



IWY IWY IWY IWY

(Susan Hill, an observer at IWY in Houston gives us the following report.)

I left for the National Women's Conference with a goulash of emotions, perhaps accentuated by the fact that we lost our way at least twice before even beginning our trek to Houston. I was hopeful and elated at the prospect of witnessing and being largest women's conference ever held in the U.S.

However, I was also somewhat apprehensive at the conference's potential for disaster, or, worse, farce. Would the feminist delegates

SKEET SCREWS TEXAS WOMEN

On December 2, Skeet Workman, local member of the Texas Commission on the Status of Women, went to Austin to testify on what it is that Lubbock area women want. The University Daily reported that she planned to advise the Commission that local women are opposed to sex education in the schools, federally funded day care centers and abortions, equality for gays, the Equal Rights Amendment and shelters for battered women. This information was supposedly gleaned from letters Ms. Workman received from women in this area.

It is no surprise that many
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drown one another in a tidal wave of dissension over details? Or would the anticipated hoardes of opponents--from Pink Ladies to white supremacists--disrupt the proceedings? And, regardless of what did or did not actually happen, would the media transform decisions and events carnival acts, editing out any semblance of unity and intelligence?

Perhaps the readers are in the best position to answer the preceding questions. My own answers contain some of the ambivalence of my attendant emotions. I came to the conference more like a visitor to the Vatican than a conventioneer--both awed and cynical, but, nonetheless, wishing for at least a small miracle.

I believe that I got my miracle. I saw 2,000 delegates from 56 states and territories forge, through the confusion of true democracy, a Plan of Action--25 resolutions to be submitted to Congress and the President.

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SEARCH CONTINUES

The newly formed Search Task Force held its second meeting on October 26 at Carol Haber's. The ultimate goal of the task force is the establishment of a Women's Resource Center where assistance in many areas would be offered on a referral basis. Such a center would aid women in finding a doctor, a lawyer, a day-care facility; it would serve as a support system through which women could learn of job opportunities or seek informa-
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NOW Retreat

The officers are planning an exciting and informative retreat for Saturday, January 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The retreat is open to all members and interested visitors. All members will be contacted by phone in early January to make reservations. Below is a tentative agenda for the retreat:

- 9:30-11:00 Coffee and Social time
- 11:00-12:45 Feminist film and discussion of the film
- 1:00-2:00 Lunch provided by the Chapter
- 2:00-3:00 Discussion of national NOW and Lubbock NOW
- 3:00-4:00 Leadership Development
- 4:00-5:00 How to learn and utilize skills through participation in NOW
- 5:00-7:00 Dinner and entertainment (Covered Dish)

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

is published monthly by the Lubbock chapter of the National Organization for Women.

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Articles, poetry, etc., should be submitted to the editor, 2123 17th, Lubbock 79401, typed, double-spaced on a 35 character line. Articles may be subject to re-write.

HERO MECHANIC

We(Susie Sappington and friends) might never have made it to Houston for IWY without the aid of a most supportive mechanic. Butch Herndon, of Precision Automotive at 2222 Avenue H, rear, dropped everything to replace the fuel pump on our aging Olds Friday morning so that we were able to get to Midland in time to board our plane for Houston, to attend what was surely the experience of a lifetime. It was a weekend of overwhelming sisterhood.

Search continues

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-tion about owning a business.

In order to facilitate the tremendous amount of information-gathering required for such a center, the task force is focusing its efforts on two projects: First, we will study the day care facilities in Lubbock (i.e., compliance with licensing standards, etc.). We have obtained copies of the licensing requirements and at our next meeting will hear from a woman with expertise in this area. The Junior League and other groups have done day care evaluations; input from them will be very valuable. NOW members with a contribution to make in this area are encouraged to join us! Immediate plans include working up a survey questionnaire to be completed by day care personnel. Our other project will be to compile a directory of business and professional women in the Lubbock area. Currently, members of the task force are contacting women's organizations to get a list of their members. We will then begin to categorize this information by profession, business, or other services offered.

Our next task force meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at C. Owens-Beckham's, 1514 29th Place, #4 at 7 pm. New members are welcome.
-Carol Haber

Anyone's Loss Dimishes Me

According to Time Magazine, one of the "hot items" in the Women's Movement and one which often splits the Movement is the issue of gay rights. If you were able to attend the IWY Conference, you were fortunate to witness the overwhelming support of rights for lesbians.

fear and hatred

Because of widespread fear, misunderstanding, prejudice, and hatred of homosexuality, basic rights are being questioned and threatened. People are being discriminated against in their work, in housing, the military, and of special concern, is the removal of children from their homes, not because the courts find the parent unfit, but rather because of the parent's sexual orientation. Arguments abound concerning the possibilities of legalization of homosexual marriages which might then allow the adoption of children, thus providing the child a homosexual role model. However, no one knows why or how a particular sexual orientation develops. Decades of investigation have not answered this question. Certainly most homosexuals grew up in heterosexual families.

outrages

Many persons depict the homosexual as a child molester, but of the estimated 100,000 children molested each year, 92% are female and 97% of the offenders are male.

For too long, people have accepted the outrage of rape, war, wife beating and child abuse in our society. Recently, it has been the women who have dared to speak out and to actively fight these abusive transgressions against women, children, all people; and it is understandable and especially admirable that women are supporting civil rights for homosexuals,

because lesbians suffer the results of double discrimination--being women and being homosexual.

With the continuing struggle for rights for ourselves, our mothers, our daughters and in memory of our wonderful female ancestors who helped and often died in the building of this nation, we must not deny rights to any person for any reason! To do so would indeed destroy the credibility of what we believe to be so basic to our creed. If a woman is not allowed to choose among alternative lifestyles she is not equal and she is certainly not free--and these choices include sexual preference.

a dangerous thing

This society is homophobic and fear is a dangerous thing. We have been witness to violence against homosexuals for generations, much of the time in the name of morality. We are not suggesting a law that would force everyone to become homosexual, yet many would deny rights to those who are. God's command is to love one another. Do we show this love by denying persons their basic human rights?

HOGWASH



Harris

We have no argument with the right of anyone to promote women's rights, tadpole days or whatever.

Jay Harris, editorial in the Avalanche-Journal, December 1, 1977, submitted by Briggs Twyman

"Any woman who is worth her salt can find someone she can afford to care for her children," Workman said, "I don't think we should turn our children over to the federal government." (continued on page 8)

SKEET SCREWS TEXAS WOMEN

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West Texas women would hold such views, but what of the letters Skeet received from pro-women's rights people? We know that Lubbock NOW task forces, as well as individuals have written to Ms. Workman expressing their feminist concerns. The League of Women Voters, as well, have written in support of ERA. What has she done with those letters?

Regardless of what Skeet reports to the Commission, the members will undoubtedly register little surprise. Lubbock is hardly known as the "liberal capital of the world." We hope that the rampant conservatism that abounds on the South Plains will be taken into consideration when the Commission makes its recommendations concerning women.

battered women

It is known, however, that Ms. Workman is opposed to the idea of a shelter for battered women. She has been quoted as saying that "all those women need is Christian counseling." She was indeed quoted in the December 2 issue of the University Daily as being opposed to shelters for battered women on the grounds that there is already enough help for women with such problems. "Any woman who has a problem can walk into my church and find help," said Ms. Workman. Knowing that her church is First Baptist, I called and spoke to Pastor T. Walker. I simply told him that I was interested in the problems that battered women have to face, and was interested in the facilities maintained by First Baptist to help women with such problems. When I initially called, I was told that the Pastor was not in his office and he would have to call back--good thing I wasn't standing in a phone booth, bruised and bleeding with three little kids clinging to my skirts. In any case, Pastor Walker did return my call in about half an

hour. His answer to my question regarding services for battered women was, "No, we really don't have the facilities to take care of that kind of thing. Of course, if one of our members were in trouble, I suppose we could do something to help her." Hardly the kind of answer one would expect given Skeet's statement that any women with a problem could walk into her (Skeet's) church and find help. Ms. Workman is obviously misinformed about the church in which she plays so active a role; or perhaps there is a more sinister explanation.

skeet and sympathy

I would like to think that Ms. Workman's lack of sympathy for women less fortunate than herself stems from ignorance. I could excuse her offhand treatment of battered women, and I could give her the benefit of the doubt if she were very young or uneducated, or perhaps even out of touch because she lived in a remote area of the world; but Skeet is middle-aged, surely has at least finished high school, and is sophisticated enough to have been appointed by Dolph Briscoe to serve on the Texas Commission on the Status of Women. I cannot give her the benefit of the doubt. I can only conclude that she is so self-centered that she has forgotten what she surely learned in Sunday School: "Love one another even as I have loved you."

now rebellion

We were upset when we learned that Ms. Workman, who had vocally opposed the establishment of a Commission, had indeed been appointed as a member; we cringed at a women's meeting at St. John's Methodist Church when we heard Skeet say that men and women would never be equal

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The Bookshelf

Claremont de Castillejo, Irene. Knowing Women. 1973. pbk. \$2.45

A beautiful, loving book by a Jungian analyst, emphasizing the strengths and intuitive power of "diffuse awareness" in any one. (Pronouns are really in the way in this book; I suggest you substitute his for her and vice versa, and then reread sentences to catch the problems language can cause.) A truly meaningful, inspiring book.

Gelpi, B.C. and A. Gelpi, eds. Adrienne Rich's Poetry. 1975. pbk. \$1.95. Tight, strong poetry which "dives into the wreck" of your emotions and experiences and expresses them exquisitely. Her poems are what words and life are all about. Also included are insightful conversations with her about the women's movement, and critical

reviews of her poetry.

Sheehy, Gail. Passages, Predictable Crises of Adult Life. 1976. pbk. \$2.50
What, you feel you're going crazy, life seems meaningless, death is edging up, relationships seem to be shallowing out and changing in disturbing ways, and you just can't talk about all this uncertainty? That's the time to read this book. It'll help.

Ellman, Mary. Thinking About Women. 1968. pbk. \$2.65
Incisive, critical ideas about women writers and stereotypes of women in literature, and about reviewers disparaging these issues. Well-written, ironic, and subtly humorous. (You'll laugh, but your smile will be crooked.)

(all submitted by Mary Beth Dennis)

That's NOW Business

♀ The following Lubbock NOW members attended the IWY convention: Elaine Bagley, Linda Bailey, Daisy Breedlove, Pamela Brink, Edna Gott, Virginia Grief, Carol Haber, Susan Hill, Kenneth Lawler, Cathie McWhorter, Susie Sappington, Carol Smith, Jane Twyman, Barbara Ward, and Shirley Wright.

♀ Elaine Bagley and Jane Twyman spoke to the Gay People of West Texas about the IWY Convention.

♀ Elaine Bagley, Carol Haber and Cecilia Owens-Beckham spoke to the Plainview NOW chapter last month about reactionary forces seeking to destroy the Women's Movement.

♀ Briggs Twyman has been appointed as our new corresponding secretary.

♀ If you were not aware of it before you received this newsletter, you have missed a lecture by Margaret Mead at Texas Tech.

♀ By unanimous consent of the National Board of NOW at their October meeting in Seattle, Washington, the name of NOW's national membership publication has been changed from Do It NOW-- begun as a one-page action newsletter in 1971--to the National NOW Times. We of the Lubbock newsletter staff want to follow this national format and hope you like it.

♀ Kudos to the fundraising committee and our super responsive membership for making our bake sale a delicious success. We made \$140.00 which we sorely needed.

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IWY
IWY

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The resolutions were originally developed by the members of the IWY Commission, with input from the over 130,000 women who attended the state and territorial conferences earlier this year. The National Women's Conference delegates debated, sometimes passionately, these resolutions, with many resulting amendments and substitutions.

For example, the original resolution on Minority Women, a short, general plank, was substituted completely by a comprehensive, specific article compiled by a unified caucus of American women of Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Asian, Native American and Alaskan heritage.

Many other conference activities provided non-delegates with opportunities to learn from each other. I attended several workshops concerning the media. One seminar featured strategies for making local media more responsive and responsible. I was angered, inspired, and I took notes like a court reporter.

In another workshop, I heard women from Egypt, Israel, Yugoslavia, Jamaica, Denmark, Ecuador, India, and Taiwan discuss women in their nations' media. Unlike many of these women, we have the means to change things. Hearing of true tales from abroad, such as the Calcutta newspaper which allows no females on its premises, I was ashamed that we had done no more to transform our own media.

The National Women's Conference was a tonic for my woman's spirit, and, in the hopeful words of Dr. Margaret Mead, it "may be a turning point not only for the Women's Movement, but for the world itself."

--Susan Hill

* * * * *
"His' and 'hers' should not
divide the world, which is 'ours.'"
--Mary Calderone, Physician

Mujeres Unidas

When women get together to celebrate the joys and struggles of womanhood, it is indeed an exciting event. Such an event occurred Monday, December 9 when many women from Lubbock who attended the National IWY Conference met together to share slides, information, talk, fun and the excitement of the conference with their sisters who could not attend. Susie Sappington and Elaine Bagley attended this special meeting of Mujeres Unidas and experienced again many of the memorable episodes of the conference via slides taken by Ester Longoria. A special thanks to Lile Quirino for inviting us to the meeting. It was great fun---let's do it again!

Proud and Free

"No fascinating woman ever wants to emancipate her own sex. Her object is to gather power into the hands of Man, because she knows that she can govern him. She is no more jealous of his nominal supremacy than he himself is jealous of the strength and speed of his horse. Women disguise their strength as womanly weakness, their audacity as womanly defenselessness; simple men are duped by them, and subtle ones disarmed and intimidated. It is only the proud, straightforward women who wish, not to govern, but to be free."

--George Bernard Shaw

I am a river running to a dead sea,
through a night of unpayable debts,
unspeakable loves,
dreams of ecstasy and terror;
past trees filled with blind birds
singing improbable songs of joy.
At dawn, clouds rise in the east,
and the shadow of a flameless fire
covers the troubled, long burning
desert
which I am becoming. --Littlebeck

NOW Legislative Action Report

Every month we will run a report in the Newsletter informing NOW members about current legislation pertaining to women's interests. Please write letters to Senators Tower and Bentsen and Representative Mahon voicing your opinions about these issues.

abortion

56 House and Senate resolutions calling for a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting abortions.

Purpose:

All 56 resolutions attempt to restrict abortion rights. The limitation varied from "protecting" the unborn to allowing individual states to decide the question.

Status:

House: Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.
Senate: Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution. No action is expected this year.

aging

Age discrimination in Employment
(H.R. 5383), Pepper (D-Fl):
(S.1784) Williams (D-NJ)

Purpose:

To eliminate age-based mandatory retirement. Age, like sex, is a poor indicator of a person's ability to work.

Status:

House: Passes 359-4 on September 23.
Senate: Human Resources Committee reported bill out on September 30. The bill was weakened in committee by exempting faculty of educational institutions and anyone with pension income of \$20,000 a year.

♀ ♀

Whatever Women do, they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good ----luckily this is not difficult!

SKEET SCREWS

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because "God says in the Bible that there will never be perfection in this world" and now we must rebel at the notion that a woman who thinks so little of her own sex represents us, the women of West Texas, on the Commission in Austin. The purpose of the Commission is to study the issues and recommend legislation that will upgrade the status of women in Texas, not bury them. If Skeet refuses to represent the views of all the women in her constituency, she must be removed from the Commission! Write to the Commission and the Governor. Let them know your views on the way Lubbock area women are being represented. In the words of Flo Kennedy: "Get off your apathy!"

We are all busy, involved people, but let's not get so busy or involved that we don't take time to write letters. They are very important. Write the Texas Commission on the Status of Women, State Capitol, Austin, Texas, also Governor Dolph Briscoe at this same address. Skeet Workman and her ilk are a very noisy minority, and the whole issue of rights for women may come down to who can make the most noise. We've worked too hard and too long for the benefits we have gained to go down the tubes. We need a shelter for battered women; we need good, federally funded day care centers; and we need safe, legal abortions to be available to every woman who wants one. With the likes of Skeet Workman representing us in Austin, we could lose it all.

---Jane Seaver Twyman

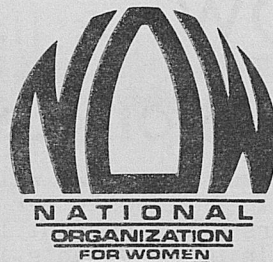
TAPES OF IWY

Cassette Tapes of plenary session and workshop speakers at the IWY Conference are available from TAPE SERVICES UNLIMITED, 24886 Broadmore Avenue, Hayward, California 94544. Call Pam Brink for more information.

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HOGWASH ANNEX

Interview with Skeet Workman in the
University Daily, December 2, 1977.
submitted by Jane Twyman



Harris



Pig



Harris

submitted by Richmond Flowers.

JOIN NOW NOW

MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Please fill out and return to Susie Sappington, 1523 24th Place, Lubbock, Texas 79405.

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