"The fact of the matter we now know is that abortion is very difficult to achieve," Degler said. "Fetuses are very, very carefully protected by the build and structure of the woman's body. But what's interesting about it is they did think a lot on how they could abort because there was this interest in how they could limit fertility." During his lecture, Degler noted that the birth rate in the United States began to fall just after the Revolutionary War and declined the most between 1800 and 1900.

"The average woman in 1900 had half as many children as the average woman in 1800," Degler said. The decline continued into the 20th century, reaching a low during the Depression. The "baby boom" of the 1940s represents an estimated increase of about 25 percent, Degler guessed, but by 1960, the birth rate was back down to where it was in 1900.

"I WOULD GUESS THAT it is lower now than it was during the Depression, about zero population growth," he said. Degler is a professor at Stanford University. He has submitted to a publisher a manuscript he wrote on the role of women in American history. He hopes it will be published as a book by next September.

Degler won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1972 for his book, *Neither Black Nor White*. He has taught at City College of New York, Adelphi University, New York University, and Vassar, and was a visiting professor at Columbia University Graduate School.

Interest in reducing family size led to abortions--a surprising tradition!!!!
SURPRISING TO WHOM????????????????????
Perhaps it is a surprise to Tom Overton, the reporter. Perhaps it is a surprise to Pulitzer Prize winning author Degler. But I doubt if it is a surprise to the woman who has become pregnant every year since her marriage to an uncooperative husband.

Perhaps it is a surprise to the woman who has just been accepted by medical school, and has also just learned that she is pregnant.

Or maybe it would be a surprise to a pre-teen girl who has been raped (if she realized the full consequences of the act).

What other reason is there for a woman to seek an abortion? Whether she wishes to remain without a family, or whether her emotional, physical, or mental limits have been reached, the desire to limit family size remains her prime motivation.

It might be less of a SURPRISE for the PUBLIC if they knew nothing of the abortion...if a safe, legal abortion were the RIGHT of a woman to choose.

THE PUBLIC USED TO BURN WITCHES!!!!!!!

OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE

Sometimes I become very weary of fighting. Sometimes I would much rather go fishing than continue a fight in which many of the young women remain uninvolved. And then I conjure up the picture of my lovely, uninvolved daughter dead on a butcher's table...and I know that I cannot quit.

OUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE

The 'single issue' that's unlikely to fade away

HC 12-8-78
by Anthony Lewis

High court weighs questions raised by abortion decision

HC 10-4-78
WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Supreme Court still is trying to resolve some of the questions raised by its 1973 decision drastically curtailing states' power to regulate abortions.

restrictions — to have government tell women, and doctors, what they may do.

Whatever one's personal view of abortion, the influence of voters prepared to decide on that issue alone obviously raises problems for the political system. In this large country, with its differences of region and race and sect, the system has worked best when factions were able to join in broad coalitions. Moreover, zealotry puts a premium on trimming in politics; it targets those who stand on principle, who are not willing to trim.

The issue of abortion seems to me unlikely to fade away soon unless there is a dominant new domestic or foreign concern. Ideally, people on both sides should come to understand the political danger of compulsion on such a sensitive matter: compelling taxpayers to subsidize something they consider evil, or overriding what others consider their medical or ethical responsibility. But so far, on this issue, there is little reason to hope for the forbearance that makes democracy work.

After Sen. Clark's defeat an official of the Pro-Life Action Council, Robert Dopf, said: "We had met with him for two years, but he said he was voting his conscience on this. We said we had no alternative but to oppose him." In other words, a senator's conscientious refusal to support a change in the United States Constitution required a vote against him no matter what else he had done and no matter what the character of his opponent.

The reason the anti-abortion groups are prepared to act so single-mindedly of course is that their political view has a religious moral basis. They regard abortion as homicide, and hence beyond compromise.

One who respects but does not share that view, like myself, finds it painfully ironic that in the name of humanity the anti-abortion forces oppose some of our most humane politicians. Don Fraser, for example, has been the leading voice of concern for human rights in Congress.

Recent election results suggest that anti-abortion sentiment goes along with a mood of resentment against big government. There again is an irony. For the aim of the anti-abortion movement is to increase governmental re-

On Tuesday, the justices quizzed lawyers about whether Pennsylvania's abortion law improperly subjects a doctor to possible criminal prosecution for his medical judgment on whether a fetus can survive outside the womb.

Lewis is a columnist for the New York Times and Pulitzer Prize winner for national reporting.

The 1974 statute requires doctors who perform abortions to determine first if the fetus is "viable" — can have meaningful life outside the mother — "or if there is sufficient reason to believe the fetus may be viable." If so, it requires the physician to use the abortion technique most likely to result in a live birth or be subject to civil or criminal liability.

A federal court panel has ruled this part of the law unconstitutional.

The high court in 1973 restricted state authority to interfere with abortions in the early months of pregnancy. But it said states can regulate or even forbid abortions — except to save the health or life of the mother — after the fetus becomes developed enough to be "viable."

Obstetricians generally place that point at 24 to 28 weeks' pregnancy. But the court has indicated since that viability is a "matter of medical judgment" rather than a particular date in the gestation period.

Those who don't like the Pennsylvania statute charged it would inhibit a doctor, and intrude on a pregnant woman's privacy, by threatening the doctor with criminal punishment under vague standards if he wrongly diagnoses a fetus as "non-viable."

Carol Mansmann, arguing for the state Tuesday, said the Pennsylvania Legislature wants to protect the interests of the "viable" fetus. She said the law gives physicians an "objective standard" on which to act, and they "know what's required of them."

But several of the justices expressed uncertainty about how a doctor could know for sure whether he was acting within the law.

"Supposing he makes a determination it's not viable and later on three other doctors say he was wrong and it might be viable?" asked Justice John Paul Stevens.

Chief Justice Warren Burger wanted to know what would happen to a "simple physician" who did not have advanced diagnostic methods available to him but who acted in good faith only to find later in court that a battery of experts disagreed.

"If you make a mistake, you go to jail. That's what I'm worried about," Justice Thurgood Marshall said.

Pentagon in quiet fight over military abortions

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
9-27-78

Jury chosen for what is being called national test case

Houston Chronicle

Tuesday, August 29, 1978

Woman on trial for alleged abortion on herself

GALVESTON YWCA STARTS SHELTER--- Carolyn Cox, NOW member and executive director of the Galveston YWCA, says a shelter for women in crisis will open January 2 under the auspices of the Y. [Jan. 1979]

The shelter will offer protection and services to women in any life crisis rather than focusing on battered women, as similar facilities in other cities do.

Up to 12 women and their children will be able to use the shelter each day for a \$1.25 fee.

Cox says the location of the shelter will not be revealed to protect the residents, but a number will be made known both to the public and to service agencies such as police and hospitals.

The shelter plans to institute peer counseling among the residents to help them deal with their problems. Cox says the first thing an applicant for assistance must do is promise not to return home again. Volunteers to run the shelter are eagerly sought. Contact Carolyn at 763-8505.

ANYONE FOR A CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING (CR) GROUP?

BAY AREA NOW will conduct one group starting in January. To join, or for more information, contact Dorothy Howard, 486-0752, or Marie Stimson, 534-4724.

A Man for Every Woman

For every woman who is tired of acting weak when she knows she is strong,
There is a man who is tired of appearing strong when he feels vulnerable;

For every woman who is tired of acting dumb,
There is a man who is burdened with the constant expectation of "knowing everything";

For every woman who is tired of being called an "emotional female",
There is a man who is denied the right to weep and to be gentle;

For every woman who is called unfeminine when she competes,
There is a man for whom competition is the only way to prove his masculinity;

For every woman who is tired of being a sex object,
There is a man who must worry about his potency;

For every woman who feels "tied down" by her children,
There is a man who is denied the full pleasures of shared parenthood;

For every woman who is denied meaningful employment or equal pay,
There is a man who must bear full financial responsibility for another human being;

For every woman who has not learned the intricacies of the automobile,
There is a man who has not learned the satisfaction of cooking;

For every woman who takes a step towards her own liberation,
There is a man who finds the way to freedom has been made a little easier.

NANCY SMITH



SELF IMPROVEMENT

by Judith Viorst

I've finished six pillows in Needlepoint,
And I'm reading Jane Austen and Kant,
And I'm up to the pork with black beans
in advanced Chinese Cooking.
I don't have to struggle to find myself
For I already know what I want.
I want to be healthy and wise
and extremely good-looking.

I'm learning new glazes in Pottery Class,
And I'm playing new chords in Guitar,
And in Yoga I'm starting to master the
lotus position.
I don't have to ponder priorities
For I already know what they are:
To be good-looking, healthy, and wise.
And adored in addition.

I'm improving my serve with a tennis pro,
And I'm practicing verb forms in Greek,
And in Primal Scream Therapy
all my frustrations are vented.
I don't have to ask what I'm looking for
Since I already know that I seek
To be good-looking, healthy, and wise.
And adored.
And contented.

I've bloomed in Organic Gardening,
And in Dance I have tightened my thighs,
And in Consciousness Raising
there's no one around who can top me.
And I'm working all day and I'm working
all night
To be good-looking, healthy, and wise.
And adored.
And contented.
And brave.
And well-read.
And a marvelous hostess,
Fantastic in bed,
And bilingual,
Atheletic,
Artistic...
Won't someone please stop me?



* Remember to reserve March 23, *
* 24, and 25 for the TEXAS NOW *
* Conference to be held in *
* Denton. *

EXCERPTS FROM "BARBAROUS RITUALS"

By Robin Morgan, author of "Going Too Far: "

Woman is:

- kicking strongly in your mother's womb, upon which she is told, "It must be a boy if it's so active."
- being tagged with a pink beaded bracelet thirty seconds after you are born, and wrapped in pink blankets five minutes thereafter.
- learning to detest the words "dainty" and "cute."
- being labeled a tomboy when all you wanted to do was climb that tree to look out and see a distance.
- learning that something you do is "naughty," but when your brother does the same thing, it's "spunky."
- wondering why your father gets mad now and then but your mother mostly sighs a lot.
- feeling basically comfortable in your own body, but gradually learning to hate it because you are: too short or tall, too fat or thin, thick-thighed or big-wristed, large eared or stringy-haired, short-necked or long-armed, bowlegged, knowck-kreed, or pigeon-toed - something that might make boys not like you.
- liking math or history a lot and getting hints that boys are turned off by smart girls.
- getting hints that other girls are turned off by smart girls.
- finally getting turned off by smart girls, unconsciously dropping back, lousing up your marks, and being liked by the other kids at last.
- discovering that what seems like everything worthwhile doing in life "isn't feminine," and learning to just delight in being feminine and "nice" - and feeling somehow guilty.
- swinging down the street feeling good and smiling at people and being hassled like a piece of meat in return.
- having your first real human talk with your mother and being told about all her old hopes and last ambitions, and how you can't fight it, and that's just the way it is: life, sex, men, the works - and loving her and hating her for having been so beaten down.
- having your first real human talk with your father and being told about all his old hopes and lost ambitions, and how women really have it easier, and "what a man really wants in a woman," - and loving him and hating him for having been beaten down - and for beating down your mother in turn.
- finding that almost all jobs open to you pay less, for harder work, than to men.
- secretly being bitched because the ceremony says "man and wife" - not "husband and wife" or "man and woman." Resenting having to change your (actually, your father's) name.
- not getting married, just living together in "free love," and finding out it's just the same as marriage anyway, and you're the one who pays for the "free."
- wanting to go back to school, to read, to join something, do something. Why isn't home enough for you? What's wrong with you?
- feeling responsible for more lives - your kids' as well as your man's - but never, never your own life.
- getting older, getting lonelier, getting ready to die - and knowing it wouldn't have had to be this way, after all.

April 1970.

Dr. Katie Youngblood has filed as a candidate for election to the Clear Creek independent School District Board of Trustees, position two. The seat is presently held by Joseph T. Whitworth, Jr.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS OFFENSIVE TO WOMEN!

SEAT COVERS IS NOT ALL WE DO [Jan. 1970]

- Repairs
- Convertible Tops
- Carpeting
- Leather dyeing
- Leather refinishing



CLEAR LAKE AUTO TRIM

SEABROOK 334-3011

"Quality Does Make A Difference!"

This ad appears regularly in the Daily Citizen--and was brought to our attention by an old friend, Vassie Cook. Perhaps we should become pals (PEN) to the owner of Clear Lake Auto Trim and to the editor of the Daily Citizen.???

JOIN N.O.W.: Clip and mail with your check to Marjorie Randal, 1922 Redway, Houston 77062.

- I would like to become a member of Bay Area NOW and National NOW. (\$27)
- I am already a member of National NOW and wish to pay chapter dues. (\$7)
- I want to join but can only afford \$_____.
- I am not a member but would like to receive the NEWSLETTER for a year. (\$4)
- I would like to make a contribution of \$_____ to NOW.
- As a NOW member, I authorize my name and address to be published on the chapter roster.

NAME _____ Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

ADDRESS _____ City and Zip _____

Occupation _____

Interests and/or skills which I can contribute to Bay Area NOW projects:

78/12