

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planned Parenthood Network;  
Friends of Pro-Choice in Alabama

FROM: B. Joan Rickels

RE: **CITIZENS FOR CHOICE - MADISON AND MORGAN COUNTY AREAS  
WEDNESDAY - APRIL 3, 1991 - 5:30 PM -  
EXECUTIVE INN - 9035 HIGHWAY 20 WEST - MADISON**

DATE: March 15, 1991

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Citizens for Choice accomplished a great deal in 1990. A list is attached of those accomplishments. **"THANK YOU"** to all of you who helped with these projects. However, when we were in Montgomery, the pro-choice side was always outnumbered by at least 100 to one and we heard the elected officials say, "We never hear from the pro-choice side". The truth is they did hear from us, but not often enough.

Citizens for Choice has made County Chapter organization its number one priority. Initially, we are concentrating on the counties with pro-choice State Senators and/or State House of Representatives members. There is one reason for this approach - lack of funds and we feel that we must keep these pro-choice elected officials pumped up for our cause. As funds become available, we will move to other counties.

**CITIZENS FOR CHOICE - MADISON AND MORGAN COUNTY AREAS  
WEDNESDAY - APRIL 3, 1991 - 5:30 PM - EXECUTIVE INN  
BRING SOMEONE WITH YOU! REFRESHMENTS! SPECIAL PROGRAM!**

Representatives from the Member Organizations of Citizens for Choice will be at the meeting. A list is attached.

Citizens for Choice has been chosen by the Pro-Choice Resource Center of the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion to bring the Coalition's workshops on pro-choice Voter Identification Project to Alabama. Ms. Judi Doherty will be leading the workshops all over our State.

Voter identification on the pro-choice issue is an excellent tool to help us gain grassroots support. We have attached an information sheet about the workshop.

Please call me at Planned Parenthood of Alabama for more information.

BJR:gkb

Attachments

*The Nation's Largest and Oldest Birth Control and Cancer Screening Agency*

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1211 27th Place South  
Birmingham, AL 35205  
(205) 322-2121

**HUNTSVILLE CLINIC**  
125 Earl Street  
Huntsville, AL 35805  
(205) 539-2746

**MOBILE CLINIC**  
2654-D Cameron Street  
Mobile, AL 36607  
(205) 471-4409

**MONTEVALLO CLINIC**  
Orr Park Building  
Montevallo, AL 35115  
(205) 322-2121

## CITIZENS FOR CHOICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

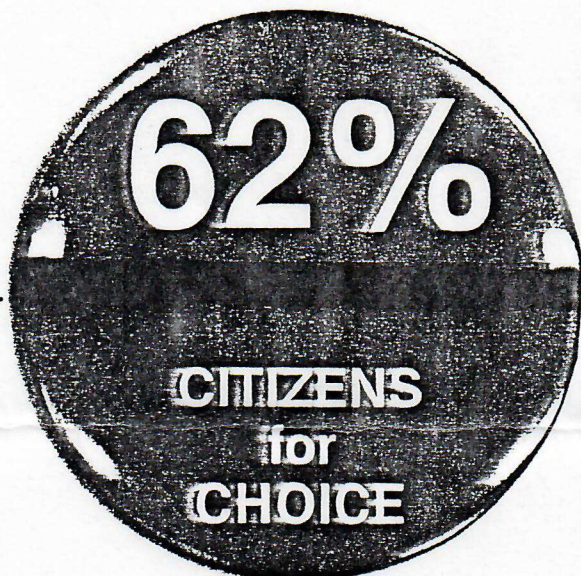
- Member organizations attended and helped organize the November 12th Pro-Choice Rally in Montgomery.
- Member organizations helped organize the following groups: Lawyers for Choice, Clergy for Choice and Physicians for Choice.
- Representatives from Citizens for Choice appeared on radio and television talk shows.
- Commissioned Capstone to do a statewide poll of registered voters on the choice issue. Results indicated a 62% Pro-Choice majority, announced at a Press Conference, January 5th.
- Attended and helped organize Lobby Day in Montgomery on January 9, 1990.
- Representative Demetrius Newton sponsored a Pro-Choice bill in the Alabama legislature, and we held a joint News Conference announcing the bill.
- Our representatives testified at hearings before the House Public Welfare Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Also, helped to locate other speakers to testify.
- Arranged for the use of Planned Parenthood offices for News Conferences and telephone banks for Alabamians for Choice.
- Citizens for Choice and their organizations monitored the legislature on a weekly basis.
- A postcard campaign resulted in over 40,000 Pro-Choice cards being mailed to legislators.
- Organized letter writing sessions.
- Thousands of petition signatures were presented to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House, and a news conference was held in Montgomery to announce the presentation.
- \$26,000 worth of radio spots ran for 2 weeks in March in 8 cities and on 17 stations.
- \$5,000 worth of print advertisements followed the radio spots in 5 cities and 7 newspapers.
- Developed T.V. editorials for Choice which aired on commercial T.V. stations in Birmingham in April.
- Organized and attended Lobby Day for the final day of the 1990 session where we helped to defeat the anti-abortion bill.
- Sent an issue questionnaire to 300 candidates for office in the 1990 elections.
- Made a formal comment on the State Board of Health proposed changes in abortion center rules. Plans include members testifying at the public hearing in July, 1990.
- Released to news media the Pro and Anti Choice positions of political candidates, 1990.

CITIZENS FOR CHOICE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Federation of Business and Professional Women  
Alabama New South Coalition  
Alabama Women's Political Caucus  
American Association of University Women  
Civil Liberties Union of Alabama  
Clergy for Choice  
Lawyers for Choice  
Alabama League of Women Voters  
Mobile Bay Area NOW  
Montgomery NOW  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Macon County Chapter  
Nurses for Choice  
Physicians for Choice  
Planned Parenthood of Alabama, Inc.  
Seniors for Choice  
Southern Rainbow Education Project

RED  
BACK  
GROUND

BLUE  
STRIPE



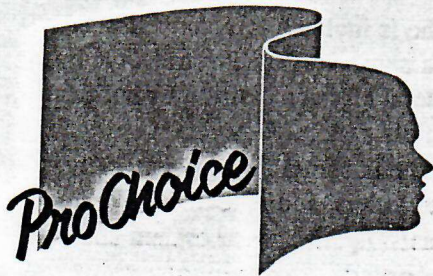
62% Citizens for Choice  
Capstone Poll in  
December, 1989 of  
Alabama Registered  
voters, 62% said:  
**THE DECISION TO HAVE  
AN ABORTION SHOULD BE  
THE WOMAN'S CHOICE.**

A N D

62% In Corpus Christi,  
Texas, a City Charter  
Amendment declaring  
that, "human life be-  
gins at conception",  
was defeated on  
1/19/91 by 62%.

BUTTONS: \$1.00 EACH  
LAPEL STICKERS: \$ .50 EACH

PLEASE CALL JOAN RICKELS AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF ALABAMA FOR  
PRICES ON PURCHASING LARGER QUANTITIES. THE NUMBER IS 322-0111.



**RESOURCE CENTER**  
OF THE WESTCHESTER COALITION  
FOR LEGAL ABORTION, INC.

237 MAMARONECK AVENUE • WHITE PLAINS N.Y. 10605 • 914 946-2034

## How to turn pro-choice supporters into pro-choice voters and transform American politics.

(excerpted from the manual, *Pro-choice Power*)

Finally, the political scales are beginning to shift to the pro-choice position — with a lot of pushing from the pro-choice side.

The battle over legal abortion has always been political; that didn't start with the 1989 Webster ruling. The difference now is that the U.S. Supreme Court has sanctioned politicizing it. In *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, the justices broadened state control over rights and access and, in effect, told Americans to fight it out in the state legislatures.

Ironically, Ronald Reagan, by creating an anti-choice Supreme Court, also created a tide of pro-choice activism. He made American women finally feel threatened about losing the right of reproductive choice. Hundreds of thousands of women and men marched in Washington, thousands rallied in state capitols, and hundreds called their local pro-choice groups asking how they could get involved.

In several election battles in 1989 and more in 1990, organizations and coalitions across the county harnessed this new energy to take seats away from anti-choice opponents. There are clear signs that politicians are getting the message. They are changing their perception of pro-choice strength.

These victories should send a message to pro-choice organizations too. Lobbying alone will not win the issue. It's time to move forcefully into electoral politics.

The well-publicized election victories of 1989 and 1990 must not lull the pro-choice side into thinking success is automatic. Anti-choice opponents will not go away. If anything, the opposition's "religious" core is becoming even more aggressive. They are

more determined than ever to write their beliefs into every law they can. The opposition is still well organized and well financed.

The pro-choice movement must fight the abortion battle state by state — electing pro-choice majorities at every level of government. To do this, the movement must develop a grassroots base in every district. Since all politics is local (representatives at every level of government are all elected in the precincts), this base can be the springboard for action in county, state and federal elections, on state referenda, and on public policy issues year-round. To be effective, grassroots organizing must be done at the local level by a local group.

It's unrealistic to expect to sweep a pro-choice majority into every statehouse right away. The electoral battles will have to be waged again in 1992, a presidential election year, and beyond.

From here on out, candidates in every election can run on the pro-choice position — and win. Anti-choice incumbents must learn that their actions are no longer politically wise.

### Is this hard to do?

No. The Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion (WCLA) has been doing it for years in a large county of 900,000 residents -- working out of a small two-room office with an executive director, dedicated volunteers, and two part-time staffers.

We are a year-round education and lobbying organization, a 501(c)(4) with a state PAC and a federal PAC.

In 1984, we developed an operation we call Pro-choice IDEA — voter Identification, Education, and Activation. Our most powerful tool is a large, well-cultivated list of voters, primarily women, who have told us they want to keep abortion legal and are willing to vote the issue, even if it means crossing party lines.

In the 12 years before Pro-choice IDEA, we had built up a mailing list of 16,000 names of pro-choice supporters — not a bad record. In the six years since, through systematic, computerized voter identification, the list has grown to cover 72,000 households, about 115,000 voters. That's 25 percent of the voters in the county. This list has delivered the margin of victory in many races.

Since Webster, the Pro-choice IDEA model has been adapted successfully in state legislative races by CARAL South in California, and by groups in New Jersey and Illinois.

What we do isn't complicated. There's no mystique. It takes time and effort, but anyone can do it.

You have advantages we didn't have when we started. You're working in a climate ripe for action. Politicians are more receptive. Citizens want to get involved. There are computers to handle the volume of information that massive voter identification, education, and activation require. You can start in fast-forward.

## How does Pro-choice IDEA work?

Throughout WCLA's early years, we collected pro-choice names in the traditional way — through petitions, tabling, newspaper ads, direct mail, etc. In each case, we asked for a commitment not to vote for anti-choice candidates. The response, as early as 1972, was encouraging. Later, computers made it possible to systematically amass substantial numbers of pro-choice names, sort them by defined categories, and generate labels and phone lists for voter activation.

Pro-choice IDEA is a three-step grassroots organizing strategy. The rest of this handbook spells out all the details. Here, in a nutshell, is what we do:

### Identify pro-choice voters

- \* We work off the voter registration rolls, doing a phone canvass of every registered woman voter for whom we can find a phone number.

- \* We use a simple script asking women if they favor keeping abortion legal, if they vote the issue, and if they are willing to cross party lines to vote for a pro-choice candidate.

- \* We add to our permanent mailing list the name

of every woman who is inclined to vote the issue.

- \* We code each name to make it retrievable by local, state, and federal election district, by political party, and other factors.

- \* We maintain the list from year to year, canvassing newly registered voters, adding names of other pro-choice individuals, updating entries, and deleting voters who moved or died.

### Educate pro-choice voters

- \* Through newsletters, legislative alerts, fundraising appeals, and media visibility, we keep the people on our list informed year-round. We educate them about the threats to abortion rights and reproductive health services, and the positions of their elected officials.

- \* We encourage people on the list to lobby, and we tell them when and how to do it.

- \* We constantly educate them about the importance of voting their pro-choice position.

### Activate pro-choice voters

- \* Through questionnaires and interviews, we identify the pro-choice candidates before every election.

- \* We endorse pro-choice candidates and publish the endorsements in our newsletter and in a voting guide mailed to our entire list. We publicize our endorsements through the media.

- \* We assess every race and target those on which we will expend time, effort, and PAC money in an all-out push to elect a pro-choice candidate.

- \* We rent our list and our services to selected candidates for voter-activation mailings and phone banks.

- \* We advise candidates on how to develop a campaign strategy using the issue of choice.

- \* Our state and federal PACs run paid print and broadcast ads and make direct contributions to campaigns.

Stripped to the essentials, that's the base of WCLA's political power. What makes the organization an effective local political player is our year-round active presence in the community. But what gives WCLA political power is the existence of a very large list of names — which enables us to activate pro-choice voters of any party, especially those who will cross party lines to vote pro-choice.

With this kind of list, a pro-choice organization becomes a power broker. The organization owns the list and controls how it's used. And you will discover that the best time to educate politicians on the issues is election time.

**PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD  
of Alabama, Inc.**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 1211 27th Place South, Birmingham, Alabama 35205 (205) 322-0111

May 13, 1991

Dear Friend,

Planned Parenthood of Al in Huntsville is moving! We've enclosed our announcement with a small map. The process of moving is always a mix of positives and negatives. We are happy to say in this move, the positives win out. We will have our own private location, we will have more room to accommodate our already expanding services and we will have excellent visibility.

The negative to moving is the cost. We are hopeful to raise the money to pay for the filing system that we have so long been needing. At our last Federation Recertification this was one recommendation that was stressed. PPA in Huntsville must move to a numerical system vs an alphabet system in order to more efficiently take care of the expanding case load. We need your help!! The least expensive system that offers the basic essentials costs \$2053.00. Many of you I have spoken to in the past and you have verbalized how you want to support the efforts of Planned Parenthood but do not have the time to meet monthly with us at the Library. We need you to take on this project and to help us raise the \$2000.00. Currently on roll we have approximately 55 members of the Friends. That means if each member contributed \$35.00 or more the system could be purchased in full. Some of you may have Friends who you could approach. We haven't really had a project since our last fundraiser 2 yrs. ago. We are hopeful you will consider this one. It doesn't require attendance at a meeting and could be done from home. Remember any contribution to Planned Parenthood is tax deductible. Your efforts in this will help us continue to provide our services at the much reduced cost to our patients.

There are two other areas in which we could use some help. One area involves some time and some creative ideas. We would like to host an Open House in our New Location. We project we will be moving around the end of June and would like to have the Gala Event around or shortly after this time. Would you consider helping with this?

Last but definitely not least we need your help in the area of our Monthly Friends Meetings. Daphne McKinley has so freely given of her time this past year to coordinate the Friends Group. She is expecting her first child anytime now. She realizes her energies will need to be with the baby at home and she would like to step down and have us name a new coordinator. I can cover in detail what this will involve if any of you are interested. Our next scheduled meeting of the Friends will be July 22nd at the Huntsville Public Library beginning at 5:15 P.M. We need a coordinator and we need some faithful attenders. Please consider this opportunity. We at Planned Parenthood feel there is no greater cause in this present day when Women's Health needs are so great and our right to have Choice is being so threatened. Let's bind together and stand strong.

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1211 27th Place South  
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Be a Friend of Planned Parenthood

- I'm enclosing my tax-deductible contributions to help Planned Parenthood purchase the new filing system.
- I would like to assist with "Open House" at Planned Parenthood's new Huntsville location.
- I would like to discuss the position of Friends Coordinator so I might consider this opportunity. My phone # is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I would like to be notified of future meetings of the Friends Groups so I can participate more actively.

THE STAFF AND FRIENDS OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD "THANK YOU" FOR TAKING TIME TO RESPOND.

Sincerely,

*Kay Thrash*

Kay Thrash  
Clinic Director

Mailing Address:

125 Earl St.  
Huntsville, AL 35805

Tues Mornys

6:30

Longwood & Gallatin - Dir Kathleen?  
WCNC Womens Comm North Ala

Security -  
D. Thomson

60 Years of Service!

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APPLICATION AND ESSAY FORM  
TEENAGE PREGNANCY REDUCTION CONTEST

TITLE: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THE RATE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY BY FIFTY PERCENT BY THE YEAR 2000.

CONTEST RULES:

- 1 - All entrants must be between 13 and 19 and residents of the State of Alabama.
- 2 - All entries must be postmarked, or delivered, to the Birmingham office of Planned Parenthood, (address above) on or before March 31, 1991. ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.
- 3 - All entries must be typed or printed clearly, and fit in the space on the reverse. Complete and return both sides of this form to the address above.
- 4 - ALL blanks on the bottom of this form must be completed. If the blank does not apply to you place N/A in that space.
- 5 - The names and hometowns of winning entries will be made public. Be sure to discuss this with your family before you enter. One parent must sign the entry form, agreeing to allow you to enter. All entries become the property of Planned Parenthood of Alabama.
- 6 - Families of sponsors and/or judges are not eligible for entry.
- 7 - There will be two categories 13 - 15 and 16 - 19 years of age. Prizes for each category will be: FIRST PRIZE: \$500 - SECOND PRIZE: \$250 - THIRD PRIZE: \$100. WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN APRIL OR MAY, 1991 WITH NEWS RELEASES IN BOTH THE HOME TOWNS OF THE WINNERS AND ALSO STATEWIDE.

.....  
PLEASE PRINT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELE: \_\_\_\_\_

I AGREE TO ALLOW MY SON OR DAUGHTER TO ENTER THIS CONTEST.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

*The Nation's Largest and Oldest Birth Control and Cancer Screening Agency*

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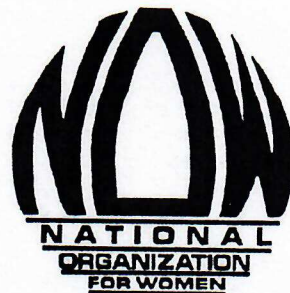
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# Woman Rebel



SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$1.00

SEPTEMBER 1991

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Huntsville Chapter

P.O. Box 2204, Huntsville, AL 35804

### COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

by Kathy Zentner

It has been an incredibly short summer, only slightly longer than a Russian coup! The season brought changes to the Chapter, some of which were expected, the normal changing of the guard; other changes were painful and potentially divisive.

Chapter elections were held on 17 July. Linda Morris was returned to the position of Administrative Coordinator, a role that she filled admirably for the past year. Not only does Linda keep the chapter's records and correspondence current and graciously offer her home for the monthly board meetings (second Wednesday of the month for anyone who may be interested in attending,) she also produces the finest Chapter newsletter in the state of Alabama, if not the country! Fearless cub reporter Ron Beshears was elected to a full term as Action Coordinator. I commend the chapter on its selection; Ron is articulate and organized. He has already orchestrated a voter registration for the end of this month to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the 19th amendment, and there are several other actions now in the planning stages. I welcome Ro Ellis to my former position as Financial Coordinator. As always, we solicit ideas from members for fund raising so that Ro will have some finances to coordinate. This year's election for Chapter Coordinator was contested, the first time this has happened in a while. I would like to thank Jo Asprey and Melissa Hiley for caring about the position and submitting their names for consideration. I admire each of you for your dedication to the issues that brought you to NOW and I value your input. Jo is very involved in the choice fight in this state, working with Alabamians for Choice. Melissa's dedication to the issue of homelessness has brought to the chapter a deeper understanding of the issues of poverty. I hope that each of you remain active participants in Huntsville NOW, bringing with you your expertise and enthusiasm.

Last, and probably least, is the Chapter Coordinator. By way of introduction, I am a medical microbiologist at Huntsville Hospital. A native Yankee, my husband and I moved here nearly 7 years ago; in some circles that makes me an old-timer here. We have two children, a 10 year old daughter and a 9 year old son. I ran for Coordinator (not expecting to win) because for me it was time to put-up or shut-up. In the months preceding the election, I considered and rejected the idea of running more than once. As the political climate surrounding women's rights became more repugnant, I decided that I should try to harness some of my anger and frustration into action.

The issue that brought me to NOW was choice. I discovered and joined Huntsville NOW shortly before the Supreme Court heard Webster vs Reproductive Health, and choice remains my primary area of interest. My sister is twenty, my daughter ten. I am saddened to contemplate that their right to control their reproductive destiny rests in the hands of an ultra conservative court. I am angry at the political subterfuge that pledged to get government off of our backs, merely to place it in our uteruses.

The potentially divisive change in NOW occurred in June with the resignation of former coordinator Dee Harrison. In the last issue of Woman Rebel I did not think it necessary to detail the reasons for the resignation but

Dee has asked that the membership be informed, and has accused me of complicity by my silence. I present for your consideration the story as it was told to me. In early June, there was to be a press conference by Jean Brothers concerning the sexual abuse case of her daughter, Lori. Dee accepted responsibility for having a written statement from Jean turned into a press release; the task found its way to Ron's capable hands. Ron revised the press release using journalistic 'legalese', such as 'Jean alleges' and 'Lori claims.' The ensuing heated argument over this terminology led to some very unkind comments about individual board members and culminated with Dee's resignation. The tragic result of this entire episode was not the schism of the board but the fact that ultimately nothing was done to help Lori. I recognize that each party was reacting from various levels of personal pain and frustration, but there are some issues which are too important not to compromise; this was one of them.

One final comment for this issue. One of the chair positions is that of Lesbian Rights. I have volunteered to serve in this capacity for several reasons: 1) We need a representative to the state task force, 2) I have watched a dear friend bear the pain and loneliness of the closet and I see the terror at the thought of 'coming out;' and 3) I owe a lot to my lesbian sisters for the effort that they have put into keeping reproductive options a woman's choice. However, I doubt that I can bring to this position the passion of someone who is fighting for herself. I do not pretend to understand the problems, complexities or joys that are part of the lesbian experience. Ideally, I'd like this position to be filled by someone with a burning desire to speak out for the lesbian community; I'll settle for committee members who are willing to share their vision of what needs to be accomplished.

I look forward to an active and productive year, all we need is YOU to make it happen.

### HUNTSVILLE N.O.W. CHAPTER REPORT

#### JULY

The July meeting and annual elections of Huntsville N.O.W. was held on 17 July, 1991.

Louise Bennett, the Nominating Committee, presented the list of candidates:

Jo Asprey & Melissa Hiley running together for Chapter Co-Coordinators.

Kathy Zentner running for Chapter Coordinator.

Ron Beshears for Action Coordinator.

Linda Morris for Administrative Coordinator.

Ro Ellis for Financial Coordinator.

Each Candidate made a brief statement (Kathy Zentner, who was unable to attend had sent in a statement, which was read by Linda Morris).



An open discussion followed in which chapter members voiced various concerns and the candidates responded. Ballots were then passed out and voting took place. Louise Bennett tallied the ballots while the chapter meeting proceeded.

Linda Morris, current Administrative Coordinator, presided at the meeting in Kathy Zentner's absence. (Kathy became Interim Chapter Coordinator when Dee Harrison resigned). The following were among the topics discussed.

Linda Morris informed NOW of a call to boycott Louisiana as well as Utah. Information on Louisiana's Tourism Board was available, as well on their rice and sweet potato commissions.

Linda Morris reminded the chapter that the by-laws do not call for specific chairs, but rather that they be set up on an as needed/wanted basis. Members were urged to consider which issues they want to address this year. Discussion on what chairs to set up and nominations/elections for those chair positions will take place at the August meeting.

Ron Beshears informed the chapter that National is pushing a bill to overturn the Rust vs Sullivan decision which prohibits a family planning center which receives federal funds from mentioning abortion. Write and call your federal legislators to urge their support of H.392 and S.323. The House and Senate have both approved bills to allow doctors to counsel their patients on all of their options, but Bush is expected to veto the bill. Urge your legislators to override the veto.

Ron Beshears and Jo Asprey discussed the current status of the Abortion bills in the Alabama Legislature. The referendum bill appears to be dead. The restrictive abortion bill is still waiting to get onto the Senate floor. There is an attempt to get enough signatures for cloture before the bill is brought out. With only days remaining it is uncertain what will happen. There is also talk of getting Governor Hunt to add the abortion bill to any special session that is called. Members should contact the Governor's office (242-7100) to express their opposition to this.

Ro Ellis informed the chapter that Annie Laurie Gaylor would be in speaking on 4 August at the First American Federal Community Room. Admission is free. Ms. Gaylor is the Chair of the Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association, the Editor of *Freethought Today*, the author of Woe to the Woman (dealing with the treatment of women in the Bible) and Betrayal of Trust (which reports on the sexual abuse of women and children by the clergy), and an advocate of the separation of Church and State.

Ginger Johnson reported that ACES continues to meet the third Saturday of every month at the Library at 1 pm.

Melissa Hiley reported that the Homeless Action Committee is now on the Mayor's Commission for the Homeless. They also have new offices and can be contacted at 551-8742 or 551-8740. They need office supplies and help with paperwork. They also need food and children's clothes. There are currently two homeless women expecting babies. The City has followed the advice given in the recently completed survey of the homeless and has allocated \$22 million towards programs for the homeless. Harris Home has also received a grant of \$133,000 to address the problems of homeless women. The Food Bank needs both food and volunteers to help sort it for distribution to those who need it.

Ron Beshears suggested that the chapter commit to doing something in August to commemorate women winning the right to vote. He says that we can get a booth at Madison Square Mall on either 24 or 31 August, free of charge. He suggested that we get Deputy Registrars to register voters and that we get chapter members to pass out information on the history of women's voting and women's rights. Members may dress in period costume. Ginger Johnson, Melodie Wade and Linda Morris (all Deputy Registrars) volunteered to work at the booth. Louise Bennett and several others also volunteered. It was decided that 31 August would be the best date. The chapter voted to carry out this action. Ron Beshears will firm up the details.

Louise Bennett suggested that the chapter sponsor a community forum at the Library and invite other groups involved in community volunteer work to speak on what they are doing and the kinds of help that they need. It would provide information to the community at large as well as to

NOW members wanting to get involved and uncertain of where to begin, and bring more positive attention to NOW in the community.

Louise Bennett announced the tally of the votes. Nineteen (19) chapter members voted in the elections. The results were as follows (new officers designated by \*, term begins 1 August):

Jo Asprey & Melissa Hiley - 5  
\* Kathy Zentner - 14

\* Ron Beshears - 17

\* Linda Morris - 19

\* Ro Ellis - 19

## AUGUST

The August meeting of Huntsville N.O.W. was held on 21 August, 1991. Attendance at the meeting was low. Hopefully this was due to the fact that many people are out of town and/or taking vacations.

Kathy Zentner reported information received regarding the Anti-Choice protests in Wichita. National is pushing for actions to take place in Wichita and locally on the weekend of 24 August.

Linda Morris reported that National wishes us to contact Senator Heflin regarding the Thomas nomination. Congress is in recess through the first week of September, so Senator Heflin should be available through his state office. The Judiciary Committee will consider Thomas's nomination when they go back into session in September. Members should contact Senator Heflin and urge him to oppose the nomination.

Kathy Zentner reported that we have approximately \$500 in our treasury.

The action to commemorate the 19th Amendment (Women's Voting Rights) has been moved to the County Fair (Saturday, 31 August, 10 am - 6 pm). Huntsville N.O.W. will have a booth to register voters and distribute information on women's rights and on N.O.W. Ron Beshears is coordinating this effort. Madison Square Mall had originally agreed to allow us to do this action at the mall, but for some reason changed their mind. They do have a Community Day in October and have invited us to participate in that function.

The following representatives and chairs were elected:

State Board Representative - Kathy Zentner, 859-1670

State Board Alternate - Dee Harrison, 852-2015

State Board Alternate - Louise Bennett, 882-2125

Environmental Chair - Elton Rheurk, 852-2015

First Amendment Chair - Louise Bennett, 882-2125

Reproductive Choice Chair - Dee Harrison, 852-2015

Lesbian Rights Chair - Kathy Zentner \*, 859-1670

\* Kathy will resign this chair if anyone with a personal interest in this rights issue wishes to pursue it.

The following representatives, chairs and volunteers are still needed. Anyone wishing to fill these positions should come to the September meeting.

State Board Representative

Telephone Network Volunteer

Child Support Chair

Domestic Abuse Chair (includes spouse abuse, child abuse and neglect, as well as child sexual abuse)

## Fundraising Chair

## Issues of Poverty Chair

The next State Board is on Saturday, 7 September, in Birmingham. Kathy Zentner and Dee Harrison will be attending. Anyone wishing to accompany them should contact either Kathy or Dee.

Huntsville N.O.W. voted to re-affirm its commitment to and sponsorship of clinic defense and clinic escorts. Escorts are desperately needed. The number of protesters has risen, probably due to the publicity about Wichita, while the number of escorts continues to decline. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time (or money for new vests) should contact Dee Harrison at 852-2015.

The chapter voted to move the December meeting to 11 December to avoid conflict with the various holidays. The meeting will be a party at Kathy Zentner's to celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Buddha's Enlightenment, Winter Solstice, the Anniversary of the Bill of Rights, and anything else members wish to celebrate.

There will be conference on Abortion Rights in Atlanta on 27-29 September. Cost of the conference is \$75.00. 4-person rooms are available at a cost of \$52.00 per room. Kathy Wood is coordinating blocking off rooms for Alabama. Contact Kathy at 859-5591.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 18 September at the Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in the Parkway City Mall at 7 pm.

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## NATIONAL NOW URGES STRONG OPPOSITION TO THOMAS SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

by Ron Beshears

The National Organization for Woman has taken the position that Clarence Thomas, an appellate court judge and former chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), is unfit and unqualified to serve as a United States Supreme Court Justice. Thomas was nominated for the position by President George Bush shortly after the announcement by Justice Thurgood Marshall that he would leave the high court as soon as a replacement could be found. Opposition to Thomas's nomination has also been announced by many civil rights organizations such as the NAACP and the National Bar Association, a prominent organization of minority attorneys.

Clarence Thomas was controversial during his term as EEOC director under former President Ronald Reagan because he denounced the affirmative action system. Critics of Thomas contend that his criticism is hypocritical because he appears to have benefitted himself from many affirmative action guidelines, contrary to the rhetoric of the Bush Administration.

NOW's resolution to actively oppose the Thomas nomination, is based on several points of contention:

1. The Bush Administration is "attacking" women's equality and dignity and individual rights, and the Thomas nomination is the latest and most arrogant example of this behavior.
2. Thomas' nomination is "an insult" to the legacy of former Justice Thurgood Marshall and to all who have fought for equal protection, economic rights, reproductive freedom, and the rights of the individual against the state.
3. Thomas has praised, as "a splendid example of applying natural law", an article stating that the U.S. Constitution does not protect an individual's right to freedom, but does endow a fetus with the inalienable right to life.
4. He has questioned the constitutional bases of Roe v. Wade and Griswold v. Connecticut. Griswold was the Supreme Court decision in 1965 that recognized that the constitutional right of privacy forbade states from outlawing the sales of contraceptives to married people.

5. Thomas is an adherent to the anti-abortion language included in the last two Republican Presidential campaign platforms: "Deep in our hearts, we do believe that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We therefore reaffirm our support for a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children."

6. During his tenure as EEOC director, Thomas compiled the following record:

- He allowed over 13,000 age discrimination claims to lapse.
- He failed in his mandate to implement new pension rules requiring employers to make pension contributions for employees over age 65 after passage of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. This resulted in a loss of pension payments to older workers of up to \$450 million annually.
- He favored then-Attorney General Ed Meese's proposal to eliminate the requirement that federal contractors have hiring goals and timetables for people of ethnic and racial diversity.
- 7. Thomas has opposed rent control law, minimum wage laws, and enterprise zones as divisive and violative of corporate rights.
- 8. Thomas has criticized the Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education (argued by Justice Marshall), which held that racial segregation in public schools was in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The American Bar Association, in evaluating Thomas for the appellate seat that he currently holds, considered judicial experience and background and issued a rating of "Qualified" - the lowest positive rating that is issued by the ABA. All other recent Supreme Court nominees, with the exception of Sandra Day O'Connor, have received the highest possible rating from the ABA.

A recent article in The Nation also revealed that Judge Thomas currently attends an evangelical Episcopal church in the outskirts of the Washington, D.C. area. This church frequently holds services in which participants claim that they are "soldiers in battle for the Lord" and are "ready to move" when the Lord so directs. The church also maintains a literature table in its lobby which routinely contains pamphlets and flyers printed by anti-abortion organizations.

In NOW's opinion, Clarence Thomas is clearly unfit for the Supreme Court. NOW urges its members to contact the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which will review Thomas's nomination in September. Local NOW members should especially concentrate on contacting Alabama Senator Howell Heflin, who chairs the Judiciary Committee. National NOW is also planning various actions to publicize opposition to the nomination. The nature of these actions will be announced at a later date.

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## ACES OF MADISON COUNTY

by Ginger Johnson

ACES of Madison County has grown to represent 265 children owed \$746,000 in child support. We have had regular advocacy meetings with the Department of Human Resources and the District Attorney and seem to be making some progress. As you will see in the coming months, many parents owed support have been working very hard to pave the way for change in our system. More on this later.

For the record, ACES is the Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc. Anyone who calls ACES of Madison County at 534-3663 can get information about child support and visitation rights. We are a national non-profit group dedicated to assisting families owed support. There are three women and two men serving on ACES of Madison County's executive committee. Our members include several fathers with and several without custody of their children. Please call ACES for more information at 534-3663.

## FIRST AMENDMENT AND REAL LIFE

by Louise Bennett

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

That is our first amendment, which gives us the right to believe (or not believe) in any religious philosophy, and the right to express unpopular opinions verbally or in writing without interference from our government. Unfortunately, these rights are often suppressed by our peers, especially when the beliefs expressed are not those of the majority. The evidence of this is overwhelming. During the recent Gulf war, it was unpopular to express the desire for a peaceful resolution to the conflict; in fact, peace itself was unpopular. Radio stations, which formerly played any requested music of the sixties and seventies, were refusing requests to play music by Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger and other anti-war musicians. While pro-war rallies were held almost continuously, access to public forums for alternate viewpoints was limited. Radio talk show guests in this area were threatened for daring to express facts and opinions that differed from those coming from Washington.

The lack of tolerance for minority views is extensive in the political, social, and religious sectors. It is seen most often in the form of financial blackmail. Businesses that supply community access areas are threatened with loss of customers if they allow use by minority groups. Radio stations are threatened with boycotts of sponsors for playing music with themes unacceptable to the majority. Newspapers, magazines, and television networks are threatened with loss of sponsors when they present women as being independent and homosexuals as real people, are sympathetic with AIDS victims, or question the validity of God. And one can never fully ascertain in this current economic state if the job was lost or promotion denied because the political, social, or religious views were not acceptable or if the company finances were really at risk.

There is a fine line between using financial pressure to be heard and blackmail. Hopefully, we who often find ourselves in the minority, don't resort to blackmail to get our views heard. We expect to be heard with the majority, not in place of the majority. We encourage tolerance by not withholding financial rewards from those who project contrary views unless they censor our views (for example, I don't support businesses that use profits for anti-choice goals while they ignore pro-family issues). We encourage tolerance by not being so fanatical in our own views that we don't respect other views. We encourage tolerance by saying "thanks" to those who allow us to be heard, especially those that do so at a threatened financial loss. We encourage tolerance by letting the media know when they are being intolerant of other's views, not just ours. And we encourage tolerance by making businesses aware of the laws against discrimination in any form we find it.

P.S. The 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination because of race, creed, sex, or national origin. It specifically addresses businesses that provide eating places and lodging. When these businesses give discounts based on religious beliefs (for example, when you present a church bulletin), they are in violation, unless they extend the same discount to all who request it. I am investigating to see if this applies to other types of businesses and will keep you informed.

### IT'S ALL IN THE PERSPECTIVE

By Cliff Griggs

I've decided to turn over a new leaf. I'm going to change. Yes, I realize that it is not yet a new year and time for those resolutions that give us new and improved personalities. But why wait for a stupid holiday to make important changes. As the old saying goes, Today is the last day of the rest of your life; or is it, today is the first day of the last of your life? Oh well, I was never good at remembering old sayings.

I think it was in South Alabama and I was speaking to a group there about the state of the environment. After my little presentation, a former friend (who seems to be intent on making everyone he knows a former friend) told me that I had depressed everyone there (jeez, there isn't a lot of wonderful and exciting things to tell people, about how we are destroying the

environment, or so I thought at the moment). But the more I thought about it the more I had to agree with him. He has the right idea. Why should I be the one telling people about things that only make them feel worse. After all there are a lot of wonderful and exciting things happening in our world today that should make us incredibly proud to be Americans. I know, because the more I travel and talk to other people, and simply look around me, the more I realize how great our country is and how we as Americans are sharing our great ideas with other smaller countries around the world. And just look at how much fun we are having, and how good it makes us feel about ourselves.

So I decided to change my depressed moanings and start telling people about how great things are going. And in the last few weeks I have seen so many great things happening it has simply reaffirmed my intent and purpose. All you need is a new perspective and you too can join me in taking on a new, un-depressed and happy personality.

I think that what turned me around was my last trip to Mississippi, where a friend and I were trying to make everyone depressed about DuPont. Now as all of you probably realize, Dupont started as a simple American corporation. A regular pillar of the community, Dupont has given its all to making its shareholders and corporation executives rich. Now how could anyone find fault with that, for as we all know, as with GM, what is good for Dupont is good for Amerika. It seems that Dupont, in order to save money, has decided to build a pipeline that would carry all the chemical sludge and hazardous chemicals from holding ponds to a little bayou that feeds into the Bay of St. Louis, and after a short journey, to the Gulf of Mexico. Now some busybody that doesn't particularly like Dupont, probably because they weren't made CEO or something, called the feds to tell them what Dupont was doing. Simply because these chemicals that are held in the Tickle ponds, as they are called, are known cancer causing agents and terribly toxic, this disgruntled person thought that Dupont shouldn't be dumping these chemicals into the bayou, then the bay, and eventually the gulf. Well, the feds, ever vigilant watchdogs of the community, intent on saddling good corporate citizens with more and more regulations which only increase the cost of the products they make and sell to you and me, decided to fly over the plant and see for themselves if this pipeline was in fact being constructed. Well, thank goodness, someone in the ranks of the federal service decided that Dupont should know that they were about to be harassed and about an hour before the fly-over Dupont was notified and all the pipeline laying equipment was covered. Of course, shortly after the fly-over, Dupont was once again busy making Amerika great and saving money for consumers.

But back to my story. It was while I was on my way home to Alabama the beautiful, traveling along the interstate, that I noticed two middle-aged women with four children hitchhiking. And then about a hundred miles later, I saw another couple of women with two or three children, again hitchhiking. It was at that point that I realized how truly great Amerika really is. Under the leadership of the great Republican party, we are taking great steps towards solving the problems of the helpless and the homeless. And we are conserving valuable petroleum resources at the same time. My God, I thought, what a fantastic idea. This is better than cheap mass transit. Think of all the bridges and overpasses along the interstate highway system. They are indeed perfect homes. And so close to the traffic. You need a ride down to the local convenience store? Just stick out your thumb and well, there you have it, right? Of course, with Americans turning to those smaller cars from Japan and Korea, it would be hard for two women and four children to get a ride all at the same time, but if they learned to split up into smaller groups there would be no problem.

And another thing. We need more wars. Now I'm not talking about something like Vietnam, where we lost all those good young American boys. I'm thinking of something more along the lines of the recent massacre in Iraq and Kuwait. Now that's the kind of war we Americans really love. No sense in wasting good Americans. In this last one we were able to sit back and kill from a distance. We can get all the great allied countries in the world, the ones that really care about democracy, and respect for life, to all get together and attack some smaller country, like Iraq, or Grenada, or Panama. That way we can use up all these weapons we are developing, and help the depressed economies of places like Huntsville or Los Angeles. And all you need to do is find some place with good natural resources like Iran or Iraq with plenty of money to spend, help them find a crackpot dictator like Hussein or the Shah and sell them weapons. Then you can say well, they are crackpots and have all these weapons and they are (naturally enough) a threat to democracy and the new world order. Then we go in and bomb those little suckers into oblivion. Then we can have parades and speeches and once again feel good about being Americans. But we do need to spend

more money on our military, since most of the allied casualties in this last little fracas came from friendly fire. But I guess it was good that we had Amerikan tank battalions fighting Amerikan tank battalions. We needed some casualties on our side, or else people would have thought it was simply like shooting fish in a barrel, rather than a good little war that makes people feel good about being Amerikan. What was the final score: Allies 385, the bad guys 120,000???

Another thing. I used to feel bad about us building more highways instead of mass transit. In my former self I thought that using up petroleum was awful, what with all the smog and pollution and such. But now I realize the error of my ways. Thanks to the wise advice of a friend of mine who makes missiles, and thus must be a good Amerikan, I realize that we are doing a great job in holding off another ice age. Yep, that's right folks. We are right in the middle of what should be an ice age. But now we are smart enough to realize that by burning petroleum and other fuels that contribute to greenhouse gases, we are heating up the planet and keeping it from going into another ice age. And being a good southerner I cannot stand to be cold. And since we in Amerika are doing all we can to burn up all the petroleum products in the world, we can be proud to be Amerikans. And if our demand for petroleum products causes a war, well, I have already shown you that we need a good little war every once in a while just to make us proud.

As for the pollutants and chemicals being pumped into the air, land and water. Forget it, Be Happy, Don't Worry. They might kill a few people and cause a few birth defects and such, but it would be too much of a hassle to industry to ask them to change. And look how much it would cost. Have you by some chance forgotten about evolution. By constantly subjecting humans and all those other pests and furry creatures to chemicals we are helping our children develop tougher bodies. A thousand years from now we can look back and say yep I did my part in the evolution of a stronger species. I'm proud to be an Amerikan.

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### **``WE WON'T GO BACK'' CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED AT NOW CONFERENCE**

by Ron Beshears

In a historic move, the National Organization for Women has issued its first call for civil disobedience by its members. In launching the ``We Won't Go Back'' campaign, NOW is lashing out against what it calls in its resolution the ``reactionary President, Supreme Court, Congress, and State Legislatures'', which are attempting to overturn the Roe v. Wade ruling and to drastically reduce individual rights. The specific actions announced as part of this campaign will include the following:

- An all-out fight to overturn the gag rule imposed by the Supreme Court in the Rust v. Sullivan ruling, with direct action days in Washington D.C.

- A sustained fight to defeat the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas (referred to elsewhere in this newsletter).

- The launching this fall of an effort to enter numerous feminist candidates in local, state, and national elections.

- A nationwide ``We Won't Go Back'' day of walkathons and actions on college campuses and in many cities.

- A large march on the U.S. Capitol in the spring of 1992 in order to protest the current Administration's tactic of race-baiting and name-calling in national elections.

- A general call on members to participate in acts of civil disobedience to protest the violation and/or limitation of individual rights.

All of these proposed actions are currently stated in general terms by the National Action Center, with specific details to be announced later. The local point of contact for information on proposed actions will be chapter Action Coordinator Ron Beshears.

The National Action center has also released an information package on the nature and history of nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience. Copies of this information are also available from Ron Beshears.

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## **SOLOMON, WHEN YOU NEED HIM?**

Who loves this zygote most?

The Host? (ess)

The injector, male implanter,  
investor of the energy and sperm?  
Parents of the principals, perhaps?  
Weary social worker?

Probation officers and executioners  
should love this  
object of intense attention,  
guarantor of upward-spiraling careers.  
The angels love this pinkish bit  
from bloodless clouds  
but never proffer shared ambrosia.

This tiny bearer of molecular arrangement,  
destined to look human later on,  
cannot now be told from elephant or rat.  
And yet the woman, targeted by all  
must clutch her bosom and her tears  
and read the future.

Nobody loves the zygote more than she,  
but silently, unlike the raucous tyrants  
blocking sidewalks, threatening God's wrath  
and wondering  
who shall rake their leaves, flip their burgers,  
clean their house, beg for handouts,  
shoot their children and fill their precious jails.

copyright Jack Dempsey, June 1991

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## **FACTS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

- A woman is beaten every 18 seconds across the U.S.

- More than 1 million women seek medical help for injuries caused by battering ... 12% of these require hospitalization.

- 30% of all female homicide victims were killed by their husbands.

- Batterings accounted for 25% of suicide attempts by women.

- In almost 25% of spouse abuse cases, the wife was attacked while pregnant.

- One in seven women reported being sexually assaulted by their abusive spouses.

- Dating violence is on the increase ... one in eight students walking the halls of any high school is in an abusive relationship.

- One in eight women were victims of date rape across college campuses.

- Of all 12 year old girls living today, one in three will be sexually attacked before she is 21 years old.

- A woman's chance of being raped at some point in her life is an appalling one in ten.

- 16% of girls are sexually victimized by a relative before the age of 18.

- 10 rapes and 14 attempted rapes occur every hour in the U.S.

The above statistics were put together by HOPE Place using the following sources:

FBI Crime Statistics  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Kent University Campus Research Study  
Rape Crisis Center

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### SPRIT FEST '91

Spirit Festival, sponsored by Southern Sisters, is planned for an area north of New Orleans 14-17 November. This women's spirituality festival will be a gathering to celebrate the connections with oneself and each other, to network, play and share ideas. There will be a crafts fair, barter market and entertainment by artists such as Zsuzsanna Budapest, Morgana, and Flash Silvermoon, and a variety of workshops. Contact Dee Harrison, 852-2015 for more information.

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

by Ron Beshears

The recent chapter elections and the July chapter meeting were marred by questions about, of all things, partisan politics. Specifically, a candidate for NOW office, who had made no secret of the fact that she was a Republican, complained bitterly that she was being unfairly criticized for her party affiliation and that her choice of party had nothing to do with whether she was qualified to serve as a NOW officer. I wish to clarify the reasons why the issue of party affiliation is indeed important in such a situation.

It is true that one's party affiliation should not interfere with service as a NOW officer. NOW is a non-partisan organization in both theory and practice. It so happens that most of NOW's agenda stands in vehement opposition to the agenda of the Republican Party, but this fact does not impose partisan identity upon NOW.

The reason that party affiliation became an issue in this instance is that it was improperly used. While indeed the issue of which party one belongs to should not keep one from serving as a NOW officer, neither is it appropriate to include one's party affiliation as a major component of one's campaign for a non-partisan office, as was clearly done in this election. The sticking point was, for many people, the fact that the affiliation declared by the candidate in question is with a party that over the last twenty years has come to represent an ideological and practical threat to our very way of life. The Republican Party of Nixon, Reagan, and Bush, has brought innumerable abuses of human rights to people at home and abroad, and has generated and nourished an atmosphere of race hatred and class hatred in America that is unparalleled in our past existence. People who have contended with the infringements of the Republicans upon aspects of private individual existence have every reason to suspect the motives of those who claim affiliation with the party of Bush, Baker, Ailes, Sununu, Reagan, Meese, North, Nofziger, Wait, Doman, Hyde, Michel, Nixon, Agnew, Liddy, Goldwater, and yes, even Quayle.

While the time has indeed come for us to heal the wounds produced by this latest controversy, it is worth remembering that mistrust of Bush and his party is neither unwarranted nor unreasonable.

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## TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

By Elton Rheuark

Are we being programmed by television to excessively consume the Earth's resources? Can television be used to promote environmentalism and conservation of resources?

Here are a few quotes from Adbusters Quarterly: "Only five percent of the people in the world consume one-third of the planet's resources and produce almost half of the non-organic waste. Those people are us." "Mass entertainment is used to capture a mass audience that is appealed to by mass advertising in order to promote mass consumption." "On the average, Americans spend one quarter of their waking lives watching television." "Of that time, twelve minutes every hour are reserved for messages promoting consumption." "People use the consumption levels portrayed in TV advertising to evaluate their levels of personal well being while those same consumption patterns are simultaneously devastating the environmental and resource base on which our future depends." "Television incessantly teaches us lifestyles and values, as much by what it ignores as what it addresses. If environmental concerns are missing from television entertainment, they are likely to be missing from our cultural consciousness."

Environmentalism has made us question the role television plays in our lives. "Imagine TV urging you to think before you buy instead of continually goading you on to excessive consumption." "It is imperative that we use this powerful medium much more consciously in realizing a sustainable future."

Grassroots groups can use advertising to break the pattern of programmed consumption. Individuals and groups can buy local air time on television and radio or even put up billboards to educate the public of the problem of TV addiction. You can create your own ads or obtain already made TV spots and artwork free from the Media Foundation.

The Media Foundation has prepared TV spots as part of the "Tubehead Campaign" aimed at overcoming the problem of TV addiction and are offering broadcast-quality videos and other campaign materials free of charge. Call them at (604) 736-9401 (1243 W. 7th Ave., Vancouver B.C. Canada V6H 1B7).

Adbusters Quarterly accents the broad range of socio-economic issues affecting the Earth. This highly recommended Media Foundation publication is available at Opening Books on Pratt Ave. (Look into Z Magazine too.)

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### SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

In Washington:

The Honorable Howell Heflin  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-4124

In Alabama:

Birmingham Office: 731-1500  
Montgomery Office: 265-9507  
Mobil Office: 690-3167  
Tuscumbia Office: 381-7060

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### HUNTSVILLE N.O.W. OFFICERS

Chapter Coordinator: Kathy Zentner, 859-1670

Action Coordinator: Ron Beshears, 534-2943

Administrative Coordinator: Linda Morris, 880-2807

Financial Coordinator: Ro Ellis, 881-7877

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## CALENDAR

### EVERY TUESDAY

Patient Escorts are always needed at the Women's Community Health Center on Longwood. The Anti-Choice picketers are there every week to harass the women coming in to the clinic. Prime Time for picketers is usually 6:45 - 11:00 am. Escorts are particularly needed between the hours of 6:30 - 8:00 am. Please come give the patients your support.

31 August, Saturday

Huntsville N.O.W. booth at County Fair, register voters and distribute information, 10 am - 6 pm.

7 September, Saturday

N.O.W. State Board meeting. Birmingham, 12 noon.

11 September, Wednesday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

14 September, Saturday

Margaret Sanger Day.

18 September, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting. Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in Parkway City Mall, 7 pm.

9 October, Wednesday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

16 October, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting. Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in Parkway City Mall, 7 pm.

1-3 November, Friday-Sunday

N.O.W. State Conference and Elections.

5 November, Tuesday

Election Day - VOTE !!

13 November, Wednesday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

20 November, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting. Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in Parkway City Mall, 7 pm.

29 November, Friday

N.O.W.'s Birthday! 25 years.

4 December, Wednesday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

11 December, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting. PARTY !! at Kathy Zentner's house. 7 pm. Call Kathy, 859-1670, for directions

## WOMAN REBEL STAFF

Editor: Linda Morris (880-2807)

Reporter: Ron Beshears (534-2943)

Production: Volunteers - anyone interested ????

All contributions to this newsletter are sincerely appreciated. If you would like to get others involved in your favorite issue, an article for the newsletter is one way to reach out to a lot of people. Bring your article to the monthly N.O.W. meeting or mail it to the N.O.W. Post Office Box. For more information call Linda Morris at 880-2807.

As always, the views expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of N.O.W. or Woman Rebel.

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### MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

All newsletter labels now carry an expiration date. The expiration code begins with the letter 'M' if you are listed as a member in our data base. The code changes to 'MN' once you have shown up on National's list; you should receive National N.O.W. Times and a membership card once this happens. The code for a subscriber to the newsletter is 'S'. The date that your membership or subscription expires follows the letter code.

The code for an unpaid courtesy copy is 'C'. The courtesy copies marked 'COURTESY' indicate an undated subscription which will continue so long as we have the funds to cover them. This category includes other N.O.W. Chapters, media, those organizations which have reciprocated by adding us to their mailing lists and a few individuals whose support has been invaluable.

If your label is **highlighted in RED**, this is your last issue unless you renew. If your label is **highlighted in pink** it is either past due or will expire shortly. Please renew your membership or subscription promptly by filling out the form on the back of the newsletter and mailing it with your check to the N.O.W. post office box.

Organizations wishing to swap subscriptions rather than purchase one should fill in the name and address portion of the form and note at the bottom that this is a subscription swap. We welcome the exchange of information that this allows.

It should be noted that it takes a few months for anything sent to National to be updated and sent back to us. Where there is a difference between our records and National's we use the later of the two dates. As we receive updates from National we will update our database. To insure that our records match, you should send us any name corrections, address changes, phone numbers, etc., at the same time that you send them to National. We will send anything we receive up to National as well, to insure that you continue to receive their mailings and the National N.O.W. Times.

There is a (small) Scholarship Fund for those who cannot afford a membership but wish to remain active in N.O.W. Anyone wishing to contribute to keeping these valuable people in N.O.W. should contact Linda Morris at 880-2807.

\$3 of your national dues pays for your subscription to *The National NOW Times*.

DUES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$35 per year regular membership includes national, state and local dues and local newsletter subscription.)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$16-34 sliding scale if income is limited.)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 for subscription to local newsletter only.)  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER NUMBER AL 0100

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

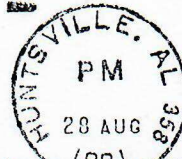
I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising full rights and responsibilities in partnership with men.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



## HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 2204  
 Huntsville, AL 35804



Exp: MN - OCT 92

Jonathan McDowell  
 110 Pine Ridge Rd. # 605  
 Huntsville, AL 35801





# Contact your legislators immediately regarding House Bill 337/Senate Bill 280

Anti-choice legislation has been placed on the floor of the House by the House Health Committee and will soon be under consideration by the Senate Health Committee. If you oppose this legislation you should contact your local legislators as well as the members of the Senate Health Committee and the leadership of both chambers.

## Madison County Legislators

### House of Representatives

Tom Butler (HB 337 sponsor), 6th District, 534-3974 or 242-7714

Jim Haney, 10th District, 539-5441

George Grayson, 19th District, 851-5330 or 242-7755

Howard Sanderford, 20th District, 881-8390 or 242-7687

Dewayne Freeman, 21st District, 895-6361 or 242-7726

Albert Hall, 22nd District, 539-5441 or 242-7727

### Senate

Jim Smith, 2nd District, 534-8485 or 242-7843

Don Hale (SB 280 sponsor), 4th District, 739-3832 or 242-7895

Bill Smith, 7th District, 533-3822 or 242-7857

Lowell Barron, 8th District, 623-1982 or 242-7862

### Senate Health Committee

Jim Smith (chair), 534-8485 or 242-7843

Jabo Waggoner (vice chair and SB 280 sponsor), 967-7116 or 242-7892

George Bolling (SB 280 sponsor), 932-8969 or 242-7800

Larry Dixon, 242-4116 or 242-7891

Doug Ghee, 236-2543 or 242-7876

Don Hale (SB 280 sponsor), 739-3832 or 242-7895

Jim Preuitt, 362-7540 or 242-7871

Robert Wilson, 221-4640 or 242-7883

Steve Windom, 432-1671 or 242-7885

### House Leadership

Jimmy Clarke, Speaker of the House, 242-7668

Jim Campbell, Assistant Speaker of the House, 242-7600

### Senate Leadership

Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom, Senate President, 242-7900

Ryan de Graffenried, President *Pro Tem*, 242-7850

Danny Corbett, Senate Floor Leader, 242-7867

All legislators may be reached by mail at:

State House

11 South Union Street

Montgomery, AL 36130

# Woman Rebel



SINGLE ISSUE PRICE: \$1.00

JULY 1991

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

Huntsville Chapter

P.O. Box 2204, Huntsville, AL 35804

### CHAPTER COORDINATOR

On Tuesday, 18 June, Dee Harrison resigned as Chapter Coordinator for Huntsville N.O.W. Elections for Chapter Officers will take place on 17 July at the chapter's monthly meeting as previously announced. Kathy Zentner presided over the 19 June meeting and will fill in as Interim Chapter Coordinator until the new Officers begin their term on 1 August.

### COMMENTS ON THE COORDINATOR

by Kathy Zentner

Dee Harrison resigned as Chapter Coordinator on 18 June 1991 ending her 22 month tenure in that position.

Dee was running for coordinator when I first discovered that Huntsville did indeed have a NOW chapter. I have no idea what the chapter was like before 1989; I've enjoyed watching it become more visible and active since then.

Dee has a talent for cultivating people. It didn't matter if the issue was recruiting new members, soliciting donations or drafting chapter officers and committee chairs; it was hard to say no to Dee. She fostered good relationships with the Huntsville media. The image may have been radical, but she got her point across in numerous interviews and created a memorable on-screen presence.

Dee also assumed a role as teacher. I've kept my old issues of "Woman Rebel!" because in the Coordinator's notes are step-by-step guidelines for planning and staging an action, developing working relationships with the news media, etc. A teacher is one who not only instructs but also challenges one to think. Knowing Dee has made me reconsider some attitudes and has awakened in me a political awareness.

Our coordinator was also our 'chapter do-er'. It is so very easy to sit back and say, "That's awful, somebody should do something!" Dee has the sense of purpose and of self to realize that she is somebody, and where she could, she did something.

Dee, thank you for all you've done as coordinator. We're an active chapter due to your leadership and resolve. The struggle for women's rights, civil rights and human rights continues. You've helped put us a little closer to the goal.

### CHAPTER REPORT

The June meeting of Huntsville N.O.W. was held on 19 June, 1991. The following were among the topics discussed.

Dee Harrison resigned as Chapter Coordinator. Kathy Zentner, who presided at the meeting, is acting as Interim Chapter Coordinator until 1 August when the new officers' term will begin. Election of officers will be at the July meeting as planned.

Louise Bennett will be the new Nominating Committee Chair and will preside at the July meeting and election. Anyone wishing to run for a chapter officer position should contact Louise Bennett at 882-2125.

Kathy Zentner reported that we currently have an account balance of \$200.

Linda Morris reported that the fundraising by mail cost \$57. Response to the mailing brought in \$140, leaving us with a net gain of \$83.

Given the current state of the treasury and the cost of the newsletter (approximately \$85 per month), the chapter voted to publish the newsletter every three months rather than every month. A newsletter will be published this month to inform members of this decision. Announcement of the results of the July election will be made via press release to the Huntsville newspapers and a recorded announcement of the results will be placed on Linda's answering machine for those members interested in calling (880-2807).

Ron Beshears informed the chapter that National is pushing a bill to overturn the Rust vs Sullivan decision which prohibits a family planning center which receives federal funds from mentioning abortion. See his article elsewhere in this newsletter.

The chapter voted to accept all of the proposed changes to the by-laws (see the May newsletter). The vote was to have the new by-laws go into effect on 1 August when the new officers' term begins.

There was discussion amongst all members of the chapter regarding the goals and activities of the chapter. Several suggestions were made to improve the chapter's standing within the community. Among the suggestions were that we:

- be more cautious and investigate all facts before rushing into an action, no matter how worthy the action might seem.
- set goals and an agenda rather than always fighting fires.
- give more thought to what will accomplish our goals rather than simply rushing out and doing something/anything for the sake of doing something.
- take the time to follow through on things, like thank you's when we get press coverage or other groups helping us in an action, and sending information in a timely manner to those who request it.
- serious fundraising is needed if the chapter is to pursue any goals at all.
- members need to become more active and attend meetings. The more points of view and information that we get the better.

Ro Ellis informed the chapter of a new attempt to force the religious views of a few onto all of us. The latest target is the "Impressions" series of literature for children. See her article elsewhere in this newsletter.



Elton Rheuark informed the chapter of a Native American Festival in Florence on Saturday, 22 June.

Jo Asprey has an afghan which has been donated to N.O.W. Melissa Hiley will work with Jo to get raffle tickets printed for chapter members to sell.

Melissa Hiley reported that two homeless people had been hit by a drunk driver. Despite multiple broken bones, the two victims were turned out into the street with one pair of crutches between them. Money is needed to get them a hotel room as they are in no condition to be living on the streets. The study commissioned by the city has come back saying that Huntsville has a large homeless problem and that several million dollars will be needed to provide essential services to these people. The amount needed will increase if addressing the problem is put off. The city is in the process of working out its budget for next year, so it is essential that chapter members contact them NOW to insure that the problems of the homeless are addressed. Another homeless woman is pregnant and baby items will be needed. The Harvest Church on Arcadia has begun providing meals for the homeless. One homeless person commented it was the best food he had gotten anywhere. Anyone wishing to donate money for a room for the injured men or baby items for the pregnant woman should contact Melissa Hiley at 533-9710.

Ro Ellis informed the chapter that Annie Laurie Gaylor would be in town on 4 August and has agreed to speak that evening. N.O.W. has been invited by Freethought Forum to co-sponsor her speech. There appears to be no cost to the chapter. The topic of the speech was not known. Ms. Gaylor is the Chair of the Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association, the Editor of *Freethought Today*, the author of Woe to the Woman (dealing with the treatment of women in the Bible) and Betrayal of Trust (which reports on the sexual abuse of women and children by the clergy), and an advocate of the separation of Church and State. The chapter was very interested in sponsoring Ms. Gaylor's speech, but voted to table the decision until July when the cost, if any, and the topic of the speech would be known.

Ron Beshears suggested that the chapter commit to doing something in August to commemorate women winning the right to vote. No one had a concrete suggestion as to what to do, so the chapter voted to table the decision until July. Ron Beshears will head a "brain-storming" committee to come up with an idea. Melissa Hiley and Linda Morris volunteered to help come up with ideas. Anyone having a suggestion should contact Ron, Melissa or Linda.

Ro Ellis has continued the search for a better meeting place and informed the chapter that the Community Room at Parisian's is available at no cost. The chapter voted to move the meetings to there beginning with the July meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 July at the Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in the Parkway City Mall at 7 pm. Chapter elections will be held, so please come and VOTE!

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## FREETHOUGHT FORUM

Sunday, 21 July, 2:30 p.m.  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
2200 Governors Drive

Speaker: Roland Burns  
Topic: Physical Phenomenon Implying  
Existence of a God

Coordinator: Ron Patterson, 534-8710  
Public Invited, No Admission Charge

## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

### Commentary by Ron Beshears

Chapter elections will be held at the upcoming July meeting. This is your chance to help influence the future of the chapter by choosing your leaders. Even more important than casting a vote in July is your continued interest in the chapter and your opportunity to help define the agenda of the chapter. Our chapter has eighty people registered as active members, but chapter meeting attendance of over half a dozen is an extraordinary event. While we all realize that time constraints make it impossible for some to attend, we also realize that there are many voices that aren't being heard because people simply aren't bringing their issues to meetings with them. Chapter members can also help define the agenda of meetings by attending the monthly board meetings. We have the opportunity and the energy to provide direction for the chapter, but it all depends on the members. It is their participation, or lack thereof, that will determine the effectiveness and the image of the chapter. Recent decisions handed down by the Reagan-Bush Supreme Court have proven that we will be dealing with a right-wing activist court for years to come. In such an environment, we must begin mobilizing now to preserve the rights that are being sacrificed daily in the name of the "drug war" and which purportedly reflect a return to "decent American values". In my opinion, no true American citizen can sit still and allow the Court to ravage what few rights we still have left.

Some members have suggested an action on August 26 to mark the anniversary of the date that women received the right to vote in this country. This would be a great opportunity not only to reflect on the fact that the struggle for rights is long and difficult, but to remind people that their rights will most assuredly be taken from them if they don't exercise the right to vote. Ron Beshears, Melissa Hiley, and Linda Morris are the members of the committee that the chapter has appointed to plan an activity for that day. If you have ideas, please call any of the committee members.

We have talented people holding task force chairs in many areas. These people need to be able to depend on others who are willing to work on their task forces.

I realize that I am asking for extra commitments, and that many of us just don't have time to make a lot of outside commitments. By and large our membership is composed of people who are passionately devoted to their causes and have little time to spare. All that I am asking for is that those who can expend the extra effort that will help the chapter approach the issues and problems that influence our lives come forward and help us to most effectively use the chapter's resources. In this way, you vote for much more than the matter of who holds which office - you cast your vote for the future of the chapter.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Louise Bennett

The annual election of Huntsville N.O.W. Chapter Officers will take place on 17 July at the chapter meeting at 7 pm in the Community Room of Parisian's at the Parkway City Mall. The following chapter members have announced their intentions of running for the following positions:

Chapter Coordinator: Melissa Hiley  
Chapter Coordinator: Jo Asprey

Action Coordinator: Ron Beshears

Administrative Coordinator: Linda Morris

Financial Coordinator: Ro Ellis

As always, nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Please come to the chapter meeting and VOTE!

## HUNTSVILLE N.O.W. OFFICERS

Chapter Coordinator (Interim): Kathy Zentner, 859-1670

Action Coordinator: Ron Beshears, 534-2943

Administrative Coordinator: Linda Morris, 880-2807

Financial Coordinator: Kathy Zentner, 859-1670

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### RUST vs SULLIVAN DECISION THREATENS CLINIC FUNDS

by Ron Beshears

On May 23, 1991, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the 1988 Reagan Administration ban on abortion counseling at public health facilities that accept Title X (Public Service Act) funding from the federal government is constitutional and should be enforced. Federally funded family planning clinics are hereby prohibited from counseling patients about abortion as a reproductive health option and from referring patients for abortions. Title X recipients that use private funding sources to provide abortion services and/or counseling must physically and financially separate any abortion-related activities from family planning operations.

Justice David Souter, President Bush's recent Supreme Court appointee, ended speculation about his views on the abortion issue by joining Justices Scalia, White, Kennedy, and Chief Justice Rehnquist in the 5-4 vote to uphold the ban. Specifically, the majority ruled that:

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) has the discretion to issue regulations on the Title X family planning program because Congress gave "no clear evidence of intent" in establishing the law and because the law itself is "ambiguous." The new regulations are claimed by the Court to be more in keeping with the original intent of Title X, are "justified by client experience under the previous policy," and "are in accord with a shift in attitude against the elimination of unborn children by abortion." (Emphasis added)

- The regulations do not violate First Amendment free speech rights by imposing a specific viewpoint as a condition for government subsidies. The government "can allocate funding which establishes a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion."

- The regulations do not violate a woman's Fifth Amendment right to choose whether to terminate her pregnancy. The government "has no constitutional duty to subsidize any activity merely because it is constitutionally protected" and "may choose to allocate public funds for medical services relating to childbirth but not to abortion."

- Title X recipients are not forced to give up access to abortion-related information and services. Their inability to enjoy the full range of constitutionally protected freedoms is the product not of government restrictions, but of their indigency. (Emphasis added)

- The doctor-patient relationship is "not significantly impinged upon." Title X grantees are not forced to give up abortion-related speech; they must merely keep such activities separate and distinct from the Title X program.

The original establishment of Title X funding in 1970 was carried out with the understanding that Title X funds would not be used to finance abortions. In 1981, HHS issued guidelines allowing clinics to offer "non-directive" counseling to pregnant women on the full range of their medical options, including abortion. In 1988, the Reagan Administration issued its infamous "gag rule" order, which also requires clinics to provide pregnant women with a list of pre-approved pre-natal and adoption service providers that "promote the welfare of the unborn child."

The Department of Health and Human Services has stated since the Rust vs Sullivan decision that Title X clinics must provide assurances within sixty days that they will comply with the regulations. Refusal to comply will result in loss of all Title X funds. Randall Terry's "Operation Rescue" organization has vowed to test publicly funded clinics for compliance by sending in false clients who will ask staffers direct questions about abortions.

Under the gag rule, clinics that accept Title X funds will be under the following restrictions:

- Clinics would be prohibited from providing any counseling about abortion or referrals for abortions, even in situations in which an abortion is considered necessary for a woman's health (except in emergencies).

- Clinics would be prohibited from answering a direct request from a client regarding abortion, other than to state that "the project does not consider abortion an appropriate method of family planning."

- Clinics would be prohibited from providing pregnant patients with a copy of the local Yellow Pages containing abortion clinic listings.

Members of both houses of Congress have initiated legislation which would negate the effects of the gag rule and the Court ruling. The bills, Senate Bill 323 (S. 323) and House Resolution 392 (HR 392) have passed preliminary committee votes in both chambers. President Bush has vowed that he will veto any such bills in a speech before the Southern Baptist Convention. Both bills state that "women requesting such information regarding the options for management of an unintended pregnancy shall be provided with nondirective counseling and referral on request, concerning courses of action that shall include: (1) prenatal care and delivery; (2) infant care, foster care, or adoption services; and (3) pregnancy termination."

If you wish to contact your legislators regarding this issue, you may reach Alabama Senators Howell Heflin and Richard Shelby and your local Representative (Bud Cramer in the 5th Congressional District) at:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

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### THE DEATH OF DENIAL IN HUNTSVILLE'S HALLOWED HALLS - A REPORT FROM THE STREETS

by Melissa Hiley

On Thursday, August 17, 1989, the Huntsville Police Department and public sanitation workers converged upon the Homeless persons living under the Governors Drive/Memorial Parkway bridge. During a torrential rain the Police Department ordered them from the only place they could call home into the street. The public works department confiscated their possessions without due process of law, loading furniture, personal papers and photographs, medications and clothing into dump trucks to be hauled away. This attack upon the hopeless and the seemingly least powerful amongst us was only the first of many subsequent raids at other camps across the city.

Out of what seemed a sure defeat rose a spirit of personal empowerment amongst these people and those that advocate for them. The homeless people from the bridge had a community meeting and voted that

they were human beings, deserving of better treatment, and we were off and running - to city council meetings, political actions on the municipal building lawn, to jail, to press conferences and forums of public education. Homeless people and advocates, together, began creating spaces for themselves on the task forces and commissions established to deal with the "problem of the homeless."

The city commissioned a \$26,000 study of Homelessness in Huntsville after 14 months of denial that a problem exists. Homeless persons, advocates and agency personnel all worked together on the study with researchers from the University of Alabama. Now it is complete and in the hands of the city leaders who blamed the victims, denied the problem and made excuses instead of working for a solution. It seemed their hope that the problem would disappear, that the homeless would disappear - that it and they could be postponed to death.

Nearly two years have passed since the original bridge raid and pleas to city officials for help. Many of the homeless died in the streets while they waited for hope and help from a bureaucracy that moves so slowly - A.C. McGill, "Whitey", Kevin Savage ... and the list could flow on. Many have degenerated physically, have become disfigured and diseased due to living conditions like those of a third world country. Many found hope and lost it again "waiting in the wings" for solutions that many times seemed as if they would never come.

The study commissioned by the city has begun the process of stripping away our denial. The scales of affluence that have for so long blinded many to the problems of the poor in our city are falling (or being torn) from their eyes by the truth in print. According to this study, there are at the very least 800 homeless persons in our city and the researchers' estimates indicate a range of 250-300 persons living on the streets in our city. According to the study, poverty in Huntsville "is one of our best kept secrets." It isn't due to the fact that so few are experiencing it, as the aforementioned statistics indicate. Those numbers don't include the 400-600 families on waiting lists for public housing, the frightened homeless on the street that couldn't be counted, or those hanging on by their fingernails in sub-standard housing without utilities. This study proves that they aren't someone else's "children," many are ours; 41% are native to the area (higher than the housed, employed population in this city).

The recommendations in this study call for comprehensive programs to deal with "the problems of the homeless." Recommendations include: a Day Services center, several smaller, less rigid shelters to meet the specific needs of different groups, a job network, free medical and dental facilities, a detox facility, transitional and halfway housing, expansion of public transportation, and increased public education, amongst others.

As we build our new roads to golf courses, build our skating rinks and art museums and other new buildings, as we vote ourselves pay raises, it is my greatest hope that we can remind our officials to include the poor and their needs at budget time. Without our help and the help of our city and state leaders, they are doomed to a cycle of pain, dependency and death. As the study put it, "the same forces that created wealth in this city created poverty, and the city has some responsibility to acknowledge that connection." That is the moral side of the coin. On the economic side "the cost of dealing with the problem is inflated by letting the problem get to be as large as it is through decades of neglect."

As emotionally and fiscally painful as solutions may be, the study had given us a mandate to comprehensively deal with the problems of the poor and the homeless. We spent \$26,000 for the study. Let's avail ourselves and the poor of its benefits and begin creating multi-faceted solutions that will work to ease their pain. It will be easy for public policy makers to fall back into denial as an excuse for not making the financial decisions that will be so difficult and costly. Please help us to remind them through calls and letters that they have the public support they need to "do the right thing." June and July are the months in which next year's budget is actually created for consideration and passage in October. Time is of the essence, with the coming of winter and the probability of more death and disease that could be decreased by appropriate attention and budgetary inclusion now. Please take five minutes out of your busy day to let the mayor and city council know how you feel. You may reach the mayor by calling 532-7304 and city council members by calling 532-7375. Thank you for your continued support and interest.

## CITY OF HUNTSVILLE ADDRESS/PHONE LIST

### MAYOR

Steve Hettinger  
City of Huntsville  
P.O. Box 308  
Huntsville, AL 35804  
(W) 532-7304

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### District 1:

Richard Showers, Sr.  
6040 Lincoya Drive, N.W.  
Huntsville, AL 35810  
(H) 859-1173  
(W) 532-3086 (Hsv City Schools)

#### District 2:

Dr. Jimmy Wall, Jr.  
1006 Lexington, S.E.  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(H) 536-7593  
(W) 539-4451 (Dental Office)

#### District 3:

Chuck Saunders  
3047 Box Canyon Road  
Huntsville, AL 35803  
(H) 881-9062

#### District 4:

Bill Kling, Jr.  
1000 Airport Road  
Huntsville, AL 35802  
(H) 882-3839

#### District 5:

Jim Putnam  
1823 Forney Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35816  
(H) 837-9187

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## A MATERIALS POLICY

by Elton Rheuark

The information contained in this article is extracted from the report, *A Molecular Basis for Development: An Environmental Policy for the 1990s*, by David Morris, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Washington, D.C.

"What is needed is a strategy that: 1) cuts across the concerns of the various elements of the environmental movement; 2) is easily understood by the average citizen; and 3) bridges the concerns of worker and consumer, first worlder and third worlder, urban dweller and farmer alike. What is needed is a policy that embraces a positive vision of the future; one that can be the basis for a new kind of economic development strategy. We propose a comprehensive materials policy, that is, a focus on the molecular foundation of a green economy.

"The policy rests on a moral and an economic underpinning. The moral imperative has the following two components. *Each nation is entitled only to its proportionate share of the earth's resources. And all nations must use materials on a sustainable basis, both in terms of the available reserves and the carrying capacity of air and water to absorb the pollution that comes with consuming those reserves.*

"To achieve the first objective requires a drastic reduction in the industrialized world's consumption of raw materials. In terms of raw material

consumption, North America is the world's worst offender. The typical American consumes twice as many raw materials as a Japanese or European, and as much as 100 times more than a Third World inhabitant.

"To achieve the second objective requires not only a reduction in our consumption of raw materials, but a shift from the use of the most polluting of all massively used materials, fossil fuels, to the use of direct solar energy or stored solar energy in plant matter.

"We need not rely on a moral imperative. The economic benefits of a materials policy can provide an equally persuasive justification. An ecological economy can lower operating costs and strengthen domestic, local, rural, and Third World economies. It can enhance national security while it strengthens economic security. And it can achieve these ends while making local and regional economies more self-reliant."

**A comprehensive environmental policy for the 90s relies on maximizing three strategies:**

**Efficiency.** - "Today in the U.S. only 25-30 percent of the fuel consumed in power plants is translated into electricity in the home. Automobiles are less than 20 percent efficient." "When we convert a tree into paper about half the tree is left in the forest or at the mill. More than 80 percent of the products we consume we throw away after one use. The potential for improving efficiency is enormous. The United States could reduce by 50 percent or more the quantity of raw materials consumed without reducing comfort levels."

**Recycling.** - "Between 40-60 percent of total energy is used to extract, process, manufacture, and deliver materials. Recycling can save a significant portion of that energy use, and has yet another important advantage. For every ton of product recycled, we save 2-20 tons of raw materials that would otherwise be consumed, or polluted, in reproducing these end products. This includes mining and forestry waste, water pollution, and soil erosion. Less than 15 percent of U.S. garbage is recycled today. Yet some cities have achieved 60 percent recycling and composting levels, and pilot studies conclude that 70-80 percent materials recovery levels are achievable."

**A Plant Matter Based Economy.** - "Improved efficiency and increased recycling can substantially reduce the quantity of raw materials needed as well as the pollution resulting from this consumption. This reduction then makes it possible to substitute direct solar energy and plant matter for virtually all uses of hydrocarbons as fuels and industrial materials. Sufficient sunlight, and land or water area exists to provide all our energy and industrial materials needs. An ecological future may demand more than replacing fossil fuels with plant matter. We may also wish to carefully evaluate the kind of plant matter we choose. For example, cutting down 80-year old trees to make today's newspaper is wasteful and may speed global warming. Paper can now be made from fast-growing plants like kenaf. Hence, in the future, agriculture may increasingly replace forestry." "... biomass contains virtually no sulfur and little nitrogen (the principal components of acid rain), and absorbs carbon dioxide during the process of maturation." "Plant matter based fuel and industrial materials technologies have improved apace. The ethanol fuel industry has grown from zero in 1978 to more than one billion gallons in 1990. In the same time frame the cost of producing a gallon of ethanol has dropped by more than 50 percent." "Today more than one third of all colored inks in newspapers are made with soy ink, and soy ink may soon be competitive with black inks. Already we know of at least one cleaner for semi-conductor boards derived from citrus rinds that offers an alternative to previous cleaners containing ozone depleting chlorofluorocarbons."

"As green technologies and green industries emerge, they form a symbiotic relationship with the broader environmental movement and become important and powerful lobbyists for rigorous ecological policies." "... the groundwork has been laid for an ecological future. The essential pieces are in place."

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance, founded in 1974, is a non-profit, tax exempt organization that promotes environmentally sound economic development through research and technical assistance. For further information contact: Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 2425 18th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009, (202) 232-4108.

## WOMAN REBEL NO LONGER ISSUED MONTHLY

Due to the cost of printing and postage (approximately \$85 per month for recent issues) and the current state of the Huntsville N.O.W. treasury (approximately \$280 - the issue you are holding in your hands will bring this down to approximately \$200), the chapter voted to cut back to a quarterly publication of the newsletter.

If funds become available this decision can be brought up again for a chapter vote at any chapter meeting. In the absence of funds to publish an issue to announce the new officers and their plans/ideas for the chapter, members can call 880-2807 after the July meeting to hear a recording announcing the election results. A press release announcing the election results will also be sent to all Huntsville newspaper in the hopes that they will print it.

Tentative plans are to issue the next newsletter at the end of September. Articles will be accepted at any time by contacting Linda Morris at 880-2807 or by mailing them to the Huntsville N.O.W. Post Office Box.

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## NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKER-WRITER TO BE IN HUNTSVILLE AUGUST 4

by Ro Ellis

Annie Laurie Gaylor, editor of national publication *Freethought Today*, chairman of American Humanist Feminist Caucus, and author of *Woe to the Women* and *Betrayal of Trust*, will speak in Huntsville Sunday, August 4, at 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center of First American Federal Bank at University Drive and Jordan Lane (4008 University). Her talk will concern some facet of rampant breaches of our constitutional concept of separation of Church and State.

Admission is free. Annie Laurie will be accompanied by her husband, Dan Barker, who will present a concert and talk at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 10:30 a.m., same day. Both have appeared on national TV talk shows and Dan is a composer, singer, and pianist extraordinaire.

I know some folks don't consider freedom of (or from) religion a specific women's issue, but they must not keep up with religion news as "religiously" as I do. They're not on the same mailing lists, or haven't made the connection between Bible-based religions and oppression of women.

Granted, all religions are not oppressive. Some are even "pro-choice", but they are not the ones making all the noise! (which is hardly "joyful"). Even Presbyterians (!) just rejected a realistic approach to human sexuality although they accept (heterosexual) women as clergy. Baptists, who voted in 1986 not to ordain women "because it was a woman who brought sin into the world," reportedly pressured the Presbyterians. So, it's back to the Bible where women are equated with cattle and adjured to "obey your husband" and "be silent in church."

Funny thing about that: a recent news survey confirmed "Bible-morality" mongers don't know their own book. Read Genesis 3, where God punished (!) Adam and Eve for knowledge of good and evil; and if that's not the basis of human morality, Webster deceives. That couple "clothed" their private parts to rid that garden of pornographic images!

Then the Lord God noticed "the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life ... and live forever: Therefore the Lord God ... drove out the man ..." And, of course, there was Eve also, pregnant and barefooted, praising the Lord for having "gotten a man" when she "bare Cain." Yet Eve (by sharing knowledge with Adam) is still blamed for causing the deplorable parts of the human condition! Billy Graham has made a fortune preaching the same sermon for 40 years about how Adam and Eve "brought evil into the world", but God takes "credit for that Himself in Isaiah 45:7. (Sometimes I think I'm caught in a time warp!)

People for the American Way report the "Religious Right Wing" are taking public schools to court to "axe" the literary "Impressions" series for such reasons as: "it promotes witchcraft, homosexuality, an inordinate

affection for animals, and disrespect for authority ... its overuse of rainbows (symbol of the New Age religion, they say) ... it's blatantly evil and blasphemous ..." We're talking about such as The Wizard of Oz, Huckleberry Finn, stories of Rudyard Kipling, Martin Luther King, Jr., A.A. Milne (!) ...

There are so many organized, motivated, voting religious tyrants out there! Some local elementary teachers are still grieving because the zealots forced out an "Apple" program, reportedly, because it taught that a child's own mind was "a best friend" and it didn't mention Jesus! I recognize this Bible fascism as a hazard of democracy - tyranny by the majority, but it doesn't make me any happier about it.

I would laugh, but it hurts too much. It hurts everybody. Religion demands (!) an unquestioning, willfully blind faith in and subjection to the authority of an invisible, unprovable deity, whereas science demands free inquiry, testing, and basing tentative conclusions on observable evidence only. Is it any wonder our students don't excel in science? They get "Creationism" from Church, family, and politicians - de facto (by virtue of church membership and tacit approval of public piety in the "marriage" of "God and Country"), if not overtly in suing public schools for equal time with evolution, which they get from schools, scientific publications and TV programs. How confused they must be.

Christianity teaches "Jesus is the answer" instead of teaching self-reliance or trust in human reason and basic goodness of most people. Is it any wonder that some teenagers turn to drugs, sex, or suicide for solace or answers when Jesus doesn't fulfill His promise that "Whatsoever ye ask in my name, I will do it for you?" And, He doesn't do it. It's been tested and proven hit-and-miss at best!

Dependence on God or government "under God" (forget "with liberty and justice for all") has already led us to the brink of total self-destruction! But, enough of this sermon in the valley. I know I'm not going to liberate the world from religion. It's hard to fight that "Santa Claus" in the sky. All I can reasonably hope for in my lifetime is separation of Church and State in the U.S.A. It's nice to know two personable, brilliant, and powerful speakers such as Annie Laurie and Dan are working for that cause. (They are both softspoken, not strident like me.) Y'all come! Y'hear?

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## MOTHERS ON TRIAL

by Wanda Foster  
(reprinted with permission from  
Madison County Women's Political Caucus)

*This article is excerpted from Mothers on Trial by Phyllis Chesler, which appeared in Ms. Magazine.*

When fathers fight they win custody 70 percent of the time, whether or not they have been absentee or violent fathers. Although 80 to 85 percent of custodial parents are mothers, fathers who fight tend to win custody because mothers are held to a much higher standard of parenting.

Divorcing fathers increasingly use the threat of a custody battle as an economic bargaining chip. And it works. He gets the house, the car, and the boat; she gets the kids and, if she's lucky, minimal child support. When fathers persist, a high percentage win custody because judges tend to view the higher male income and the father-dominated family as in the "best interests of the child." Many judges also assume either that the father who fights for custody is rare and should be rewarded for loving his children, or that something is wrong with the mother.

Many judges still believe that "just because a man beats his wife doesn't mean he's an unfit father." We vaguely know that, in the U.S., 16 percent of all young girls (an epidemic number), and a much lower percentage of young boys, have been sexually molested within the heterosexual family by fathers, grandfathers, uncles, stepfathers, and brothers. Yet when mothers accuse men of sexually abusing children in their families, we don't

believe that they're telling the truth, though studies document that most of the recent maternal allegations about incest are true, and that neither mothers nor child advocates allege paternal incest more often during a custody battle than at other times.

Custodially embattled fathers kidnap children three times as often as mothers. While some mothers or fathers may impede visitation, mothers rarely kidnap; when they do, it's almost never to withhold a child from a loving father, but to save a child from being tortured. In my study, mother-kidnappers, unlike father-kidnappers, were hunted down by private detectives, state police, and the FBI, arrested, jailed, fined, and deprived of custody and all but minimal, supervised visitation.

We should probably place such a mother in a federal witness protection program, an option open to an undercover agent when she testifies against a drug dealer. But those who depend on the father-dominated family are threatened by the nature of her accusations.

Like Vietnam veterans or prisoners of war, many mother-kidnappers seem to be suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome and are economically marginal. This does not mean that they or their children have not been battered or sexually abused. A custodially embattled mother is not unlike a runaway African slave in the nineteenth century, a Jew in Nazi Europe, a peasant, a professor, a housewife, or a child in flight from the world's gulags, killing fields and torture chambers. Except there is no "North", no "Israel" and no "United States" to shelter a woman in flight from male domestic violence.

[See Phyllis Chesler, Mothers on Trial. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991.]

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## "OCTOBER SURPRISE": SO WHAT'S THE SURPRISE?

Commentary  
by Ron Beshears

Rising in the quickly fading afterglow of "Desert Storm" and raining most inconsiderately on the seemingly endless victory parades, new accusations of what columnist Mike Royko calls "the foulest dirty trick in American political history" now plague the Bush Administration. Going under the general name of "October Surprise", the accusations threaten to shake the very foundation of the electoral process in America. If the allegations are true, they would suggest that the last ten years of Reagan-Bush hegemony were at least in part foisted upon us by acts of high treason.

The basic outline of the accusations is as follows: acting on fear that a release of the hostages held by Iran during President Jimmy Carter's term could, if timed properly, give Carter the necessary boost in popularity ratings to win the November 1980 presidential election, members of the Reagan-Bush campaign team negotiated with representatives of the Ayatollah Khomeini to delay the release of the hostages until after Carter's defeat and Reagan's inauguration in exchange for illegitimate arms deals carried out without the permission of Congress.

These accusations have been the subject of numerous articles in the alternative press, and at least one book, October Surprise, published by Barbara Honegger in 1989. Honegger's book is hard to find these days, but it isn't because of public demand. In attempting to find a copy of the book, this author spoke with every major bookseller in town, as well as with two book-finding agencies and all of the used book stores in town. With one exception, all of the book dealers had the same answer when questioned about the book: not only did they not have it, they had absolutely no records indicating that it had ever been published. Only one local bookstore associated with a national chain had the book, and even they had only a listing on their store inventory that referred to the book.

The name "October Surprise", according to Honegger, was coined by Republican pollster Richard Wirthlin, whose polling results indicated that a hostage release in the third week of October 1980 would provide President

Carter with an insurmountable advantage in the upcoming November 1980 election. Wirthlin allegedly informed William Casey, then chair of the Reagan-Bush campaign and later head of the Central Intelligence Agency, that such an event could have catastrophic implications for the Reagan campaign. At that point, Casey is alleged to have created surveillance teams inside the Carter staff and at U.S. military bases around the world, watching for any signs that the Carter administration was preparing to release "frozen assets" (that is, weapons and parts paid for by the Shah's regime prior to the Iranian revolution) to Iran in exchange for a release of the hostages taken on November 4, 1979 at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran.

The culmination of the October Surprise manipulations is said to be a series of meetings in Paris, France, over the period from October 18 to October 20, 1980. Numerous sources, including Honegger and former Carter National Security Staff member Gary Sick, claim that William Casey, George Bush, and other members of the Reagan-Bush team met with Iranian representatives to cement a deal that promised better arms agreements than those offered by the Carter White House in return for a delay in the release of the hostages. Honegger's book is a complex description of the maneuvering that produced not only these meetings but also the theft of President Carter's debate notebooks prior to Carter's October 28, 1980 debate with Ronald Reagan. Gary Sick's book, due to be released later this month, and a book just published by former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr (whose authority would also have been undermined by such a deal), confirm a large portion of claims made by Honegger and her witnesses.

While these accusations are both fascinating and sickening, the Republican response has been equally fascinating, and at times equally sickening. President Bush has of course stoutly denied all such claims, but then what else could he do? Get on television and say "Of course we did it"? Hardly. However, the substance of the refutations offered by Bush and other Republican apologists is less than satisfying.

One of the most frequently heard defenses offered by the Republican party has been that, "There is no way that Carter could have won the 1980 election, so obviously there cannot be any substance to these vile accusations." This is hardly convincing. Ample evidence exists to suggest that many Reagan campaign officials were convinced that there were indeed many ways in which Carter could have won re-election. This also depends on the Republican fantasy that the 1980 presidential election was a disastrous landslide. This vision, which is not supported by the extreme slimness of the victory margin in the popular vote, seems to be a fevered recollection of the premature declarations of a Reagan victory by the major television networks, which called the election before many polls closed.

Another popular tactic to refute the allegations has been the time-honored Republican tactic of loony-baiting, to wit: "The people making these accusations and their witnesses are not credible sources because they are crazy." As an example, Barbara Honegger, who worked in both the Reagan campaign and the Reagan White House, is derided in the June 1991 issue of *American Spectator* as one who believes in "parapsychology and the influence of heavenly alignments on earthly events." Coming on the heels of apparently substantiable accusations that the course of the Reagan presidency was cast in the stars by highly paid astrologers, and on-the-record quotes by former Interior Secretary James Watt that invoke the grim fairy tales of Armageddon and the Second Coming, this attempt at character assassination leaves much to be desired. The accusation about Honegger's beliefs, by the way, is (so far) wholly unsubstantiated.

While it seems that it would be reasonably easy for the Bush Administration to deflate many of these theories if they had the means to do so, the Administration has so far been most reluctant to come forward with information that would clear it of any wrongdoing. The burden of proof here lies rightfully upon the accusers, who are working diligently to establish that proof. Meanwhile, in response to accusations that George Bush was in Paris during the middle of October, the Reagan and Bush Administrations have come forward with no less than four alibis for Bush during the period in question. In so doing, they have made the job of creating doubt and suspicion much easier for the people claiming that Bush was personally involved in the Paris meetings, since any one alibi becomes much harder to believe when it is competing with three others. The Bush Administration would have been much better off by either releasing one story and sticking with it, or by saying nothing at all. The very fact that the Bush apologists are

working so hard to produce multiple and conflicting alibis for Bush speaks to the level of fear of these accusations that must exist in the Administration.

In all of the confusion and hype that will surround these accusations in the coming days, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that all of these allegations could be untrue as easily as they could be true. Let us not leave our critical thinking abilities behind in our rush to find the truth. As a commentator in this instance, I would rather encourage people to do their own research than presume to do their thinking for them. If we make demands on our lawmakers for a formal inquiry into this matter, then we should be informed about the facts as they exist. Consequently, I would like to recommend a few sources for those who wish to learn more about this story. They are:

*October Surprise*, written by Barbara Honegger, published by Tudor Publishing Co., New York, in 1989. As noted above, this book is extraordinarily hard to lay hands on these days; I would recommend book-finding services or direct contact with the publisher. One may wish to wait a short while, since Honegger recently stated intentions to publish a revised edition. The book is also available at the Madison County Library in Huntsville.

"Lead Congress Should Pursue," written by David Corn, in the June 24, 1991 issue of *The Nation*. This article is readily available at many local libraries.

*Landslide*, written by Jane Mayer and Doyle McManus, published in paperback by Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston, 1989. While it contains no specific references to the October Surprise allegations, it contains illuminating information on the Iran-contra scandal, which is considered by many to be a direct consequence of the alleged pre-1980 election dealings.

"Proceedings of the 'October Surprise' Discussion Panel", covered live by C-Span 2 on June 13, 1991. This valuable reference contains speeches by Gary Sick, Christopher Hitchens, and many others who have invested significant effort in investigations of the October Surprise allegations. I have this program on videotape and I am willing to lend it anyone who is interested.

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## MUNICIPAL APPROACHES IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

by Leigh Sanderson

*Neil Seldman is co-founder and president of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance in Washington, D.C. and director of waste utilization. He has helped develop approaches to municipal solid waste management which can meet both environmental quality standards and create economic opportunities for minority, youth and independent entrepreneurs. He has enabled cities to transform waste disposal from a costly service to a productive sector of the local economy. Here are excerpts from his speech at the Chattanooga Environmental Forum on April 26, 1991.*

"I'll categorize my remarks by saying that I hope to deal with the micro level, with how to do recycling and economic development, connected with the macro questions of global environmentalism, global pollution, and international trade. And I'll do that by showing how we at the institute have tried to link up our grassroots technical assistance on solid-waste management to a broader concept of materials policy and international trade. We're trying to make this link both practically and conceptually between waste, that we normally define as perhaps throwing out a piece of paper - throwing out an aluminum can, with other waste in our economy such as sunlight, which is falling on our cities, which is not being converted to electricity, which it can be, and wind, which is blowing through our cities and country sides, which can be converted to electricity and we're not doing it; and we're trying to show that, that is as wasteful as throwing out precious resources."



"The lesson, if you will, is that recycling is not enough. It has to be recycling that empowers communities and has to be recycling that stays local, so the benefits of recycling are retained at the local level."

"Making the decision to recycle is the hardest decision to make; then the creative and entrepreneurs take over and we see the wonderful diversity and creativity that is innate in all human beings."

"And further, I will make some remarks on how important using carbohydrates as our fuels is, to replace hydrocarbons as our main fuels in a sophisticated economy, so the environment is not destroyed."

"Let me start out my own presentation by also referring to one of the key individuals who inspired my work both as an individual as well as the Institute's work, and that is a gentleman who you all know, George Washington Carver; and I'll tell you two stories, I'll try to paraphrase him but of course he was more elegant than I. Toward the end of his life in the 1930s, Carver was asked by a researcher how he got the idea of chemurgy, which is the science of manufacturing useful products from plant matter, which he founded. What was the inspiring idea in his life? His response was, and I'm paraphrasing, 'Well, I took a handful of peanuts and said to myself: God, why did you make the peanut? And I was (I'm speaking for George Washington Carver) a trained chemist.' And he proceeded to take the peanut apart into its constituent elements and there were about 15 or 16 different acids and other elements that go into making the peanut. After he had separated these out, he said that he starting figuring out what could be made from these component parts; and, as is well known, he made 202 different products from the peanut and then went on to use the same insight and process on the sweet potato and other common crops. For this he will be forever famous and respected."

"And I point out that his discoveries were quite practical and by 1939, shortly after his death, Henry Ford had succeeded in manufacturing what he called his agricultural car. It was a car made of plastic derived from soybeans, the tires were made of rubber derived from goldenrod and the fuel was ethanol from corn; and he had made plans to produce these agricultural cars. In fact, his new factories were going to be placed right in the heartland of the United States, next to agricultural lands, so that literally the raw materials for manufacturing the cars would be grown by American farmers. The war came along and the nexus between the federal government and the petrochemical industry, up until this point, has literally made it impossible for those types of environmentally sound developments [and they are] frustrated to this day. I think part of the environmental movement, if we're going to be successful in turning the world around, is going to have to rearrange the nexus which exists to this day."

"At the Institute, we refer to ourselves as localists; and that is, we like to use local resources, for local people, that develop them by local people, so that the community is enhanced as the individual is enhanced."

"I also want to point out that when I say recycling I mean recycling and composting. And I'm going to refine that one more time because composting can also be mulching. Mulching is simply the shredding of some of this material using it as a mulch where composting is the full degradation of the material down to a top soil. Mulching is cheaper, it's quicker, uses less space - the top soil could be more valuable but it's a much more significant investment."

"Now this big debate going on - mandatory or economic incentive. Ron has told me like other parts of the country, you talk mandatory here they're going to put you in jail because they think it's a communist plot. My response to that is if society can tell me how many wives or husbands I can have, they can tell me how to put out the garbage; but I won't argue the point. The fact of the matter is, that mandatory recycling is a very-very effective tool. People in this country obey the law; 99.9% of drivers in this country stop at red lights and stop signs. Very frustrating when you see that 0.01% going through the red light but people obey the law. One, I don't think primarily but, because they don't want penalties. Two, it makes common sense and everybody perceives their vested interest in everybody stopping at red lights. And it's the same with mandatory recycling. If it becomes a law of your city, it's a wonderful educational tool."

"Commercial waste is a major factor - I already alluded to this - most garbage in our cities is from the commercial sector. In my city of Washington D.C., 75% of this solid waste is from the commercial sector. So if we have the greatest recycling program for our households in the world, most of our garbage is still going to go to the landfill. Well, it's not happening because the commercial sector is recycling quicker and better than the residential sector because it's easier for one - homogenous, better equipment - secondly, commercial haulers and commercial establishments pay for disposal on a dollar-per-ton basis. Or, I should say, on a dollar-for-cubic yard basis, cause it's how quickly your bin gets filled up. And therefore, I have that direct economic incentive - I have a small grocery store and I can bail my corrugated and get someone to take it, pay me something or just take it away, I could reduce my calls for my bins down by half and therefore, I'm going to save a whole lot of money."

"Incineration of waste - we are opposed to it and I'll give my very quick analysis of it: If I could snap my fingers and all the garbage, the solid waste, in the city of Chattanooga would disappear forever, I would not do it. Because that would be very polluting. Because then I would have to go and replace this paper that disappeared. I'd have to go cut down trees, I'd have to go process it, I'd have to go transport it and I would use more energy, far more energy in replacing this piece of paper that I would create if I burned it. Further, this paper, and tons and tons of this paper is again one of the key ways we can revitalize our inner city with jobs and training, equity shares and investment. So, therefore, the burning of garbage is an incredibly wasteful way to use our raw materials."

"Now finally, I want to talk about the economic development because here we're looking at a consumer revolution and people this "green consumerism," I just call it consumerism because it's the same principle and that is, the major corporations in this country have got kicked in the pants on the way they're making products and packages. And they are reacting faster than any other single segment in our society. More so than politicians and in some cases more so than the grassroots, not the grassroots but more so than the national environmental groups. The grassroots groups have been the leaders in this field since the beginning and they maintain their position as far ahead of the national environmental groups."

"Recycling is the only success story. I believe it's because everybody handles garbage. Everybody in this room and everybody's family handles garbage. And therefore, when you hear information and you know that literally you can make a difference by putting the material here as opposed to here, people do it."

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## WOMAN REBEL STAFF

Editor: Linda Morris (880-2807)

Reporter: Ron Beshears (534-2943)

Production: Volunteers - anyone interested ????

All contributions to this newsletter are sincerely appreciated. If you would like to get others involved in your favorite issue, an article for the newsletter is one way to reach out to a lot of people. Bring your article to the monthly N.O.W. meeting or mail it to the N.O.W. Post Office Box. For more information call Linda Morris at 880-2807.

As always, the views expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of N.O.W. or Woman Rebel.

## CALENDAR

### EVERY TUESDAY

Patient Escorts are always needed at the Women's Community Health Center on Longwood. The Anti-Choice picketers are there every week to harass the women coming in to the clinic. Prime Time for picketers is usually 6:45 - 11:00 am. Escorts are particularly needed between the hours of 6:30 - 8:00 am. Please come give the patients your support.

### EVERY TUESDAY

Choice Committee meeting. Women's Community Health Center on Longwood, 8 am.

26 June, Wednesday

Senate Health Committee's Public Hearing on abortion bill. State House, Montgomery, 1 pm. Call Linda Morris at 880-2807 or Ron Beshears at 534-2943 for more information.

5-7 July, Friday - Sunday

N.O.W. National Conference. New York City.

11 July, Thursday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

17 July, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting and Annual Elections. Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in Parkway City Mall, 7 pm.

21 July, Sunday

Freethought Forum meeting. Roland Burns will speak on Physical Phenomenon Implying the Existence of a God. Unitarian Universalist Church, 2:30 pm. For more information, contact Ron Patterson at 534-8710.

4 August, Sunday

Annie Laurie Gaylor. Community Center of First American Federal at University and Jordan, 5 pm.

15 August, Thursday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

17 August, Saturday

N.O.W. Regional Board meeting.

21 August, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting. Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in Parkway City Mall, 7 pm.

24 August, Saturday

Women's Equality Day. Women Won the Right to Vote !!!!

7 September, Saturday

N.O.W. State Board meeting. Birmingham, 12 noon.

12 September, Thursday

Huntsville N.O.W. Board meeting. All members are welcome. Linda's house (call 880-2807 for directions), 7 pm.

18 September, Wednesday

Monthly Huntsville N.O.W. meeting. Community Room (left of Men's Dress Suits) at Parisian's in Parkway City Mall, 7 pm.

1-3 November, Friday-Sunday

N.O.W. State Conference and Elections.

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### MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

All newsletter labels now carry an expiration date. The expiration code begins with the letter 'M' if you are listed as a member in our data base. The code changes to 'MN' once you have shown up on National's list; you should receive National N.O.W. Times and a membership card once this happens. The code for a subscriber to the newsletter is 'S'. The date that your membership or subscription expires follows the letter code.

The code for an unpaid courtesy copy is 'C'. The courtesy copies marked 'COURTESY' indicate an undated subscription which will continue so long as we have the funds to cover them. This category includes other N.O.W. Chapters, media, those organizations which have reciprocated by adding us to their mailing lists and a few individuals whose support has been invaluable.

If your label is **highlighted in RED**, this is **your last issue** unless you renew. If your label is **highlighted in pink** it is either past due or will expire shortly. Please renew your membership or subscription promptly by filling out the form on the back of the newsletter and mailing it with your check to the N.O.W. post office box.

Organizations wishing to swap subscriptions rather than purchase one should fill in the name and address portion of the form and note at the bottom that this is a subscription swap. We welcome the exchange of information that this allows.

It should be noted that it takes a few months for anything sent to National to be updated and sent back to us. Where there is a difference between our records and National's we use the later of the two dates. As we receive updates from National we will update our database. To insure that our records match, you should send us any name corrections, address changes, phone numbers, etc., at the same time that you send them to National. We will send anything we receive up to National as well, to insure that you continue to receive their mailings and the National N.O.W. Times.

There is a (small) Scholarship Fund for those who cannot afford a membership but wish to remain active in N.O.W. Anyone wishing to contribute to keeping these valuable people on National's lists as well as ours can help by sending a donation to us marked 'Scholarship.'

Jonathan McDowell  
110 Pine Ridge Rd. # 605  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
Exp: MN - ????

P.O. BOX 2204  
Huntsville, AL 35804

# HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to join NOW and commit myself to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising full rights and responsibilities in partnership with men.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$35 per year regular membership includes national, state and local dues and local newsletter subscription.)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$16-34 sliding scale if income is limited.)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 for subscription to local newsletter only.)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

CHAPTER NUMBER  
**AL 0100**

\$3 of your national dues pays for your subscription to *The National NOW Times*.

Make check payable to Huntsville NOW. Mail to Huntsville NOW, P.O. Box 2204, Huntsville, AL 35804

Senate Bill 323  
H.R. 392

Gag rule  
veto override

539-5441  
Leg office  
242-7100  
Governors office

AL calls Senate Seniors  
do not want ~~elective~~ vote  
Then Governors off - do not phone  
17 July 1991  
29 July

Huntsville N.O.W. - Agenda

1. Chapter Elections
  - Candidate Statements
  - Member Comments
  - Voting
2. Officer Reports.
  - Chapter Coordinator
  - Action Coordinator
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
3. Chair Reports.
  - By-laws
  - Child Sexual Abuse
  - Child Support
  - Religious Freedom/Freedom of Speech
  - Environmental
  - Poverty Issues
  - Fundraising
  - Choice
4. Title X action
5. Annie Laurie Gaylor on 4 August
6. August 26th Action - Woman Got the Vote
7. Community Awareness Forum
8. New Business ? ? ? ?

19  
17  
5 Jo Melissa  
14 - Kathy Zentler

voter Reg in  
MSA/MSU Aug 31

10:30pm - 8pm  
10:2pm 2 8pm

Louise Burnett

1-800-33-GUMBO to tell Louisiana not Gary here

537-8742 Melissa Fox

~~Dance Studio~~