

Harris County Women's Political Caucus

(713) 453-6247

Houston, Texas 77053

P. O. Box 5316

SEPTEMBER 1977

SUPERMARKET POLITICS

Pam Hazen gave a superb finale to the Supermarket Politics series. Concentrating on campaign organization, Pam charted a structure which has been successful through countless campaigns: campaign manager at the top, then office manager supervising the coordinators of the components: volunteers, scheduling, fundraising, treasurer and precincts.

Out of her experiences, Pam offered tips.

Scheduling: Find out how long the candidate is to speak; have someone to accompany her to every speaking engagement.

Signs: Put out half your signs before the election; put out the other half the night before the election, on the street close to polling places.

Volunteers: Need to be needed. Tell them, by word and by letter: "You are important to this campaign."

Pam asked for each member to relate something learned from a campaign:

Donna: "How to make a proper sign."

Kathy Hooker: "That there's an awful lot of dirt work that needs to be done."

Cathy Jordan: "People will respond positively to the candidate's name if you mention her in general conversation. Word of mouth is the best publicity."

Many thanks to Pam Hazen for setting up Supermarket Politics. The four part series has been informative and enjoyable.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR
JOYCE CRAGG

Before and since offering myself for the chair, I've had some thoughts on Things We Need to Do This Year:

PRIORITIES

- Pass the ERA
- Establish a women's center: a place where resources necessary for women's problems would be centralized - legal problems, battered women, women's group meetings (us!), counseling, etc.
- Get our candidates elected.
- Increase our membership; this includes affirmative action.
- Encourage our members to run for local, state and national caucus offices.

2nd PRIORITIES

- Work at IWY convention.
- Raise money for our candidates.
- Find a free meeting place.

This fall many of us are working for candidates, IWY, women's issues. We're busy - but we need priorities.

If we accomplish all of these goals by the end of this year, we can pat ourselves on the back for a very good year.

ACTION MEETING - August 17

An emergency center for abused women is the goal for the Coalition of Abused Women. Envision is a center that will include facilities for: crisis intervention, counseling, legal information, resource referral service, and research. For information, contact: Coalition for Abused Women, c/o 1737 Indiana 77006.

Beatrice Mladenka-Fowler, in charge of offering HCWPC services to IWY, reported that IWY committee chairs have been chosen, but names are not yet public. "There is no firm information on anything." She did learn that Mary Keegan is in charge of local arrangements.

Nancy Aft, Fundraising Chair, related plans for an auction in December.

The state Policy Council meeting will be the weekend of Sept. 17-18 at the old Supreme Court Room at the Capitol. GO - Houston needs to be represented at TWPC.

HOFHLINZ WINS REX BRAUN AWARD

Mayor Fred Hofheinz was selected for TWPC's Rex Braun Award for 1977 at the state convention in El Paso. Harris County WPC nominated him for his support of the women's advocate in a controversy last March that resulted in the elimination of that position. Martha Smiley of Austin was chosen TWPC Woman of the Year. HCWPC nominee, Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, delivered the keynote address.

Saturday consisted of workshops and dinner in Juarez (Chinese?).

Resolutions and statements of principles filled up Sunday. Contrary to the Houston Post's story, we did not spend most of the day debating a boycott of Coors Brewing Co. Resolutions included: (in support of) welfare reform, reproductive freedom, shelters for battered women, IWY, lesbian feminist movement, child care advocacy, pregnancy disability; (boycotting) Coors beer, J.P. Stevens Co.; (condemning) pornography, the Hyde amendment.

Joyce Cragg, Janet Fisher, Helen Copitka, Beatrice Mladenka-Fowler, Sharon Macha, Olga Soliz, Liz Vollmert, Benegine Kring, Donna Duerk, Cathy Jordan and Mary Jordan comprised our delegation.

REPORT ON TWPC CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

DONNA DUERK

MEDIA WORKSHOP

Pointers from this workshop

- Develop working relationships with specific people in the stations or papers we want to cover our activities.
- Develop a respect for their judgement of newsworthiness.
- Understand their deadlines.
- Avoid deluging the media with trivia.
- Be well-informed on the issue, both pro and con, and be precise.
- Speak in 16 second increments; the person who edits the tape will not bother with long, rambling monologues.
- Timely, complete press releases should contain all the relevant facts in one or two pages.
- List a contact person as a source of further information.

RATIONAL BASED THINKING WORKSHOP

The basic tenet of RBT is that we are in control of our emotions rather than the reverse. For example: imagine being in a crowded elevator and being consistently poked from behind. Imagine the release of annoyance when you get off the elevator and discover that the man behind you is blind. The fact that you were poked did not change, but the things you were telling yourself about the poked changed dramatically. These sentences that we tell ourselves about events are the controlling elements relative to our emotions. We have the choice of trying to convince ourselves are right or trying to analyze each situation to discover how we can be effective. In a nutshell: the following words are to be avoided: Always/never-substitute usually for these absolutes. Terrible/awful - substitute the concept of the fallible human being for such awfulizing.

RBT -

Should/ought and have to/got to - substitute It would be in my best interest to... for such muster-bating. Eliminate what-ifs and realize that all what-ifs are scare tactics with no escape hatch. Most events are within your power of coping. We need to change our emotional reactions to situations if those are not real or not building toward self-actualization.

TEXAS CHILD CARE '76 Seminars

Texas Child Care '76 will present a series of five weekly seminars, "The Single Parent and Public Policy," on consecutive Thursdays, beginning September 8 and ending Thursday, October 6. They will be held at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood, from 7:00-9:30 p.m. The seminars are open to the public at no charge.

Seminar topics will focus on "Children and Single Parenthood" "Coping with Emotions"; and finally, "Future Implications/Where Do We Go From Here?"

ELLEN MUNGER HOSTS FUND-RAISER

Donna Duerk, Sharon Macha, and Joyce Cragg will enjoy the results of a fund-raiser at Ellen and Gene Munger's home on Sept. 4. They comprise the Houston delegation to the National WPC convention in San Jose, Calif. (Sept. 9-12).

Some candidates joined about 30 caucus members in this impromptu party. School Board candidate Craig Roberts, Controller candidate Kathy Whitmire and Mayoral candidate Bette Graham White were among those present. Wine and hor d'oeuvres complimented political gab. Because the party was on rather short notice, a telephone party was organized to call the members. As hard as we tried, we couldn't reach everyone.

Thanks to everyone who provided food. And thank you to Ellen and Gene Munger for their home.

ACTION & BUSINESS MEETING: CAMPAIGN WORK

BENEGINE KRING

City elections are getting closer and the campaigns of our candidates are in full swing. All summer we have been having workshops on how to work in campaigns. In September and October, we will be putting our knowledge into action. Come to our meetings prepared to work in your candidate's campaign - and if you haven't already become involved in a campaign for this election, come to the meetings, chose your candidate, and get to work!

We have several extremely qualified women candidates this year, as well as several men who support our goals. We are and ACTION group - let's put our candidates in this year!

We do it

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CRAIG ROBERTS

SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT V

2323 Watts #B 668-5341

Teacher 3 years; BA, MEE
from Rice University
Awarded Breakthrough 'On Our
Side Award'; Co-founder
Male Awareness Center
Member HAFFCU, Rape Crisis
Coalition Advocate

We need your time, help and
money.

BETTE GRAHAM WHITE: THE MAYOR SHOULD BE AN ORGANIZER

"Organizing - that's what I do best," says Bette Graham White, candidate for Mayor, "and Houston needs an organizer as Mayor."

"The role the mayor needs to fill changes over time. A few years ago, Houston needed a financial expert. Now because of political attitudes, lack of long range planning, neglect of the inner city, the high crime rate, the city needs someone who can organize a closer partnership of city government and social institutions - the educational, religious and business sectors."

Bette came to Houston 11 years ago as an organizer for church programs. She has since put her # 1 talent to work in schools and political campaigns. In the process, she's dealt with every city department head. "Department heads don't meet, don't know what each other is doing. As mayor, I will set up a weekly meeting of department heads to coordinate policy. Long range planning is a need, and an overall city plan is, also. To make decisions on the quality of life, problems need to be prioritized. The inner city is decaying - pockets of Houston have no water. Everybody waits for everybody else to make decisions, which in itself, is one way to make a decision. If a certain percent of the buildings in an area are demolished then the area can be condemned; parts of the 4th Ward are approaching that."

Asked if she has any answers to Houston's transportation problems, Bette replied, "Short term, not much. Houston needs

more federal funds to beef up streets used by city buses. Poor streets contribute to the breakdown of buses; 35% are out of commission at once. Long term, I'd get the people-mover off the back-burner. Mass transit is a need and, there again, federal money is required. I'd want a high profile on the "Share a Ride" program- lots of publicity."

Bette applies the communicate-organize-prioritize model to the police department as well. She wants an aide on the mayor's staff, a trained criminologist, who will have two functions: as liason between the mayor and police chief, and as a crime prevention expert particularly with other city departments. "Building a park may prevent or breed crime."

Bette Graham White is the Community Development Commissioner for the Fourth Ward and has been involved in three successful political campaigns. Her organizational talent has been applied to numerous religious activities, including fund-raising for the Institute of Religion and Human Development, the University of St. Thomas, and the Church of the Epiphany. She is a member of 24 civic and religious organizations, including the Women's Political Caucus, the YWCA, the Transportation Advisory Group and the American Red Cross. She holds a B.A. degree from Stephens College (Missouri) and a Master's in Religion from St. Thomas University.

ERA

Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) has determined that the 7 year deadline on the passage of the ERA is arbitrary. Bayh believes that the deadline could be extended by Congress.

The League of Women Voters is planning a million dollar war chest for pro-ERA publicity in a nationwide campaign.

The "antis" have booked Tranquility Park for the first night of IWY for a protest.



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Texas Roster of Officers

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Finance	-	- (vacant)

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Sharon Macha	- Houston	Martha Smiley	- Austin
Donna Duerk	- Houston	Eleanor Braun	- Austin
Cynthia Bebon	- Brownsville		

JOIN HAFFCU

Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union is in the last two months of its "Share and Member Drive." An impressive selection of prizes will be won by members who purchase HAFFCU share or recruit new members. HAFFCU has openings on the Board of Directors and the Credit Committee. Call HAFFCU office at 527-9108.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Sept. 21: HCWPC Action Meeting.
1st Unitarian Church, Fannin at Southmore
7:30 p.m. Room 14
- Sept. 28: HCWPC Program Meeting
1st Unitarian Church, Fannin at Southmore
Work Session for Candidates: Bring
your "Home Work."
- Sept. 15, 22, 29 & Oct. 6: Child Care '76, 5601
S. Braeswood. 7 - 9. "The Single Parent
and Public Policy."

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