

# N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter

# NEWS

National Organization for Women



VOLUME III, Number 10, October, 1975



## WOMEN IN LITERATURE -Program

7:30 P.M. Oct. 2, 1975, Uniting Church, El Camino Real and Reseda, Clear Lake City, Tex.

Our speaker, Dr. Gretchen Mieszkowski, teaches this topic at University of Houston/Clear Lake City. She will explore some insights which literature can give us into our past and present situation as women, with a brief historical survey of what literature shows about the "place" of women. The kinds of questions which can be raised in this context, and the extent to which they can be answered, will be discussed.

Dr. Mieszkowski holds a B.A. from Vassar and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Yale, where she taught for six years. She has also taught at University of Chicago and Queens University, Kingston, Ontario. She is a Medievalist and specialist in Chaucer, Shakespeare, and mythology, and has a 1971 monograph, Reputation of Criseyde, 1155-1500, to her credit.

## NOW Calendar of Events for October

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Oct. 2, 7:30 P.M., Uniting Church	-----	Program Meeting
Oct. 6, 7:30 P.M., 1407 Seagate	-----	Rap Session
Oct. 10, 7:30 P.M. 2418 Travis	-----	HAFFCU Wine & Cheese Party
Oct. 16, 7:30 P.M. Uniting Church	-----	Business Meeting
Oct. 24-27, Philadepphia, Pa.	-----	NOW National Conference
Oct. 29, everywhere	-----	ALICE DOESN'T Day

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TEXAS TEXTBOOK HEARINGS: 1975 EDITION

Testimony by Texas N.O.W.'s Continuing Task Force on Education For Women occupied the entire second day of the public hearing on textbooks at the Texas Education Agency in Austin, September 10-11. The N.O.W. presentation, coordinated by Kay Whyburn, Mary Buxton, and Marjorie Randal, provided testimony by 21 petitioners based on 151 Bills of Particulars filed in August by 75 Task Force reviewers from all over Texas. The hearing was chaired by a representative of the Commissioner of Education, with the State Textbook Committee in attendance, as well as publishers' representatives.

The opening statement by Barbara Duke of Austin drew attention to the fact that, in even the most advanced of this year's textbooks, adult females are numerically under-represented and confined to a narrow range of traditional roles. She stressed the steady determination of the Task Force to persist in its effort to rid textbooks of all sexist content. Several special witnesses led off the testimony. Dr. Donald Lutz, political scientist from the University of Houston, reviewed the theory and use of content analysis as a key method for investigating "deep structure" messages in documents. Dr. Clifton Whyburn, University of Houston mathematician, described limitations imposed by sexism on the career expectations of women in mathematics. Dr. Cookie Stephan, social psychologist from the University of Texas, commented on the role textbooks play in determining children's attitudes toward sex roles. She noted that, among other inconsistencies, textbook portrayals of women as primarily housewife/mother tends to foster among girls the erroneous notion that they need never expect to be employed in their adult lives.

Subsequent testimony focused on mathematics, spelling, and bi-lingual series submitted by individual publishers. The format offered equal time allotments to the Task Force speaker and the publisher's representative, plus a brief Task Force rebuttal period. We were pleased to find that this year, for the first time, most publishers had made extensive preparations - including providing carefully selected representatives - to respond to Task Force criticism. The prevailing tone of the hearing was quiet and very serious, and Task Force speakers proved impressive as always in both initial statement and rebuttal. Challenges ably met were too numerous to recapitulate. When, for example, a procedural technicality abruptly required Kay Whyburn to sub for Cliff Whyburn in presenting testimony prepared in his difficult handwriting, the dauntless couple turned a potentially awkward situation into a charming tableau of husband/wife teamwork.

Rema Lou Brown's precision time management - and the efficiency of witnesses - brought the day-long presentation to an end one hour ahead of schedule. With release in sight, TEA officials and Textbook Committee members seemed to pay careful heed to Twiss Butler's closing reminder that only TEA can initiate the changes we seek and that we hold TEA responsible for exercising that initiative.

---Twiss Butler

Discussion Sessions Possible, IF...

How can the American family style be revitalized or changed so that women have varied growth opportunities? What do you think about wages for housework? How have women fared in their search for help in psychotherapy? These questions and others could be explored in discussion sessions using good, but short, reprinted articles as a common background. It would be an opportunity to think about issues and share some common feelings. Feminist living is not easy, and it needs constant nurturing. This kind of session could offer that support.

The question is, who is interested and when can people meet? Ann Smith and Shirley McFaul are willing to set up meetings and secure reprints if there's an interest. So call 488-6213 to report interest in discussing the family, work, or psychotherapy.

Shirley McFaul

We've Arrived, Kinda

A letter to President Frances Hicks from Judy Lightfoot, Chair-one of the N.O.W. National Board, declares that Bay Area NOW is now provisionally Chartered (it turns out that all Chapter Charters are provisional). Anyway, its nice to know that we are no longer among the ectoplasmic hoi-polloi.

A Party for Financial Womanpower

HAFFCU, Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, is celebrating its opening with a wine and cheese party, 7:00-10:00 P.M., October 10, in its new offices at 2418 Travis. All interested feminists are invited. Bay Area NOW members who pledged a total of just under \$500.00 to HAFFCU are now turning in their checks. Other memberships will be provisionally accepted at the party (contingent on membership in one of 10 local feminist organizations); entrance fee is \$1.00, shares are \$5.00 each. Accounts are federally insured to \$40,000. Loans are available only to members, as in any credit union.

Olga De León for Texas Commission on Higher Education

Write letters to governor Dolph Briscoe, Austin 78711, in support of feminist Olga for the current vacancy on this Commission. Olga is in her 30's, holds a M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling, has taught, worked in Head Start Programs, and since 1972 has been a Social Science Research Associate in the Center for Public School Ethnic Studies, UT/Austin, helping create multi-cultural programs, counseling, etc. for Texas Public Schools. She has received awards and presented scientific papers, traveled extensively, and participated actively in the women's movement. For the past two years she has testified with us at the Textbook Hearings before TEA in Austin. Olga comes from the family of migrant workers, a fact which appears in her resumé.

Cheap Way to NOW National Conference

Houston Area NOW has chartered a plane for Philadelphia, leaving 8:00 A.M. Friday, Oct. 24, Eastern # 552, departing Philadelphia Monday, Oct. 27, 4:05 P.M. Cost is \$144 round trip. Call 524-5743 and leave a message for Jan Dilbeck. Some chance of no restriction on return time. Houston NOW offers free beds on night before departure. As will be recalled from Texas NOW Newsletter, National is offering a check for one-third of round-trip airfare to each Chapter which sends a delegate to this Convention. A Chapter has sole authority to award this money, but we need a delegate.

Bay Area NOW to Diversify

Let the fed become feeders. Each one teach one. Fifteen dollars is not enough to make you a feminist. We need help, and we intend to get it---how about it? Who will get out press releases? Who will arrange programs? Who will help with the newsletter? Who wants to preside at a meeting? Who cares about the greatest liberating movement of all time, to give a little of their time and energy to it? Isn't it nice that some women do care? How about you?

A great defect of conventional women's roles is that they foster individual labor at the expense of collective effort. Feminism suffers from the habits so engendered in each woman, which lead her to consider her own individual development as dependent only on her own efforts, when working with other women would be more profitable to her.

[Oct. 1975]



# Alice doesn't!

Have you had it with the SYSTEM that continually ignores, oppresses, brutalizes, rapes, imprisons, confines and restricts ALICE and her potential?

Support Alice Doesn't! Strike Day! A NATIONAL strike day sponsored for all women by the National Organization for Women. On October 29, 1975,

## ALICE DOESN'T:

- work in or out of the home. Alice walks off the job!
- spend ANY money on strike day. Alice withholds all monetary support of the SYSTEM- NO grocery or retail buying, no payment for services or transportation.
- volunteer ANYTHING. Volunteers demand recognition and pay.
- play political football. Alice withdraws support of non-feminist political parties, candidates, and issues.
- parent or babysit on strike day. Alice believes in equal fatherhood rights; Alice demands that fathers spend THAT day with their children---on their job, if necessary.
- support the image of women promoted by the media. Alice is beautiful and valid to herself and others. She demands EQUAL Time for, by, and about women and supports only feminists in the Arts and media on strike day.
- support non-feminist, 'traditional' institutions, including businesses, government, churches, unions and other organizations that keep Alice in her "place" economically, professionally, and politically.
- support male egos on strike day, socially, economically, or politically. Alice does for herself what pleases Alice and satisfies her needs and her right to be free and happy!

If you just CAN'T leave work:

- wear an ALICE DOESN'T arm band all day on strike day.
- organize a women's pot-luck luncheon celebration.
- plan a consciousness-raising mini-workshop for lunch on strike day.
- invent an observance for your particular situation that will make your feelings known.

GET TOGETHER EVERYWHERE WITH THE WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE---IN YOUR OFFICE, SHOP UNION, SCHOOL, CO-OP NURSERY, CHURCH, CLUB---to rap, commune, celebrate in sisterhood....

## BAY AREA NOW OBSERVANCE OF "ALICE DOESN'T DAY OF STRIKE"

Local Alices are invited to join us for pot-luck lunch at the Uniting Church, El Camino Real and Reseda in Clear Lake City, 11:30 to 1:30 on October 29th. Bring your own bag lunch or a dish which can be shared. Iced tea and coffee will be available. Bring your friends and tell us all what you are doing on Alice Doesn't Day.

Bay Area NOW members are making Alice Doesn't armbands for sale. They will be available at the home of Frances Hicks in Clear Lake City, 1407 Seagate. Call 488-8574 to place an order. They may be picked up on October 26th (Sunday) or later.

STRIKE FOR SISTERHOOD!





**Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union**  
2418 Travis • Houston, Texas 77006

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## **HAFFCU IS . . .**

a financial organization composed of members who have the common bond of eliminating the discriminatory practices in credit lending to women. HAFFCU offers its members an opportunity to accumulate their savings and creates a source to establish credit and lend money for provident and productive purposes at a reasonable interest rate. The Credit Union is an independent, non-profit corporation, chartered, examined and supervised by the National Credit Union Administration of the Federal Government. We are organized, directed and staffed by women.

*Each member account is insured to \$40,000 by Administrator, National Credit Union Administration.*

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## **WHY HAFFCU?**

The income of women is counted 100% by the government for taxation purposes, but totally ignored or discounted to a large extent by many lending institutions in processing credit applications.

HAFFCU intends to:

- provide women with the credit opportunities long available to most men.
- expand women's awareness of handling, budgeting and investing their own finances.
- educate and change the attitude of the discriminatory lending institutions by proving women are good credit risks.

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## **BORROWING**

You will not be discriminated against if:

- you need less than \$500, the usual bank minimum.
- you are single, married, separated, divorced or widowed.
- your income is from social security.
- you need money for legal expenses for divorce, for medical expenses or for psychiatric care.
- you have never borrowed money before.
- your spouse has or had a poor credit rating.
- you can't get credit anywhere else.

What will count is your ability and willingness to repay and what your friends and relatives say about your reliability.

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## **AFFILIATING GROUPS**

- Coalition of Labor Union Women
- Federally Employed Women
- Harris County Women's Political Caucus
- Houston Rape Crisis Coalition
- Bay Area N.O.W.\*
- Inner City N.O.W.\*
- Northwest N.O.W.\*
- Southwest N.O.W.\*
- Women's Equity Action League

\* National Organization for Women

## **CREDIT UNION HOURS**

Wednesday	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Thursday	3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Friday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Saturday	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

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