

# NOW votes to keep Ireland as president

By Victoria Benning  
GLOBE STAFF

Patricia Ireland was elected this weekend to a four-year term as president of the National Organization for Women, defeating an opponent who had charged NOW with being an exclusive, elitist organization of mostly middle-class white women which has been too narrowly focused on abortion.

With 928 of the 1,007 registered delegates casting votes, Ireland defeated South Carolina attorney Eflia Nwangaza 671-235. Also elected during NOW's three-day annual convention in Boston were two incumbents, executive vice president Kim Gandy and action vice president Rosemary Dempsey, and new secretary Karen Johnson.

Ireland has headed NOW since she replaced Molly Yard, who resigned in 1991. Yard, who suffered a stroke earlier in 1991, resigned. Her term would have expired yesterday.

Ireland and her running mates pledged to strengthen what they called a "new movement" among women and other social justice organizations in the post-Reagan/Bush era.

"Feminism has become a primary focus of the right wing's furor now that communism is dead," Ireland said during a press conference yesterday.

"We learned in the Reagan/Bush era that the gains we had made were not irreversible," she said. "We must bear in mind in the Clinton era that the progress we seek is not inevitable. It is not going to come because we have a new man in the White House or new women in Congress. It will come because we have new energy in our movement."

Ireland, elected after what was sometimes a contentious campaign,



Patricia Ireland (left) enters the convention hall yesterday after her election as president of NOW.

GLOBE PHOTO / EVAN RICHMAN

will not have a free ride within the organization. While she and her ticket won a sizable victory, it was by no means a mandate, said Nwangaza, whose ticket won a quarter of the votes cast. Nwangaza said the vote marks a watershed period in NOW's 27-year history. More and more women will come forward to challenge the status quo, she said.

Nwangaza said she will continue her work on NOW's national board, and she promised to remain a thorn in Ireland's side throughout her tenure as president, pushing the same issues upon which her "EveryWoman" NOW campaign was based. She did not rule out running again in four years.

Nwangaza, who is black, disputed claims by Ireland that NOW is a diverse organization which has always been devoted to issues related to poor and low-income women and women of color.

"The appearance of diversity is not enough," Nwangaza said in an interview, adding that minority women hold only token positions in the national organization's leadership. She cited the newly-elected Johnson, who is black, as an example, saying secretary is a position which typically is the "lowest slot on the rung" in an organization.

Nwangaza said Ireland, like NOW, is out of touch with real women. She referred to comments by Ireland, a lawyer and former flight attendant, who tells of having to "re-

sort to food stamps" while working as a flight attendant and going to law school.

"Here's a woman who is so out of touch with the women of this country that she doesn't even know when she's being insulting," Nwangaza said.

NOW, for its part, downplayed the split between the two camps and attempted to present a united front. Abortion rights issues, through which many Americans have come to know the organization, were not emphasized during the weekend. And earlier in the convention, the group honored several "ordinary" women who did "extraordinary" things.

Before the beginning of yesterday's session, members passed out

# Flynn urges school priority

## Says candidates must seek change

By Lisa Atkinson  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Mayor Flynn used yesterday Independence Day holiday to urge mayoral candidates to make improving the Boston public school system their No. 1 priority.

"I think it is only fitting that the Fourth of July, we begin the debate over the future of public education in America," Flynn said before he becomes US ambassador to the Vatican. "And in Boston especially."

In a prepared statement, Flynn said he recently wrote letters to the mayoral candidates, calling for education as the most important issue in the campaign.

"I would urge Boston's voters to hold the candidates' feet to the fire and make sure that they remain focused on the issue of public education," Flynn said.

Lois Harrison-Jones, superintendent of Boston public schools, said in a telephone interview that she supported Flynn's statement.

"I would further like to know how they would turn statements into action," she said.

Many mayoral candidates have already released education plans. Several mayoral hopefuls interviewed yesterday said they considered improving the Boston school system one of their top priorities.

"I believe I have taken a comprehensive look at the Boston school system from many angles," said Suffolk County Sheriff Robert Rufo. "I have come up with a number of ideas to begin the tedious task of making our schools a better learning institution."

# School's new chancellor sails full speed ahead

Crosby flatly denies rumors his appointment to the Dartmouth campus is a p...

to about 800, from about 700 last year. The academy's budget has...

By Lew Burrows

# NOW head pledges focus on all women

By Indira A.R. Lakshmanan  
GLOBE STAFF

Before a meeting hall packed with more than 1,000 feminists separated by age, gender, sexual orientation, race and class — but united in their mission — the president of the country's largest women's organization grappled aloud yesterday with a definition for their cause.

"I keep hearing from the media that feminism is the new f-word," said Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, which opened its three-day national convention at the Sheraton Boston Hotel yesterday.

It was minister and former presidential candidate Pat Robertson who said feminism was tantamount to encouraging women to "kill their children, leave their husbands, practice witchcraft and become lesbians," among other things, Ireland recounted, to peals of laughter from her audience.

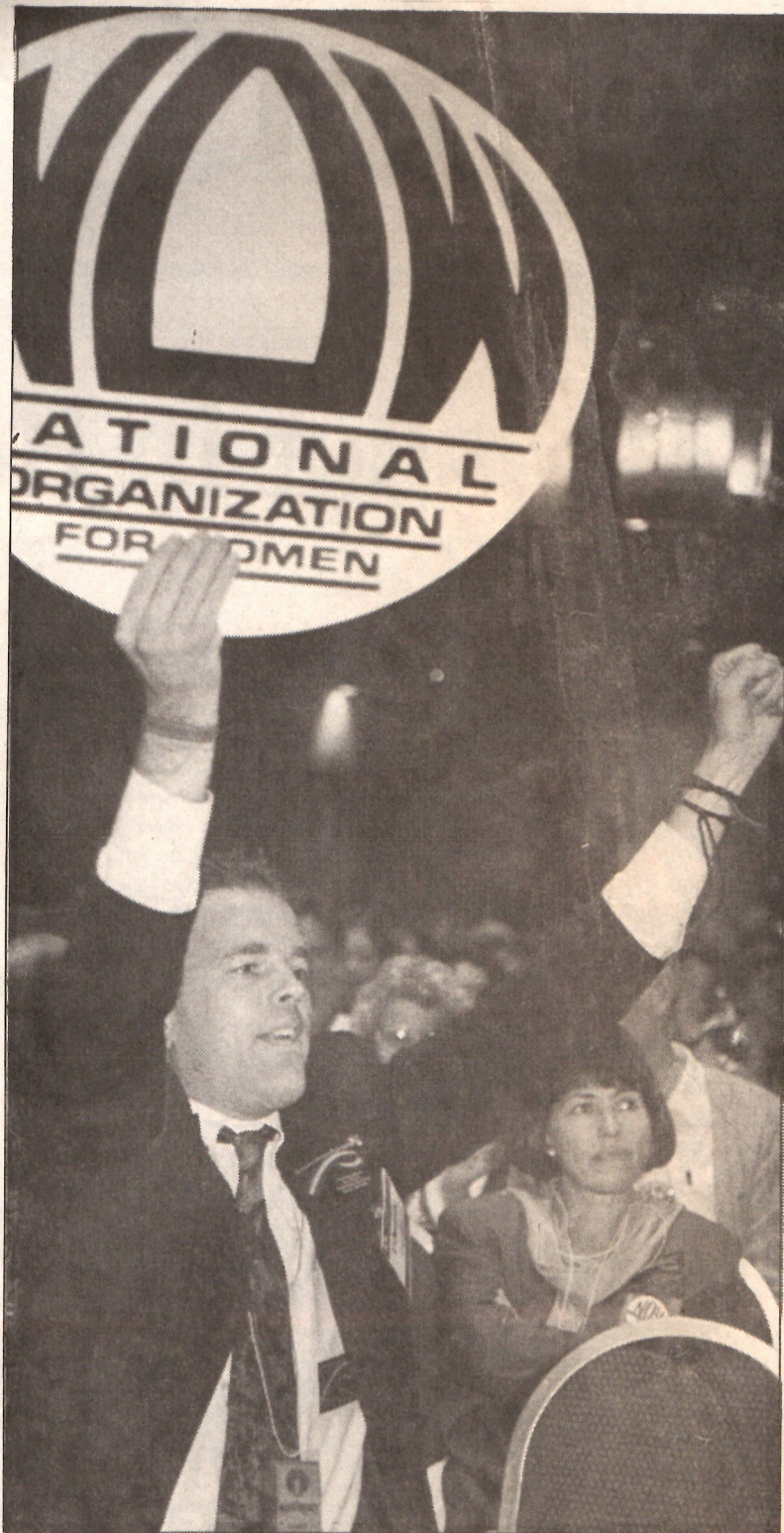
Ireland herself said she preferred the definition spotted on the T-shirt of a young man in Miami, that "feminism is the radical notion that women are people."

And then there was British novelist Rebecca West, who in 1913 said she was unable to determine exactly what feminism was, sure only that "people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat."

It was with these wry observations that Ireland approached the ever-present questions of what feminism is, who it serves, where it is headed and whether NOW fulfills the movement's mandate.

Facing a challenge to her leadership tonight from a slate of women who charge that her administration has been unwittingly racist, classist and insensitive to the needs of underprivileged women, Ireland was careful yesterday in a morning news conference to stress that NOW strives to assist women in all walks of life.

The theme of the convention is "Everyday Women, Extraordinary Acts," and a plenary session today will feature cafeteria workers from Everett who fought and won a landmark pay equity suit; a police officer from Greece, N.Y. who was promot-



Eduardo Burkhardt of Arlington, Va., cheers a speaker during yesterday's opening session of the NOW convention at the Sheraton Boston.

ed after standing up to sexual discrimination on the job, and a California woman who hosted the 1992 Poor Women's Survival Summit.

One highlight of yesterday's events was a workshop on combating violence against women run by young women from the South End, members of Teen Empowerment Inc.

Behind all of these so-called common women, there are many more, perhaps "a single mother with three children, who are never going to consider themselves part of a movement," Ireland suggested to reporters.

"What we do to reach out to that kind of woman is [host] this very kind of conference."

But Ireland's critics argue that in holding the convention in a swank hotel rather than on a college campus, for example, she is alienating the very women she says she wants to include.

"The only reason I'm here is because I'm staying on the floor ... and I was able to drive here," said Wendy Botwin, 24, of the Alice Paul NOW chapter in Cherry Hill, N.J. "We all brought our own food; there are coolers all over the room."

Virginia Berry, 27, president of

the NOW chapter in Greenville, S.C., said she is worried about what she called a shift away from the movement's grass-roots origins under the current leadership. She said she intends to support the opposition "EveryWoman NOW" slate led by lawyer Efa Nwangaza, one of her chapter members.

"It's not about whether we get invited to the White House or what kind of power suit we wear on 'Good Morning America,'" she said. "It's about empowering women, changing our local communities and, through that, changing our nation."

Mountains of campaign propaganda from each side were thrust upon passersby, and whispers filled the hallways and bathrooms about who would best serve the agenda of the 280,000-member activist group. But if the near-total standing ovation she received at the opening session is any clue, charismatic Ireland is likely to win reelection tonight. It was her call to women to take charge of their lives and their country's future that perhaps most stirred the activists yesterday.

"In the same way we began this century with the suffragette movement, I want to end this century by taking real political power."

# Vacationers get an

By Alysia Tate  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

For some Boston area residents, three days just weren't enough.

Commuter traffic into the city was noticeably lighter yesterday morning than other weekdays, a sign that many workers started their Fourth of July holiday week-end early. The state will officially observe the holiday on Monday.

The morning rush hour "was a breeze," said Scott Pickard, spokesman for SmartRoute, the traffic monitoring organization. Both traffic volume and traveling time were down entering the city from all directions, he said.

But by early afternoon, there was the usual vacation exodus heading north on interstates 93 and 95, and south on Interstate

495 and Route 3, causing heavy backups on the Massachusetts Turnpike and Route 128 by late afternoon. Highway officials expect delays throughout the week-end.

Even the State House turned into a ghost town, with tourists generating most of the hallway traffic. Legislature-watchers had to settle for portraits of long-dead lawmakers because most of the live ones were nowhere to be found. Neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives was in session. Gov. Weld left at midday for Nantucket, and Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci was on vacation.

"I haven't seen the State House this quiet in a long time," said Rep. Mark Roosevelt (D-Boston).

But Pat Boudrot, director of public relations at Filene's Base

## WHERE TO SEE THE FIREWORKS

Fireworks in Boston and surrounding communities inside Interstate 495

### TONIGHT

**ABINGTON:** 10 p.m., Memorial Field, Washington Street. Rain date July 10.

**DANVERS:** 9:30 p.m., Plains Park. Rain date 9:30 p.m. Monday.

**GLOUCESTER:** 9 p.m. (approximate), best view is from Stacey Boulevard.

**IPSWICH:** 9 p.m., part of "Independence Day Celebration" at Castle Hill, Argilla Road. Rain date Monday.

**SALISBURY:** 10 p.m., on the Mall at Salisbury Beach, Route 1A.

**SHARON:** 10 p.m., Memorial Park Beach, Beach Street.

**STOUGHTON:** 9:30 p.m., high school field, Cushing and Pearl streets.

**WALPOLE:** 10 p.m., Town Center.

**WEYMOUTH:** 9:30 p.m., Wessagusset New Beach, River Street. Free bus shuttle from Harborlight Mall, Route 3A, beginning at 5 p.m.

### TOMORROW NIGHT

**BOSTON:** 9:30 p.m. (approximately), the Charles River Esplanade, following the Boston Pops concert at the Hatch Shell.

**ACTON:** 9:30 p.m., following the band concert at the football field.

**BROCKTON:** 10 p.m., Brockton/Middleborough Fairgrounds, Route 123, Torrey Street.

**CANTON:** 10 p.m., Memorial Field, parking available at the high school.

**HAVERHILL:** 10 p.m., Haverhill Stadium, Lincoln Avenue.

**LEXINGTON:** 9 p.m., Center Playground, Worthen Road. Rain date, 9 p.m. Monday.

**LINCOLN:** 9 p.m., Town Pool.

**MARLBOROUGH:** 9 p.m., Lincoln Street between Broad and Grant streets.

**NATICK:** 9:30 p.m., the gazebo.

**NEWTON:** 8:30 p.m., Albemarle Field, Albemarle Road, off Route 16, Newtonville.

**RANDOLPH:** 9:30 p.m., baseball field, Randolph High School.



A Sandwich parks employee, Haverhill, is seen climbing a ladder near the town's Shawme Lake bands.

# Weekend crackdown on use of illegal fireworks

By Stephen Power  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

State authorities vowed yesterday to crack down on the use of illegal fireworks this weekend by patrolling sites where crowds gather for festivities.

"I'm telling anyone who will listen that we're enforcing the law because we care about you," said State Fire Marshal F. James Kauffman. "We see this stuff come across our desks every year, and we know how dangerous they are."

Kauffman said state and city police will patrol the Pops concert tomorrow night on the Esplanade.

"We are really concerned about the health and welfare of the people who bring their families," Kauffman said. "The density is so great there that any firework has the potential to injure people in the crowd."

Last July, two boys, ages 4 and 10, were badly burned in separate incidents when fireworks were set off in the crowd at a North Shore fireworks display. The same day, a Boston man was killed in Fairhaven when a bottle rocket exploded

## TAKE ACTION

If you have a problem in your neighborhood, the Globe wants to help get it solved. Call us and give a brief description of the problem. We'll select topics with the broadest community interest and write about them. Anonymity of callers will be preserved if requested.

929-3379

## THE LOTTERY

Friday number **8408**

**FRIDAY PAYOFFS**  
(based on \$1 bet)

EXACT ORDER

All 4 digits **\$5,107**

First or last 2 digits **\$75**

# Opponents of outfall tunnel ask judge to stop

By Scott Allen  
GLOBE STAFF

Calling federal Judge A. David Mazzone their "last resort," activists fighting the MWRA's 9.5-mile outfall

more important issue of whether whales and other endangered species were being protected properly.

"I'm not as taken with the procedural arguments as perhaps I should be," Mazzone told Glitzenstein. He

nel, said the scientific evidence to date, including a 250-page report by the US Environmental Protection Agency released in April, shows that the effluent poses little threat. At most, he said, the nitrogen will

Judge orders a builder for V

# NOW members urge an end to women's poverty

By Maria R. Van Schuyver  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The National Organization for Women turned to its delegates and members yesterday at the Sheraton Boston Hotel for guidance on what direction the group should take.

As the national NOW convention finished its second day, delegates last night prepared to cast their votes in the election of NOW leaders.

During the day, more than 1,000 members told NOW leaders which issues are important to them. Overwhelmingly, through stories like that of Cheri Honkala of Pennsylvania, NOW leaders were told that NOW members want to see women get out of poverty and off the nation's welfare rolls.

"When I was in Minnesota, I became homeless with my son," Honkala said. She said she and her son had to break into houses at night to find shelter.

"Now, I get assistance - \$168 every two weeks to feed and clothe my son. It's not enough," she continued. "It's not only the leadership of NOW, but all of us, as women, who have to take the responsibility to get women out of poverty."

Such stories of tough times were shared by half a dozen women and an unemployed man from New Jersey who started Jersey Unemployment Program to help people find jobs. Though many were facing difficulties, Beverly LaPrade of Providence said she wanted everyone to know there is hope.

"I am the first woman not only in my city, but in the state of Rhode Island to be on public assistance and get elected to office," she said to cheers from the crowd around her.

"I was elected to the school committee because I know about being poor, and I know what our children need. I want to see school breakfasts offered nationwide, and I want to see four-year, paid day care programs available to women on public assistance, so we can get women educated and out of poverty. It can happen. It starts with people like us."



Union activist Geraldine Miller (left) and Kim Gandy, NOW's executive vice president, cheer a speaker during yesterday's session at the Sheraton Boston. Gandy is holding her daughter, Elizabeth Cady Lornell, 4 months old, who is named after a noted feminist.

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO/MICHELE McDONALD

The goals outlined by LaPrade were the kind of changes NOW members said they would like to see among women in the business world. And as one of the conference workshops revealed, women are starting to make a difference in the business world.

More than 92 percent of all of US companies were owned by women in 1987, and that number is expected to grow to 50 percent by the year 2000.

according to a brochure from the Small Business Administration. "Women are making a difference because we know how to play by the rules, win by the rules, and then change the rules," said Gene Boyer, a women's business advocate and management consultant from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Workshop coordinators recommended women use the resources available to them, like the SBA or their families. Mail-order businesses and franchises also were considered among the top means for women to get into business.

The convention winds down today with the 9:30 a.m. announcement of election results and a bylaws and resolutions meeting. Although current NOW leadership has been challenged during the convention by a number of groups who claim NOW has become too ritzy and racist, take giant steps."

many yesterday were more than happy to voice their support of current NOW president Patricia Ireland.

"Throughout the leadership of Patricia Ireland, we have seen sisters in sisterhood fighting together," said Marian Kramer of the National Welfare Rights organization. "This year we have taken baby steps [against poverty], next year we will take giant steps."

# Hyde Park man shot six times in the leg

By Dean K. Wong  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

A 19-year-old Hyde Park man returning home Friday night from a basketball game was shot six times in the leg in an apparent drive-by shooting in Mattapan.

Byron Israel was shot around 1 p.m. as he stood outside a friend's home at Belnet and Friendship roads, according to police.

Officers found Israel surrounded by a crowd of people and semiconscious on the sidewalk, bleeding from a leg and ankle. Israel was taken by ambulance to the Brigham and Women's Hospital for treatment.

Spokesman Jerry Vanderwood said police recovered several shells from a .45-caliber handgun at the scene.

Police also recovered what was believed to be the suspects' vehicle on Cummins Highway in Mattapan. Several shells found in the car matched those at the scene.

Israel was one of 200 who graduated in June from the City Year community service program. Israel had said that the experience, working as a teacher's aide and building a community garden at the Blackstone School in the South End, had broadened his outlook on life.

"Yeah, I used to sell drugs and be kind of prejudiced, like just hanging around blacks and nobody else," Israel said at the time. "Now I'm not like that. I learned a lot about different cultures and forgot about hating. City Year is a lot of fun and I've made a whole lot of friends."

Charlie Rose, vice president for community partnerships at City Year said, "He's a good kid but anything could have happened. I play basketball with Byron a lot and he's a good athlete. I just hope he's OK."

Yesterday from his hospital bed, Israel said he felt "pretty good."

He said that he and his friends made a stop after the game so one of them

# The Oxford English



Ellen Zucker, left, president of the Boston NOW chapter, and Roberta Benjamin, who founded the chapter in 1971.

## The battles are not over for NOW

By Patti Doten  
GLOBE STAFF

*"I don't think young women today know anything about NOW." — Roberta Benjamin, who in 1971 co-founded the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women.*

*"Local membership has grown two and a half to three times in the past four years, and the average age of our membership is 25. There's a lot of activism out there." — Boston NOW president Ellen Zucker.*

As the Boston chapter of NOW celebrates its 20th anniversary at a dinner tonight at the Boston Center for the Arts, the women's movement is at a

and set new agendas and strategies as it enters its third decade.

On its 20th birthday, the feminist group

looks back — and ahead

crossroads. After the highs of the '60s and '70s and the lows of the '80s, NOW is grappling with its future: Who is the woman of the 1990s and what are the issues relevant to her life?

The very theme of the anniversary — Looking Back to Move Forward — is an indication that NOW, once accustomed to daily headlines and network news coverage, is groping for ways to regroup

As the spearhead in the struggle for women's rights, NOW first helped define the issues facing women and found solutions to them in the streets, courts, classrooms and boardrooms. Founded by Betty Friedan, NOW exploded into the streets in the late '60s with the then-radical ideas of equal pay for equal work, child care and abortion and birth-control rights.

But after early successes in these areas, the Reagan presidency and the right wing rolled over the women's movement in the '80s. Hobbled by conservatism and the inability to get the equal rights NOW, Page 12

# At 20, Boston NOW looks back - and ahead

## ■ NOW

Continued from Page 9  
amendment passed in 1982, the movement lay largely dormant until recent court rulings threatening abortion rights proved a catalyst.

But having rallied members around the single issue of abortion, NOW is seeking new ways to keep old members active while attracting a new generation of women. And it's not easy.

In the '90s, NOW is no longer the only game in town - there are other organizations dealing with women's issues. And there is not a single issue that can galvanize women into action.

In response, NOW has squared off for two battles. To set an agenda

that will tackle the problems women deal with in their daily lives - from prenatal and child care to housing and reproductive rights. And to build coalitions in which all women will work together for a common cause.

"The '60s was a time of hope," said Zucker, 29. "Today people are frustrated and angry and scared. There has been tremendous response to the economic threat, [Gov.] Weld's budget cuts. This threat hits women differently. For upwardly mobile women, they have the constant feeling of the glass ceiling. But other women, on the lower economic rungs, are up against a concrete wall. They can't find a job or, if they do, they can't find child care. In a tightening economy, people will hire a young man over a woman."

Zucker said that during the conservative Reagan years and the flourishing economy, many women were numbed from struggling for equality. She points to the Robert Bork nomination to the US Supreme Court and the Webster decision of 1989 (which granted states more power to curb abortions) as the two events that shook people awake. And the response was immediate. NOW's national earnings in 1989 doubled to nearly \$11 million, and much of that was from new donors.

Ellen Convisser, past local president and present head of the state chapter, said that it was in response to the Bork nomination that NOW first worked with other groups against what they saw as a common evil. They also worked with unions during the Eastern Airlines strike and the Nynex strike.

They were no longer an island of dissent. Bork set forth the path to a coalition future.

"During the Bork campaign, we joined with free-speech groups and other women's groups and gathered all our resources and ran a constructive campaign that squashed his nomination," said Convisser. "That campaign brought in new activists and helped raise money. Today, no one organization working by itself is going to get the job done."

There are, according to Convisser, 15 NOW chapters in the state, 14,000 Massachusetts members and 2,500 Boston members.

Once an organization of middle-class whites, said both Zucker and Convisser, NOW wants to represent women of all economic backgrounds and color. As yet, membership does not reflect this outreach.

"We are trying to expand our agenda for all women," said Convisser. "Economic issues have got to be a top priority. As the economy stumbles, women are the first victims. And with Weld's cuts in social services, women's options are squeezed dry until the only choices are the streets or shelters."

But even though the Boston chapter does have young members, it has a long way to go to get the message to women who take their civil rights for granted and have not yet clashed with sexual discrimination in the workplace. NOW has yet to create a way of disseminating information in high schools and on college campuses. And it has yet to make clear exactly what the organization stands for and to erase the image of a radical, militant group of

women in combat boots.

Dee Dee Anderson, 20, of Burlington, knew nothing about NOW until she felt her rights were being threatened by the Webster decision. It was only by chance that she noticed a small NOW announcement in her college paper that led her to the organization's offices on Commonwealth Avenue.

"No one at my high school paid any attention to women's rights," said Anderson. "And I always thought women could do anything. But with the Webster decision, I thought the courts were chipping away at my rights. I might never need an abortion, I hope I don't, but I don't want that right taken away from me."

Anderson joined NOW and participated in the November 1989 mobilization in Washington. Last winter she attended a regional NOW conference and last month a young feminist conference in Akron, Ohio. She also helped organize a young feminist group of 15 at the Boston chapter and volunteers at NOW 40 hours weekly while looking for a job.

Margaret Potter, 25, a student at Wellesley and a non-active member of NOW, said peers at her all-girls school are not, in part, interested in the organization because NOW's agenda is unclear.

"Young women think sex discrimination is dead and that is what NOW used to stand for," said Potter. "They don't believe that sex discrimination exists today, that it is very much a reality in the workplace. What I do hear a lot is 'I'm not a feminist but I believe in equal pay.' They seem to connect feminism with being radical, militant and man-hating."

The feminist label has never been widely accepted, according to Diane Margolis, professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut and author of "The Managers."

"Most of my students would deny being feminists," said Margolis. "The label embarrasses the living daylight out of them, especially if males are in the vicinity. Not one of them believes that women still earn less than a man doing the same work. The label has never been broadly accepted in middle America."

She said the successes won by the feminist movement have, ironically, led many young women to think the fight is over. But with the tightening economy and cuts in social services, women's organizations are especially needed.

These issues are much more subtle than during the days after Roberta Benjamin, mother of three small sons, helped found the Boston chapter. It is hard to comprehend today that birth control was illegal, that help-wanted ads were gender based or that women, during an Aug. 26, 1970, march, passed signs hung by men working on the Old City Hall that read:

Must be 38-23-38"  
"Hard Hats for Soft Broads."

are not  
English  
the Oxford