

Smeal again NOW president

by Jay Brown

Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women from 1977 to 1982, was again elected president of NOW at the organization's annual convention in New Orleans last month. Smeal, who vowed to take feminists "back into the streets," upset Judy Goldsmith, the incumbent.

In her election campaign, Smeal said it was time to put the right wing on the defensive. A veteran voice in the women's movement, Smeal said she would lead the nation's largest feminist organization to greater activism when she takes office on September 1.

"Ellie's leadership is dynamic," says Peggy Norman, an Oregon delegate. "But her election will make little change in Oregon NOW. Oregonians have always been active."

Oregon NOW members are already out in the streets, according to Norman, who is Action Coordinator for Oregon NOW. NOW members are waging a door-to-door campaign against an anticipated 1986 ballot measure to abolish state funding for abortion.

"Women of means have a choice; the ballot measure to abolish state funded abortion will target poor women," Norman said. "NOW is not waiting; we are canvassing now and fundraising to that purpose. We have made a major commitment for a march on Washington in support of reproductive rights in 1986."

Included in the twenty-one resolutions passed at the NOW convention, several are of particular interest to lesbians and gays. Wording in the Lesbian and Gay Parenting and Custody resolution commits NOW "to take a leading role in defending or assisting in the defense of lesbian and gay families, and in joining with lesbian and gay legal organizations in challenging sodomy statutes, and urges its state and local chapters to work for adequate and effective sex education programs that present a positive view of women's sexuality, and of lesbianism and homosexuality, and for the development of programs to support lesbian and gay youth."

A lengthy resolution on AIDS contains writing which calls for NOW to oppose the use of quarantines to control the AIDS epidemic and in the event that a quarantine is imposed shall immediately call a press conference condemning such action and take whatever other actions are necessary, and at all levels encourage federal, state, and

local health departments and health care providers to educate the public as to the medical facts regarding AIDS and its intermission and the effects of discrimination against lesbian and gay people and prostitutes. And the Right Wing resolution urges that NOW media and action programs in the areas of Reproductive Rights (eg. In Support of Women's Lives), Equal Rights Amendment (eg. ERA Extension and Vermont ERA Project), and Lesbian and Gay Rights (eg. New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Rights Project) focus on exposing the right wing's sexism, homophobia and bigotry.

Membership in the various NOW chapters in Oregon numbers more than 3000, with national membership exceeding a quarter of a million.

Reagan tax plan favors nuclear families

by Morgan Pinney, CPA

Gay people will see few benefits from the tax reform measures now being promoted by the Reagan administration — unless they're rich. High income people will benefit most from the Reagan plan because the top tax rate has been slashed to 35% from the current 50%.

In the middle and low income range, married couples with children and a stay-at-home spouse will see their taxes reduced by larger percentages than single people. The reason is that the Reagan plan doubles the personal exemption to \$2,000 for every family member and allows a housewife to omit up to \$2,000 from taxable income for an IRA.

As the chart shows, a single gay man earning \$30,000 will see his taxes raised 3% by the Reagan tax "reform," but a married man, with two kids and a wife at home, will find his taxes reduced a whopping 18%. "Ronald Reagan is paying off his fundamentalist supporters by building more nuclear family bias into the tax code," comments Matthew Reed, CPA, in San Francisco.

Singles are not the only people being left out of the "Second American Revolution." Straight married couples in the medium income range, with two paychecks and no children, will be paying more taxes too. Ronald Reagan seems to be echoing Phyllis Schlafly, telling them that if the wife will just give up her career and have some children, they will be rewarded with a tax break.

Wills brochure published

National Gay Rights Advocates, the San Francisco-based public interest law firm, has published a new brochure on wills. Written in a question-answer format, the brochure addresses the typical concerns of gay men and women. Some of the areas covered are probate, taxes, joint ownership of property and estate planning.

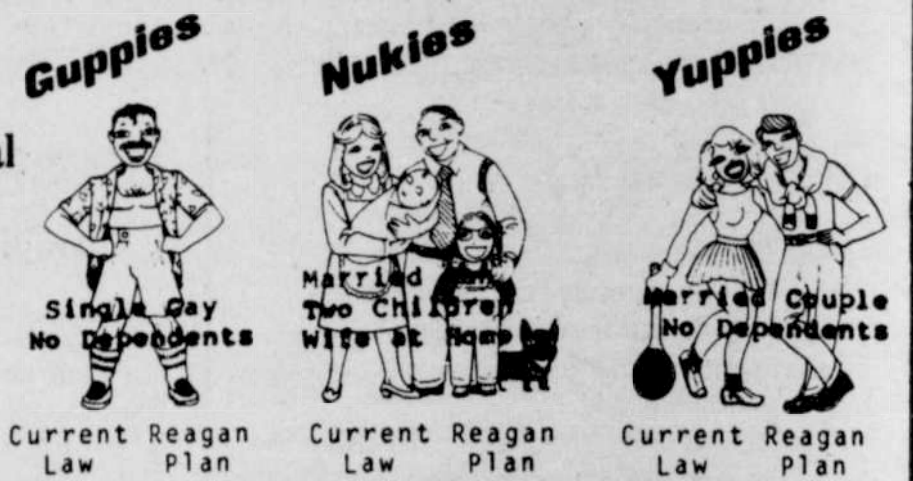
NGRA Executive Director Jean O'Leary said: "Wills give us the power to make important decisions about the disposition of our property. With a will, you can make sure your last wishes are respected so that those most

important to you will be remembered. Without a will, you simply have no choice."

Leonard Graff, NGRA Legal Director, said: "We just finished successfully defending the validity of a gay man's will that his two nieces had challenged. Unfortunately this sort of thing happens all the time. NGRA's brochure has a section that specifically deals with the problem of will contests." Graff noted that the defense of the will was a joint project with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Fund for Human Dignity.

The brochure is free, but please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to NGRA, 540 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

How Reagan Tax Plan Affects Hypothetical 1986 Returns



	Guppies		Nukes		Yuppies	
	Current Law	Reagan Plan	Current Law	Reagan Plan	Current Law	Reagan Plan
INCOME						
First Earners Wages	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Second Earners Wages					20,000	20,000
Empl'r-pd Health Ins		300		300		300
Total Income	30,000	30,300	30,000	30,300	50,000	50,300
ADJUSTMENTS						
Second Earner Ded					2,000	2,000
IRA Contribution	2,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total Adjustments	2,000	2,000	2,000	4,000	6,000	4,000
ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME	28,000	28,300	28,000	26,300	44,000	46,300
ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS						
Charitable Contribs	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Home Mortgage Int	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
State & Local Taxes	2,184	2,184	2,184	0	2,860	0
Total Itemized	7,684	5,500	7,684	5,500	8,360	5,500
Less Zero Bracket	2,480	2,900	3,670	4,000	3,670	4,000
Allowable Itemized	5,204	2,600	4,014	1,500	4,690	1,500
Personal Exemptions	1,080	2,000	4,320	8,000	3,670	4,000
Total Item&Exempt	6,284	4,600	8,334	9,500	8,360	5,500
TAXABLE INCOME	21,716	23,700	19,666	16,800	35,640	40,800
TAX	3,570	3,690	2,353	1,920	6,221	6,700
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN TAX		+3%		-18%		+7%
MARGINAL TAX RATE	26%	25%	18%	15%	28%	25%

Source: Morgan Pinney, CPA

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