

WHAT IT IS

AUGUST 1978 VOL. 7 NO. 7

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

Post Office Box 15072, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94115

EDUCATION



**Ms.
District
Attorney**

Judith Ford, a computer expert and former Montgomery Street lawyer, has been named to succeed Raymond Bonner as chief of the San Francisco district attorney's consumer fraud and white collar crime unit. Ford became a computer specialist after receiving her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1957. After more than ten years of working at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and other institutions, Ford enrolled at Boalt Hall and received her doctorate in law in 1974.

Introducing the "E" in Health, Education and Welfare-- Mary Frances Berry, a 39-year-old woman whose first education was in a one-room schoolhouse near Nashville, Tenn., is the assistant secretary for education. Berry went on to earn a Ph.D. in history and a law degree. She has been a teacher and administrator on the university level. Berry called the recent Bakke decision by the Supreme Court "important in that it affirms affirmative action. It is most important that the court affirmed that people in higher education have the right to decide who to admit without being told by the federal government. It is a victory for the discretionary powers of the colleges." However, the education executive will be watching how the colleges use those powers. Berry said the education department does support state and local systems' use of I.Q. tests for diagnostic tests. However, she noted, the feds do not believe there should be a national I.Q. test.



JORDAN

Rep. Barbara Jordan, D-Tex., says she might have been induced to remain in Congress had she been offered a significant House of Representative leadership role. Instead, the nationally-known spokeswoman-- known for her role in the memorable Nixon impeachment hearings and the eloquent keynote address at the 1976 Democratic Convention--shocked supporters earlier this year when she announced her plans to retire in December. She said she did not feel that she could further impact dramatically or moderately on the course of events, personally, as they moved through the Congress. Since her announcement, Jordan has had job offers in business, law and education-- including one to occupy the Nixon chair at Whittier College in California.



BAKKE: WIN, LOSE - OR DRAW?

The suspense is over; Bakke has been decided by the Supreme Court in a complex decision that saw Justice Lewis Powell, Jr. as the "swing" vote in two separate majorities, and provided us with six different opinions to chew on. We will not get much "nourishment" from the Court's majority views because they walk a very thin line. In essence, Justice Powell, speaking for the Court:

1. affirmed the California Supreme Court's 6-1 majority opinion that Allan Bakke should be admitted to medical school.
2. affirmed the California Court's opinion that the University of California's "special admissions" program for the Davis Medical School is "illegal."
3. Rejected the California Court's contention that race may not be considered in devising an admissions program.

The Court gave a little something to each of the opposing viewpoints, and not enough to either. More definitive statements will have to come from other cases which find their way onto the Court's docket. It's a little surprising to find the decision being called both a "victory" and a "disaster" for affirmative action. It appears to be neither---but rather that "narrow" decision that many of us were hoping for when we lost the battle to keep the University from appealing the California Supreme Court's decision. Some people seem to have forgotten that civil rights groups were virtually united in their opposition to the appeal. Perhaps this was because few veterans of the California struggle for equal opportunity viewed the University as an ally in the struggle; for years there was an arrogant disregard by the University of the charge that admissions and hiring policies were at best irrelevant and at worst blatantly discriminatory. It did seem somewhat strange to see a sudden "conversion" reflected in a capricious "quota" for which there appeared to be no rationale. (As Justice Matthew Tobriner indicated in his dissenting opinion on the California Supreme Court, the decision to set aside sixteen admissions for minorities could "hardly be criticized as unreasonably generous" considering the high proportion of racial and ethnic minorities in the state.) But since the University was determined to validate its program, the appeal was made, and the case, imperfect though it was, became the most discussed case in the history of the Court, and Bakke became a household word.

The Court seems to have found it possible to validate the concept of "reverse discrimination" while upholding the theory of race-based affirmative action. That should keep the lawyers busy for a while, and it should certainly keep all of us who are victims of the centuries of racial discrimination and sex discrimination shaking our heads in disbelief. Like Benjamin Hooks and Justice Thurgood Marshall, we find it hard to believe that the Constitution does not permit remedies for that pervasive past. It seems ludicrous in the extreme to suggest that the occasional white male who fails to achieve a desired goal has been the victim of "reverse discrimination." The fact that one of the minority admittees who "displaced" Bakke won the Senior Class Award as the student "most likely to succeed" should suggest that the University's "regular admissions" program could use a little scrutiny.

But all that aside, "affirmative action" has not been dealt a lethal blow by the Bakke decision. If we had a more sensitive Supreme Court, we might have done a little better. But we knew we did not have a sensitive Court---that's Nixon's legacy to us---and so we were expecting the worst. Fortunately, we didn't get what we expected. We can survive Bakke, and maybe we will have the chance to fashion some race/sex-conscious remedies that will give us a "solid five" next time in support of redressing the centuries of past discrimination.

It might also suggest to us that when we have the chance, as voters, to effect the kind of court system we want (as we do in California), we had better go the polls in large numbers to validate the "good ones."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS...



Wesley L. Johnson Jr. is the newly appointed Administrator of General Service Administration's Region #4.



Michelle D. Kourouma has been appointed Executive Director of the National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc. in Atlanta, Ga.



Congrats to Meredith Neizer, Frances Yates and Rochon Greene first Black women to graduate from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy. As licensed third mates, they have the responsibility of navigating large merchant vessels and caring for its cargo and crew.



Shirley Richardson an employee of RJR Archer, Inc. has not let tradition hold her back. She has a non-traditional job as a machinist.



Ollie M. Bradley current director of the procurement division for Region #9 is the first Black and second woman to attain a grade 14 position with GSA.



New PP Chief

In a recent interview, Faye Wattleton, newly appointed President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, spoke out on teenage pregnancy.

"My own background includes many years of frontline work in community health, where I have seen vividly and often the tragedy of teenage pregnancy. So frequently, it seems, we are placed in the position of doing too little too late. By the time teenagers come to us their sexual attitudes and practices are developed. Often, they have already experienced one or more pregnancies. In such circumstances, ours is a bandaid approach which is unfortunately the way most health and social problems are approached in this country. This is not good enough, and we as a Federation must provide leadership in turning around national thinking on the problem."

Plan Will Give EEOC Broader Powers



Eleanor Norton

President Carter plans to make the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, directed by Eleanor Holmes Norton, the federal agency accountable for fighting sex, age and racial discrimination. The plan gives the EEOC powers previously scattered among 15 federal agencies.

Women's Center, 63 Brady Street, has opened a center for women in the second half of life. The center will provide resource and referral services. For more information, call 431-6944.



T A X REBATE!

San Franciscans for Renters Property Tax Rebate has embarked on a campaign to pass a Renters Property Tax Relief bill for the city. The organization's mailing address is 558 Capp St., San Francisco 94110. If you would like to participate in the signature-gathering drive, please telephone Alison Brennan on 285-2220.

AUGUST 26

The woman suffrage amendment, the 19th amendment to the Constitution was proclaimed on August 26, 1920. The House passed it 304 to 90 on May 21, 1919 and the Senate passed it 66 to 30.

The 19th amendment: "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." The right to vote is celebrated by women throughout the U.S. on August 26.

Join the Political Action Committee. This year is a major election year and we will be engaged in endorsements of candidates and propositions, campaigns for our endorsed candidates, and legislative actions for the Black community and particularly Black Women.

Noting that the problems and needs of single parent families are special and require special services, the San Francisco Single Parent Resource Center has been created. The Center is located at 3896 24th St. at Sanchez. The hours are 9 to 1, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Tuesday from 1 to 5. For more information, call 821-7058.

Any woman interested in helping compile a new Bay Area Women's Guide to self-protection and assertiveness classes should contact Colette at 626-1203 or write Directory, 55 Sutter, Suite 403, San Francisco, Ca. 94104.

FOR YOUR INFO.....

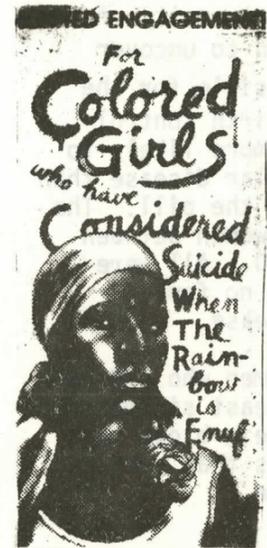
Dilation and extraction (D&E), a safe and less traumatic alternative to amniocentesis for second trimester abortions (more than 12 weeks gestation) has been evaluated at the University of California in San Francisco with positive results. It is currently being performed in San Francisco. For more information or referrals, contact Buena Vista Women's Services at 771-5000.



Approximately 150 new federal judgeships may be created by Congress. Only six of the current 525 lifetime judges in the federal judiciary are women. Two projects have been organized to address the lack of women in the federal judiciary: Judiciary Appointments Project of the National Women's Political Caucus, 1141 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 and Judicial Selection Project, 1010 Vermont Ave. N.W., Suite 210, Washington, D.C. 20005. Both projects are encouraging qualified and experienced women attorneys to apply for the federal bench. If you know of such women, please encourage them to forward their resumes to their U.S. senators and state nominating commissions.



A recent survey conducted for HEW indicates that ob-gyns earn salaries greater than most doctors and certainly greater than the vast majority of women for whom they provide care. Given the cost of annual exams, births, abortions, and gynecological surgery, it comes as no surprise that ob-gyns make a lot of money. It is ironic that women, who have always been paid much less than men, end up supporting one of the most lucrative medical specialties.



BWOA member Jule Johnson will be sponsoring a fundraiser-theater party for her campaign for election to the SF Board of Education on AUGUST 6 with a champagne party at her campaign headquarters following the performance. Call 431-9835 for ticket information.

FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF, the explosive Broadway play which depicts black male-female relationships, begins at the American Conservatory Theatre, Geary & Mason, from August 1-26.

BWOA is planning a party/reception for the cast members of COLORED GIRLS. You will receive further information in the mail when the date and place are set.

\$ DUES \$ RENEWAL TIME!



DUES! DUES! are NOW DUE AND PAYABLE! Please mail your dues renewal payment TODAY. \$15.00 - \$25.00. The absolute deadline is AUGUST 31, 1978. The high cost of postage necessitates that your name be dropped from the mailing list after that date unless you have paid your 1978-1979 dues.



MORE F.Y.I.

Researchers at the University of Washington have begun to uncover the mechanism responsible for the fact that women on birth control pills are 3-5 times more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than women who don't take the pill. The studies involved 96 women between the ages of 20 and 30. All were non-smokers and with no family history of heart disease.

It was found that women who had been on the pill for at least six months had substances in their blood that trigger two processes that contribute to heart disease.



The California Department of Health is recommending that both male and female health care personnel who have close contact with pregnant patients be screened for antibodies to rubella.



Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps has revealed her proposals to encourage women entrepreneurs. She has asked the President to create the Inter-Agency Task Force for Women Entrepreneurs. This task force will report to the President and promote specific legislation to encourage women business owners in every way possible.



The Office of Veterans Affairs at San Francisco State University offers many services which might prove of use to women veterans. The Veterans Upward Bound program is designed to help veterans upgrade basic skills and gain a GED if the veteran lacks a diploma. For more information, come in or phone: Office of Veterans Affairs, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, San Francisco 469-2274.

A Detroit judge says he will decide for the first time whether inner city children who speak what is called "Black English" face a language barrier that public schools must help correct.

Federal Court Judge Charles Joiner refused to dismiss a complaint filed by 15 Ann Arbor children, which alleges that their school fails to deal with learning difficulties that stem from dialects of English that students learn to speak at home.



The San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women has a monthly half-hour radio program on KNBR(68 AM and 99.7 FM) which is heard on the first Sunday of every month at 8:30 p.m. on the AM station and 8 a.m. on the FM station.



With the help of many people, S.F. Women's Center is attempting to buy a building that would house a performance space, women organizations, a library, childcare facilities, coffee house, crisis counseling center, printing press, health center, art gallery, etc. The Center is sponsoring a Mile-a-thon in October as a fundraising event. Participants in the Mile-a-thon will be able to split their earnings, 50 percent to the Women's Building and 50 percent to any nonprofit women's organization of their choice. For more information, call S.F. Women's Center, 431-1180.



BWOA's own Jeanabeth Story has been elected as president of the Advocates for Women Board of Directors.

Et Cetera...



For most of us, live performances of theater, music and dance are rare luxuries, too expensive for more than a special night out. Now you can buy low-cost tickets to performances by over 150 groups in the Bay Area through the PAS ticket voucher program. If you want an application or more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to PAS, 1182 Market St., San Francisco, 94102. They are not taking phone calls.



A picket line of solidarity will be maintained in front of the South African Consulate, 120 Montgomery St., August 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in commemoration of South African Women's Day. The American Friends Service Committee and the Third World Women's Alliance are cosponsoring the event. There will be a celebration August 3 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at St. Augustine's Parrish, 29th and Telegraph in Oakland. It is a free program with refreshments. Childcare will be provided.

The S.F. Women's Center is sponsoring a weekend of intensive videotaping training in improving women's poise in self-expression, helping women to "think on your feet." The weekend will take place from August 19-20 from 9 to 5 at the San Francisco Art Institute. It will be conducted by Janet Stone, author and director, Western Office, Speaking Up. To register, call 431-1180.

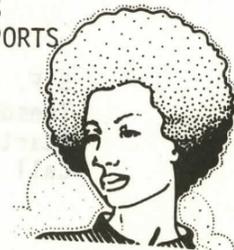


Sisters of Motivation will present an art auction featuring the works of Kamara Mtengenezaji and others August 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Mapenzi, 3208 Adeline, Oakland.



The next meeting of
BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION
will be held on:
Wednesday, August 9
6:30 p.m. INTRODUCTIONS
6:45 p.m. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education
- Employment
- Health
- IWY
- Media
- Membership
- Political Action
- Small Business
- Newsletter
- Credit Union



AGENDA



This month's newsletter has been brought to you by the collective genius of:

- Patsy Fulcher
- Rita Myers
- Edith Turnipseed
- Eleanor Spikes
- Lelia Lytle
- Roberta Palm, editor
- Aileen C. Hernandez



CALENDAR

The East Bay Connection

presents

HIRAM E. SMITH

FOR

PUBLIC DEFENDER

August 6, 1978 3:00-6:00
\$15/person \$25/couple
4433 Sequoya Dr. Oakland

Information/RSVP
673-3113



Advocates for Women

"GETTING AHEAD"

256 Sutter St.
San Francisco
12-1:30 6th Fl.

JOB RIGHTS
Aug. 3, 1978

WOMEN in PUBLISHING
Aug. 10, 1978

OLDER WOMEN & NEW CAREERS
Aug. 17, 1978

BRING YOUR LUNCH!

Registration Required 391-4870



San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

The Floating Museum

MOTION

The Women's Performance Connexion
Now - Aug. 8 431-1414

REVOLVING SITES EXPOSURES
Now - Aug 15 Aug. 9-20

WOMEN'S CAREER OPPORTUNITY CONVENTION

Hyatt Regency
San Francisco
August 26-27
9:00 - 5:00
Tickets \$5

For information, call the Center for
Advancement of Women 697-7533 or
Michele Marie Bourgeois 929-8383.



Canon Kip Community House Honors

EUGENE COLEMAN
DIRECTOR

Sunday, August 27th with a
DINNER-DANCE at the San Francisco
Mint. Call Yori or Leandro on
861-6801.



Mexican American Women's National Assoc.

presents

"SPAIN IN SEPTEMBER WITH A FEMINIST TOUCH"

Aug. 31-Sept. 8 for \$520 per person
double occupancy. Cost includes round
trip fare, hotel, breakfast and tours.

Call Carmen Rodriguez on (202) 343-6275
or Discovery Travel Center (301) 656-1300.



HEALTH and SAFETY in the WORKPLACE

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S.F. City College
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Starts Sept. 12th
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