



# N.O.W. Bay Area N.E.W.S. Chapter

Volume XII, Number 2  
February, 1984

National Organization for Women

Where LESBIANISM and FEMINISM Meet



The issues, myths and history of lesbianism including homophobia and lesbian-baiting. The parallels of lesbianism and feminism-how to come together as women united on all women's issues.

Presented by

Dianne Berg and Judi Hoffman  
Co-Chair's Lesbian Rights Task Force  
Texas National Organization for Women

February 2, 1984  
A Uniting Church

7:30 pm  
El Camino & Reseda

This page is normally left for the minutes of the business meeting or remarks from members. The business meeting was so filled that we could take up eight pages on the business that transpired. The various decisions will be discussed in the varying reports on issues. As your president I felt compelled to devote this space to an article that appeared in an Allison Sanders column on Dec. 11, 1983.

"The membership was saddened to learn of the death this week of one of its most valuable members. SOMEONE ELSE.

"Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else had been in the membership since its beginning. She did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to be done, a project to be chaired, an event to be organized, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everybody's lips. 'Let Someone Else do it.'

"It was common knowledge that Someone Else was the largest contributor of her time to the membership; whenever there was a need for volunteers, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would volunteer. Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman, but a person can only do so much. If the truth were known, everybody expected too much from Someone Else.

"Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we're going to do.

"Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to do the things that Someone Else did?"

Recognize the person?

PT

## EDUCATION & TITLE IX

At the business meeting on Jan. 18, one of the first item's was the "essay contest" for high school students. This will be the second year that we will hold this event. We will need the assistance of a number of you all. The theme for the essay's will be "Women Who Have Influenced Us". Invitations will go out to all the high school's in the Bay Area. Information will be available at the program meeting on Feb. 2. The announcements will go to the high schools on Feb. 6 and essay's will be due on March 10, 1984, the end of "Women's History Week." Awards will be presented at the program meeting on Apr. 5, 1984. Get the invitation out to all the high school students you know. Let's make this a big public event.

The following is taken from an article in the February, 1984 issue of MS magazine. I urge you to buy a copy and read the whole article.

# **T**HE STRATEGIC REVIVAL OF THE ERA IN *How Did Your Representative Vote?* CONGRESS

**BY REP. PATRICIA SCHROEDER**

THE DAY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES narrowly voted down the Equal Rights Amendment, Speaker Tip O'Neill had prefaced the vote this way: "Members have the opportunity to clearly, unequivocally register their support of or their opposition to this Amendment. If you want to hide behind something that we have done, the structure in which we have brought it up, you are not fooling anybody. In your heart you will never live it down. You were looking for the escape. If you think this is the escape, then vote no. If you truly believe in a constitutional amendment for women's rights, now is the time and vote yes."

The vote count, 278-147, fell six votes short of the required two-thirds majority. Eighty-four percent of the Democrats voted for the ERA and 32 percent of Republicans. Twenty of the 22 women in the House voted for the ERA. Fourteen of the House ERA cosponsors voted against the exact wording that they cosponsored.

As someone who worked hard to bring the issue up and to win it, I am not disheartened by that vote. Now we know who in the House is for the ERA and who is not. Speaker O'Neill scheduled a vote on a clean ERA with no amendments. Without it, we would have no clear way of holding Congressmembers responsible for their action on the ERA in their 1984 elections.

We lost that round of the vote, but, clearly, the ERA is not dead.

In Illinois and Florida, two targeted states during the 1982 ERA Countdown Campaign, the defeat of the ERA in their state legislatures angered and activated women. They elected enough women to make a difference in the struggle for the ERA. In both Florida and Illinois, the number of women in the state senate doubled. As a result, we have enough votes to pass the ERA in the Florida Senate; and in Illinois, we have gained enough votes to change the three-fifths rule, a procedure used by opponents to kill the ERA in that state.

Here are some things you can do now:

- Find out how your Congressional representative voted on the ERA. Let her or him know that you are for a clean ERA, without any amendments. Echo the same message to your U.S. Senators and your state representatives.
- Register to vote and do so. Get your friends to vote. Let your representatives *know* that you vote.
- Help educate the public about why we need the ERA. Hold forums in school, have a special brown-bag lunch meeting at work, have whatever group you belong to do a briefing on the ERA, go door-to-door with information kits. Spread the word.
- Be active with your local media. Write letters to the editors of your local papers. Alert television stations whenever ERA events take place in your area.

Remember, *you* are the majority!

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Committee to Combat Racism

Over the last several months voter registration drives have become a principal activity of many civil rights groups, including NOW. These drives are considered to be aimed at putting more liberals in office, according to the KKK, and believed by them to be horrendous for white Americans. The KKK has responded with registration drives of their own, directed at conservative whites. A flyer they put out says in part, "We call on all those down-trodden, redneck, rebel Southerners to get themselves registered. If they lack the gumption and energy to visit their local board of elections, then they have no right to complain about anything."

The KKK has allied itself with other racist, sexist groups, including the American Nazi Party and the Moral Majority to register conservative whites. The Moral Majority, led by Jerry Falwell, plans to register 200,000 conservatives in North Carolina alone. This group is particularly worried about the '84 North Carolina race against their favorite, Jesse Helms. The Moral Majority aspires to register two million citizens nationally.

We cannot overlook the possibility that not only might the KKK, Nazis and Moral Majority be successful in their goal. These voter registration drives, especially the Klan's, is another way to appear a legitimate, non-violent advocate for white peoples rights. What better way to gain respectability? This is also the perfect outlet for the Klan to spread its propaganda of white supremacy and build its membership. Are we going to let them? I urge you to not only participate in Bay Area NOWs registration drives, but alert others against KKK activities. An excellent resource for educators is an informational and instructional kit with anti-Klan curriculum. (Recently blasted by President Reagan as "an attempt at brainwashing American schoolchildren.") Available for \$4.95 through: CIBC, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023; And send a donation of only \$5.00 for the quarterly publication, National Anti-Klan Network Newsletter, PO. Box 10500, Atlanta, Georgia, 30310. We can stop the violence and bigotry- with your help.

C.R.

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New Consciousness-Raising (CR) groups will be forming the month of February. These will be 10 week sessions from 7 - 10 pm on Monday or Tuesday nights or a three hour session on Saturdays. Find out about NOW, yourself, your sisters and how we all need each other. For Monday nights contact Donna Berend (409) 948-8896; Tuesday nights-Pat Kuhlmann (713) 488-3278; Saturday-Janice Brooks (713) 645-2136.



P.A.R.A. (People Against Rape and Abuse) are selling banners to go in your car saying PLEASE CALL POLICE. These fold up to fit in your purse or your glove compartment. Every one should carry one with them. The price is \$2.50 by mail or \$2.00 in person. You may purchase these from their office...

16811 El Camino Real, Suite 126-A  
Houston, Tx. 77058

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

When we formed the committee on Sexual harassment mainly to assist Marion Bowen, little did we know that we were opening a can of worms that is overwhelming. Sexual Harassment according to Sec. 703 of Title VII is "Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment." When we took the information to the Texas State Council of Jan. 14-15, we were really overwhelmed. We heard horror stories from Longview to Corpus, and from Lubbock to Houston. I for one, was astounded. The work of this committee is really set up. It appears that it is up to us to assist and educate those persons who are victims of this type of discrimination. Someone has to do it and it looks like it will be the primary work of Bay Area NOW. The following motion was presented to the Texas NOW State Council:

Whereas, sexual harassment on the job is a form of discrimination that affects all working persons directly or indirectly, and

Whereas, the Federal Government under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that..."employer's cannot discriminate on the basis of sex, and...requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature are considered harassment"..., and

Whereas, the psychological and emotional damage is similar to those persons involved in rape, battering and/or child abuse, and

Whereas, the Reagan administration has reduced the budget of the E.E.O.C.; has transformed the Civil Rights Commission into a group of persons that desire to eliminate affirmative action; has by these and other actions demonstrates a total disregard for the advancement of women in the work force;

Therefore, be it resolved that, Texas NOW create a task force to educate, assist, and prepare legislation on the issue of sexual harassment/discrimination in jobs and education.

This passed overwhelming and Fran Tooley of Lubbock financed our start at the state level with a \$100.00 donation. We have started something that will keep all of us busy. Join us!!!

For those of you who have not mailed your letter to the Kroger store here locally, may I suggest you sit down right now and write the following letter on behalf of Bay Area NOW member Marion Bowen. It is a small step that we can take to help a sister.

William G. Kagler  
President, Kroger Co., Inc.  
1014 Vine St.  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Mr. Kagler,

It has been brought to my attention that your store, Kroger #176 in Houston, Texas, has been named in a sex discrimination suit filed with the E.E.O.C. on behalf of all women employed by the Kroger Company as meat wrappers.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that "employers cannot discriminate on the basis of sex."

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to take steps immediately to eliminate this practice of discrimination in your company.

Sincerely,

If you receive any replies, please send a copy to the chapter.

LESBIAN RIGHTS

I urge each and every one of you to rush out and buy a copy of the February issue of MS magazine. The article "Marriage as a Restricted Club" by Lindsay Van Gelder says everything that I have been trying to express for a long time. I, also wish that there was space to print a complete copy of the article by Ellen Goodman entitled "Schlafly Tract to Circular File". She discusses a pamphlet that comes across her desk (which I had the opportunity to see at the Lesbian Rights Conference) entitled "THE ERA-GAY-AIDS CONNECTION".... "I don't have the space or stomach to take you through the perverse reasoning and profound homophobia of this attack, but let me just give you a few highlights. The argument begins by suggesting that the Equal Rights Amendment is a gay rights amendment for homosexuals who want the right to flaunt "their deviation as role models for children" and "to use public restrooms and parks to solicit sex with strangers." But the linchpin of the argument is the inference that, under ERA, we will all be left unprotected from the "Gay Plague."... "These are the absurd, wild non sequiturs of the hate-mongerers."... "But, here, under her organization's imprint, we have an indecent, cruel fistful of bigotry, one that uses human tragedy for political manipulation.".....

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The National Organization for Women has always been deeply concerned about the issue of rape. The National NOW Policy states:

GOAL: To revise the present laws which overwhelmingly favor the defendant, impede convictions, allow victims as witnesses to be treated in a manner which is both humiliating and damaging to their emotional health, and which further discourages victims from reporting the crime to officials.

On the national, state, and local levels NOW has been actively involved in community services to rape survivors as well as in community education and the reform of rape laws. It is the conviction of NOW that the only way to prevent rape is to change attitudes toward both violence and women. We live in a society that encourages violence of all kinds, a society that holds women in contempt. The combination of these attitudes results not only in violence against women, including rape, wife-battering and incest, but also in an acceptance of that violence. THIS SITUATION MUST CHANGE! NOW IS MAKING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE, EVERY EFFORT TO SEE THAT IT DOES.

During the 1983 Legislative session, Texas NOW and other groups worked to pass several pieces of legislation, the most important of which was a rape reform bill introduced first in the House by Rep. Debra Danburg and then in the Senate by Sen. John Whitmire. This law resulted in the following changes:

- (a) Reclassifies Rape as Sexual Assault-Rape is a crime of violence and not a sexual behavior. It is more appropriately placed in the assault category.
- (b) Makes the language gender neutral-This allows for the prosecution of both opposite and same sex rapes.
- (c) Removes the need for a rape victim to show "earnest" resistance-No other crime requires the victim to prove resistance. No one wants to be mugged--NO ONE WANTS TO BE RAPED.

However, under this law, RAPE OF A CO-HABITING SPOUSE IS STILL LEGAL. Although efforts to remove the spousal immunity clause were unsuccessful in the 1983 legislative session, NOW is working with other concerned groups to ensure that the clause is removed in the future.

(The above info is from the new brochure by the Texas NOW Task Force on Rape, co-chaired by Lyn McCoy and Madeline

*M'Gallion*

REPORT... "Lesbian Rights Conference: Power & Politics in '84"

On Jan. 20, 1984, the National Organization for Women held it's first conference on Lesbian Rights in Milwaukee, Wis. This has been a conference that a lot of us have looked forward to for a long time. From the time we arrived until the time we left it was the greatest feeling of energy and sisterhood that this person has ever had at a conference. Old wounds and old grudges were buried for the one common goal...the National Organization for Women. The feeling of warmth and co-operation was well worth the price of the hotel and the plane fare. The meeting was well attended with over three hundred members from all over the country. Bay Area NOW was represented by Bonnie Huval, Colette Roberts, Judi Hoffman and Phyllis Tucker. Texas NOW was represented by nine members and gained recognition (?) as the "raucous caucus".

The workshops that were conducted were each and every one the best learning experience in the world. From "Why are lesbian rights a NOW issue?" to "Minority Rights and Lesbian Rights" each and every question or concern that anyone has had on the issue of Lesbian Rights was covered and covered extremely well. When someone asks you... "Why does NOW support Lesbian/Gay rights?"...then I would remind you to tell them about the women in the military. Women who are thrown out from their chosen profession because they are thought to possibly have lesbian tendencies. Remind them of mothers who are accused of homosexuality and lose their children. Remind them of teachers, nurses, truck drivers, sales clerks, etc. who are fired because of their sexual orientation. Remind them of their sisters who are denied the right to be with their loved one during hospital stays because they are not blood kin or spouse (in the eyes of the law). Remind them of the women or man who has spent thirty or forty years living and caring and loving each other who lose everything when one of the partners die because legally everything goes to the next of kin. (Same sex partners are not considered next of kin). All of these issues were covered and many more. All of us regretted having to leave, even though the weather was -24. To Milwaukee NOW, Wisconsin NOW and the National NOW Lesbian Rights Committee...A Job well done!!!!!!!

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On Feb. 15, at 7:30 pm, the Rice Media Center will show a new docu-drama entitled "Rape-Crisis". The film is 90 minutes in length and a fee of \$3.00 will be charged. The Rice Media Center is located at entrance 7 on University Blvd. @ Stockton.



*Sally K. Ride*

Bay Area NOW members at Texas NOW state council Jan. 14, 1984 with America's First Woman in Space....Sally K. Ride.

Kneeling: left to right- Colette Roberts, Judy Snyder, Phyllis Tucker, Judi Hoffman

Standing: left to right- Rema Lou Brown, Bonnie Huval, Sally Ride, Pat Kuhlmann, Hedy Salazar, Elizabeth Lorange

BAY AREA NOW CALENDAR

- Feb. 22, 1984 Bay Area NOW Program Meeting
- 4 Voter's Registration Drive- Almeda Mall
- 4 10:00 to 4:00
- 4 Betty Friedan's Birthday
- 6 Last Day to file for public office
- 15 Bay Area NOW Business Meeting
- 15 Susan B. Anthony Birthday
- 17-19 National NOW Board Meeting- New Orleans, La.
- Contact Bonnie Huval 331-0444
- 18 Voters Registration Drive- Texas City
- 10:00 to 4:00
- Mar. 2 Bay Area NOW Program Meeting
- 3-4 Tx. NOW State Council- Southwest Dallas
- 4-10 Women's History Week
- 8 International Women's Day
- 21 Bay Area NOW Business Meeting
- June 29-July 1 National NOW Convention, Miami Beach, Fla.
- Sept. 14-16 Texas NOW State Conference, Northeast Houston

BAY AREA NOW OFFICERS

President	Phyllis Tucker	(713)	944-0033
Vice-President	Anita Marcos	(713)	482-6515
Secretary	Donna Berend	(409)	948-8896
Treasurer	Judy Snyder	(713)	486-5565

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A Very Special Welcome to our New Members...

Ellie Castillo, Francine Bartosh, Lynn Charney, S. Eddy, Caran Galloway, Eileen Levine and Juanita Price.

A Hearty Hello and our Appreciation to our Visitors...

Lila Muse, Nancy Snidtker, Peggy Samaya, Mary Helen Merzbacher, Lucretia Copeland, Lisa Almodovan, Amanda Higgins, Lyn McCoy, Cindy Funderburke and the Texas NOW Vice-President, Membership-Deborah Bell.

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WHO CARES ABOUT WOMEN? NOW CARES!!! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? Join NOW, now. Clip and mail to Judy Snyder 16310 Mill Point Houston, Texas 77059

- I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW (\$40.00)
- I want to be a member of Bay Area NOW, Texas NOW and National NOW and can afford dues of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- (Dues for NOW are on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$40)
- I am already a member of National NOW and want to join the BAY Area Chapter (\$8.00)
- I am not a NOW member but want to receive the newsletter for one year (\$5.00)
- I am making a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to NOW.
- I authorize my name and address to be printed on the NOW roster for members.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN, STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PRECINCT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ (FROM VOTER REGISTRATION CARD)  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

914-0037 (713)  
485-6212 (713)  
948-8988 (409)  
486-2283 (713)



BAY AREA N.O.W. NEWSLETTER  
c/o PHYLLIS A. TUCKER  
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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77034

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