

The Courier-Journal

Women's World

Staff Photos by Bud Kamenish

Women attending the Institute on Women's Rights included a law student, Mrs. Martha Jane Schechter, left, a working wife, Mrs. Peg Broaddus, center, and an expectant mother, Mrs. Sonnie Reichart. Although most of the talk was about employment, other restrictions on women were discussed.

Mrs. Joanna Martin, left, a representative of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization of Women, talks with Mrs. Edward Post, president of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union, at a meeting on women's rights.

Women Explore Their Rights and Wrongs

By SALLY BLY
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Sixty men and women got together last weekend to talk about putting women in their place, but the problem is defining that place.

For too long, most women felt, their role has been defined as secondary to men. "Women's work" is menial, trivial, clerical and low paid, they said.

Employment is the major area of complaint, but discussion usually includes all the pervasive attitudes and myths that serve to restrict women's freedom.

Last Saturday the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union sponsored an Institute on Women's Rights at the University of Louisville. There long-haired students talked with perfectly coiffed housewives about their common problems. Young women talked about how the feminist movement has lost ground since the 1930s and women "over 40" spoke of compromises they had had to make with the feminine mystique.

Not all women at the meeting felt they could wholeheartedly support a women's liberation movement, but all felt it was time for some changes.

One woman objected that some groups in other parts of the country have lost sight of the major issues and spend too much time "arguing about whether they should wear bras."

Here are comments from the discussions on various topics:

EMPLOYMENT

The salary of the average full time woman worker is 60 per cent of that of the average male worker and women are losing ground every year, said Mrs. Joanna Martin, public relations chairman of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization of Women.

Although women want equal pay for equal work, "most women don't even get a chance of doing equal work," she said.

"If you go to an employment office," a young woman said, "they don't ask about your educational background. It's 'Honey, how's your typing and short-hand?'"

One professional woman, who is a boss, confessed that she must use men to deal with other companies, because the men in those companies wouldn't "relate to a woman."

Women's place isn't really in the home, Mrs. Martin said. Two out of every five women work; nine of 10 women will work outside the home at some time in their lives. Mrs. Martin said NOW supports public day care centers for working mothers.

"Children are the social wealth of this society," she said. "They should be an important national priority. Certainly they're more important than war."

EDUCATION

Some universities have quotas on women students, said a professor, and most have nepotism policies which prohibit both man and wife from teaching at the same institution. It's usually the

man who gets a job, not his wife, he added.

"But I've noticed," Mrs. Martin said, "that in some universities with nepotism policies, it's never enforced when brothers are involved."

It's also more difficult for women students to get financial aid, another woman said.

"And these institutions like the Ivy League colleges that made the 'big gesture' and decided to go coed, require much higher qualifications from their women students," a young man said.

SEX

In one discussion room there was a display of pornographic pictures of women and also standard advertising that uses women or sex to sell products.

But "some women allow themselves to be used as sex objects," objected Carol Kunk.

"That's because all their lives they've been taught that that's all they're useful for," another woman said.

However, several times during the day women said that the liberation movement is not a sex war, nor is it anti-male. Men are oppressed by stereotyped roles, too, they said.

At least one of the men agreed that the masculine role is oppressive.

However, men aren't going to give up their dominant position out of the good-

ness of their hearts, Mrs. Martin said, therefore women do need to organize.

LEGAL RIGHTS

The women are starting now to push for an equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution, because the 14th amendment has not been interpreted as applying to women, said Mrs. Martin.

In 1961, she said, the U.S. Supreme Court in effect ruled that women are not people.

Many participants also question laws and policies about divorce and child custody. "No one really believes in alimony any more, do they?" asked one woman. Another said it shouldn't be so hard for men to get custody of children.

Mrs. Edward Post, president of KCLU, said that organization has not yet concerned itself with women's rights and that she regards race and poverty as the nation's two major problems. "I don't think women's rights are any more significant than these.

"If we refuse to concern ourselves with the broader issues as women—as people—we are doomed," Mrs. Post said.



(UPI Telephone)

"WE WANT IN"—Members of the National Organization for Women (NOW) picket the White House to show support for amendments in abortion and social security laws. NOW supports legislative proposals pending in Congress which would amend the Constitution to provide that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Women's rights Where have all the shrinking violets gone?

BY KIT BARRETT

ON THE surface, the fight for women's rights is puzzling. All of a sudden women seem to be against men instead of against other women in pursuit of men.

During the last two years, several "women's lib" groups have intruded upon the American consciousness like a rude guest at an already uncomfortable party. Many of their tactics have been especially offensive to men—who fail to see anything wrong with the present system and are not sufficiently motivated to wade thru the rhetoric to the substantive issues.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) the oldest and most solidly established group, has been working quietly by comparison to some of its sister or daughter organizations. Established in 1966 by a group of 15 professional women in Washington, D. C., NOW currently has 75 chapters

basically composed of middle-age, middle-income, working members who believe we all win if women and men are treated equally.

"NOW is not a women's organization. We are men and women working together," said NOW's newly-elected president, Mrs. Aileen Hernandez, a young-looking, articulate woman who spoke recently on the "Revolt of Women" at the University of Chicago.

Men Now Involved

"Men are becoming more aware that the subjugation of women is not the elevation of men. Traditionally, men have learned to bear the economic burden for the family unit. This is often detrimental to the individual's psychological and physical health. From the viewpoint of enlightened self-interest, men should be involved in women's liberation," Mrs. Hernandez said.

Mrs. Hernandez has been associated with NOW since resigning from the United

States Equal Employment Opportunity commission (EEOC) in 1966. While serving on the EEOC, she took part in the effort to change the rule then forcing air line stewardesses to

Closely allied with equal employment rights for women are repeal of abortion laws and the creation of child care centers, Mrs. Hernandez said.

In January, NOW opposed the

tion to the dangers in present abortion laws, and to the number of women who have died as the result of illegal abortion," she said.

In some states, NOW chapters have been fighting for revision of state laws prohibiting free dissemination of birth control information.

"The population crisis is not merely a problem of the poor," said Mrs. Hernandez. "Control of population is necessary in the middle and upper classes where more resources are consumed. We're not talking about mandatory sterilization—but of greater realization by people of what their role is as a contributing member of this society."

NOW thinks child care centers should be community facilities, like parks and libraries, to be used at the discretion of the individual, she said.

"The custom of alimony has to be reevaluated and new decisions made," she added. "Many women are economically dependent because this is their role in the traditional marriage and marriage is the culmination of their existence. By divorce, these women are left financially irresponsible and some provisions must be made for them," she said.

Alimony Alternatives

The former president of NOW, Betty Freidan, has proposed several alternatives to alimony such as marriage insurance, and unemployment benefits for a wife and mother who becomes divorced.

Mrs. Hernandez is a black woman who sees obvious parallels between the role of blacks and women throughout history.

"Like blacks, women have

been invisible. We see the image portrayed by Madison avenue but we find it hard to get to the real person. Women are beginning to understand they have to look at history differently just as black people do. To rewrite it, in a sense. To decide what was omitted with regard to their accomplishments.

Blacks Experienced

"Black women are not troubled by some of the same questions that now plague white women. We've been combining marriage with careers for years. Now that there is more economic opportunity for the black man, some say black women should step to the back of the line. But we can bring some experience to the question of women's rights, so we refuse to let ourselves retire to the often-comfortable rear," she said.

NOW members invaded Berghoffs "men's only" bar last December and demanded to be served. "People ask us why NOW became involved in something so frivolous. We don't think it's frivolous. No bar in the country would dare hang a 'whites only' sign. Why should an establishment be allowed to discriminate against women? Men we talked with in the bar said they needed a place away from women to discuss the 'great issues.' It was this policy behind the restriction that angered us.

"Women are challenging the sacred cows of society. We're saying 'we want in,'" Mrs. Hernandez said. "The revolution started in the 19th century. We are picking up the grains of that revolution now, and we will not stop marching this time."

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quit flying at age 32 or when they married.

Women 'Protected'

While working for the EEOC, Mrs. Hernandez found half the complaints in hiring discrimination coming from women. Enforcement of Title VII [regarding equal employment] of the 1964 Civil Rights act has always been one of NOW's most important campaigns.

The group seeks to repeal state labor laws which raise barriers to working women under the guise of protecting them—such as minimum wage laws and those which set limitations on the hours women can work and the weight of objects they can carry.

"In some states women are 'protected' from carrying things that are often lighter in weight than their own children," Mrs. Hernandez said. "In cases where the need for protection legitimately exists, there should be laws providing men protection, too," she added.

Using the Vote

NOW believes women can change things by using the vote they won with a struggle 50 years ago, and the group is especially concerned that women become accepted in responsible positions in government.



(AP Wirephoto)

WOMEN'S SPOKESMAN—Mrs. Aileen Hernandez, newly-elected president of the National Organization for Women: "NOW is not a women's organization. It is a group of men and women working together. Men are disadvantaged by the subjugation of women."

Miss or Mrs? Neither—It's 'Ms'

By DIANE MONK

© Chicago Daily News

CHICAGO — An Ms is just a manuscript, but an Ms. is a somebody.

Specifically, it's a female somebody, one who prefers not to be identified as either a Miss or a Mrs.

Nobody seems to know who coined the prefix Ms. or when—but its increasingly frequent use by women is clearly a result of the women's liberation movement.

Delegates to the National Organization for Women (NOW)

national conference in March, 1970, adopted a resolution stating that Ms. was the way they preferred to be addressed.

The delegates also dealt with the knotty question of how Ms. should be pronounced.

"We decided it would have to be 'Miz', which is more or less the way both Miss and Mrs. come out when spoken with a southern accent," said Joanna Martin, a Chicago spokesman for NOW.

"What we were looking for was a nice, all-purpose title for

women, something equivalent to Mr. for men," Ms. Martin explained.

NOW does not take credit for inventing Ms., but its some 3,000 members across the nation have adopted the new designation as one of their causes.

What NOW wants is for newspapers and other media to add Ms. to their vocabularies and to either eliminate Miss and Mrs. altogether or at least give women the choice of using Ms. as an alternative.

"All men, married or single, are Mr. and feminists don't see any reason for identifying women by marital status," said Ms. Martin.

Whether or not you approve of the feminists' line of reasoning, you've got to admit Ms. has possibilities.

It could eliminate those embarrassing social situations that arise when you have to address Jane Doe and can't remember whether she's married or not.

Just call her "Miz" — and you can hardly miss.

Fems march again for end to male sexism

Compiled locally from N. Y. Times
and Chicago Daily News dispatches

NEW YORK—Feminist Betty Friedan glided through the crowd like a fairy godmother in a billowy print maxi and dangling gold peace symbol earrings, marshalling her troops for a second annual assault on "sexism" in America.

"We have progressed light years since last year," the gray-haired leader of the Women's Liberation Movement said Thursday just before leading a parade of some 6,000 followers 28 blocks up Fifth Avenue to a Central Park rally.

"But we are not going home again. We will march every year until we have equal rights. And that doesn't mean we will march forever."

This year's march was considerably smaller than last year's crowd of 20,000, which had gathered to mark the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage.

But enthusiasm made up for numbers. "Join us—sisterhood is powerful," they chanted to the crowds lined up behind barriers to watch the parade. Few did, but there was a generally sympathetic atmosphere among the bystanders.

Many of the marchers were long-haired, young women in blue jeans, T-shirts, hotpants and garlands of beads. But the parade included delegations of older women from Queens, grim-faced lesbians holding hands and intertwining arms, mothers pushing baby carriages, and a sprinkling of men, most of whom were with women.

A team of green-and-white-attired girls acted as cheerleaders at the head of the parade, leading such chants as "2-4-6-8, free abortions from the state" and "Out of the kitchen and into the world."

Large contingents of police, including a squad of women in police hats, blue shirts and skirts and holsters on their hips, lined the streets, but no arrests were made.

Miss Friedan, who authored "The Feminine Mystique" and shortly afterward assumed the role of chief woman's liberator, said main thrust of this year's activities would be seeking political power.

"In seeking (this power), we do not seek to use it as men have used it," she said at the park rally. "We know the man is not the enemy and we do

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SIGNS UP FOR WOMEN'S LIB—Supporters of women's liberation, among the estimated 5,000 who participated in rally at Central Park in New York Thursday, hold up signs bearing slogans demanding

women's equality. The rally at the Central Park Hall was the culmination of activities during the day, including a march up Fifth Avenue.

(AP Wirephoto)

Liberated women take to streets

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not seek power over men. We are going to build a two-sex movement, a movement of men and women together in human liberation."

Much of the crowd greeted the new philosophy with cheers, but the women who identified themselves as lesbians booed all Miss Friedan's kindly remarks about men.

Earlier in the day, groups from NOW (National Organization for Women) met with Mayor John V. Lindsay after blasting his administration for not containing enough women. Lindsay responded by announcing the promotion of a woman police lieutenant to captain—the first in the city's history.

Other squads of militant women staged small but noisy demonstrations at the American Stock Exchange—where they managed to stop the ticker tape for a full minute—the First National Bank and two restaurants that cater to men.

Despite the women's demand for equality, the New York Police department refused to entirely give up its male chauvinist ways.

"Stand back, make way for the demonstrators," came the repeated call over the police bullhorn.

"Now, we've gone full circle," said one male reporter disgustedly. "It used to be they would just beat them out of the way with night sticks. Now they make way for them."

Women's groups around the country today observed the 51st anniversary of their right to vote by warning that they would use it against any "Congress person" who opposed or tried to weaken the proposed equal rights amendment.

Rallies and celebrations had a

carnival air in some cities and small towns, but they were overshadowed by news conferences and meetings called by the National Women's Political Caucus, a new coalition of women's rights groups.

One announced goal of the caucus—an equal number of women delegates at the 1972 political conventions—got a boost from Sen. Fred R. Harris, D-Okla., who said he would "assist in challenging the seating" of any delegation without equal representation.

On Capitol Hill in Washington, passage of the equal rights amendment was called for by representatives of groups ranging from the National Organization for Women to the National Welfare Rights Organization to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The amendment introduced in every Congress since 1923, is designed to end any traces of legal discrimination based on sex. It is scheduled for four hours of floor debate in the House, probably Sept. 21 or 22.

"We will be keeping tabs on every member of Congress every step of the way—every one of them will be held accountable," said Flora Crater of the women's caucus, discussing voter registration drives and mobilization of women.

Parades and rallies were generally smaller, and some cities reported less of an organized movement than last year, when women's groups held a strike for liberation on the 50th anniversary of their franchise.

The Winston-Salem, N.C., chapter of the National Organization for Women, with just over 30 members, invited 20 men and women to a party

and art auction in the liberated atmosphere of the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Company. It was a fund-raising event to benefit the new Women's Rights Legislative Staff in Washington.

A Chicago rally called by the same organization attracted 500 men and women in Civic Center Plaza. It ended prematurely and abruptly when park employees took back sound equipment just as a speaker was denouncing State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan for his decision to appeal a recent Federal court ruling to permit an abortion on a woman who had been raped.

The Chicago weather was gray and cloudy, with a steady drizzle and a cold wind off Lake Michigan.

"I guess God is male, after all," quipped Joanna Martin, publicity aide for the Chicago chapter, as the N.O.W. rally began to the recorded strains of "Liberation Now."

The major suffrage celebration in Boston was an all-day working session to organize the New England region of the National Women's Political Caucus.

They were visited by representatives Louise Day Hicks, a Democrat, and Margaret M. Heckler, a Republican.

Hot dogs, crepe paper and message-bearing balloons and buttons featured a dozen booths at a women's suffrage celebration in downtown Pittsburgh.

At lunchtime, hundreds of workers, men and women, sauntered past the booths, inspecting literature and viewing exhibits displaying the query: "Women are now 53 per cent of the population. When will we become 50 per cent of the political power structure?"