

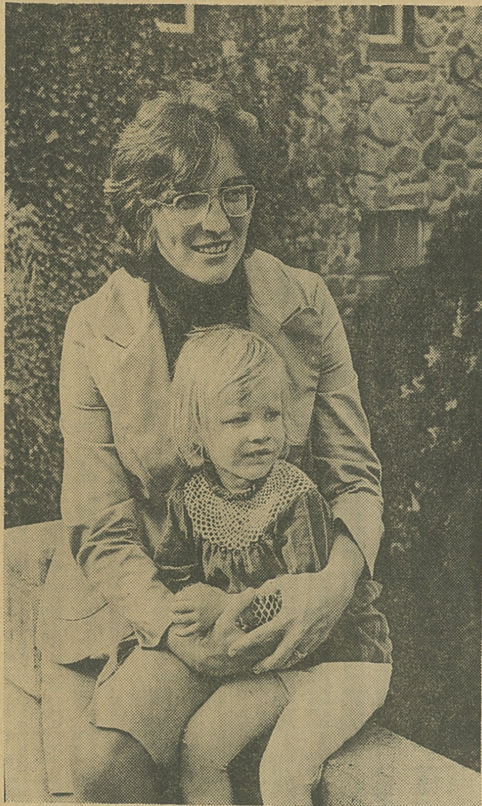
## Two articles about Nancy's time as NOW President

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

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# *A Fair Shake for Women Is NOW President's Goal*

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA



Staff Photo by Howard Walker

NANCY DRUM AND DAUGHTER MEREDITH  
... Mom's a middle-of-the-roader ...

By Lil Thompson  
Staff Reporter

The new president of Winston-Salem's chapter of NOW, the National Organization for Women, isn't mad at men.

She doesn't think that men intentionally put women down, and she doesn't think this is a male chauvinist pig society.

Nor does she think that being a housewife is a lowly calling and something a woman should fret over.

The new president is Nancy Drum, the wife of Renn Drum, a lawyer. And NOW, in case you've been locked up in a closet for the past several years, is the best-known women's liberation group in the country.

But to many men and women, NOW and the feminist movement's nickname, "women's lib," bring mental pictures of wild-eyed women burning their bras and un-feminine females just itching to be drafted.

Nancy Drum would like to change this image.

She would like people here to know that NOW wants to see that women get a fair and equal shake — that they be given the same opportunities as men, that they wind up having "a choice" about what they do with their lives, whether it be settling down to a home and youngsters or striving for

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and getting the presidency of General Motors.

Women do not have this choice, she thinks, since they are not insured equal rights under the law, and that's what women's liberation is all about.

Nancy Drum is a housewife and the mother of two pre-school daughters and is very glad of it. She and her husband and children live on Lasater Road near Tanglewood.

"I'm home out of choice . . . because I want to be, because of the children."

She calls herself a "conservative, moderate middle-of-the roader" in the women's rights movement.

But she says that many housewives' reaction to the movement is "ugh," and she thinks this is partly because the headlines go to the militant feminists who cry, "Down with men," and "I'm just a sex object."

But like any movement which brings social change, she says, the women's rights movement has many groups. People don't distinguish between "the angry militant women and the more conservative groups."

NOW's image problem leads to misunderstanding, and this brings on the jokers and the teasers.

"A lot of people make fun of the movement rather glibly," says Mrs. Drum. "They tease about it without giving responsible thought to it."

But the same person who asks a woman's righter if she's just dying to be plumber will, says Mrs. Drum, "when it gets down to brass tacks, say they would want their daughter to get the same pay as their son."

"A lot of people don't recognize that there's a lot of discrimination against women in jobs. This is not always intentional . . . It's been traditional . . . A well-educated woman frequently cannot get a job."

This discrimination is why the equal rights amendment is so important, she says, and why the NOW chapter here will push hard for its ratification in the next General Assembly. When three-fourths of the states ratify the amendment, which guarantees equal rights under the law regardless of sex, the amendment will become law.

NOW, with its 75 to 80 members, two of whom are men, is working to establish a coalition of groups here to elect candidates who will vote for the amendment in the next General Assembly.

The equal rights amendment, of course, is just as misunderstood and puzzling to many as the women's liberation movement which inspired it.

"People get hung up over whether women will be drafted or not," says Mrs. Drum.

To someone who asked, "You want to get drafted?" Mrs. Drum would reply, "Women need to be drafted

eventually. I don't think women will be required to do anything they couldn't do. There are jobs in the service that could be fulfilled by women . . ."

The basic physical differences between men and women are certainly there, says Mrs. Drum, but, "No 5 foot 2, 90-pound woman is going to apply for a job as a lumberjack if the amendment is passed." A slightly-built man probably wouldn't want to be a lumberjack, either.

A further problem, Mrs. Drum says, is that "we have exaggerated the differences between the sexes."

"A little boy is brought up to feel that he can't cry or show gentleness or tenderness." And this is "a human kind of thing," not a thing to be limited to the female sex.

The same thing holds for an aggressive woman. She should be allowed to be aggressive.

Another mistake, Mrs. Drum says, is referring to people in important positions as "he." She says, "When we talk to a little girl about a senator or a ship captain, we always say, 'he.' It could be a woman."

This is why Nancy Drum is particularly fond of an advertisement for disposable diapers. The ad shows a baby girl along with the caption:

Would you want the future president of the United States to have a wet bottom?"



*Housewife, Mother, Women's Rights Leader*

# Nancy Drum - A Woman Of



A leader in the women's rights movement, Nancy Drum attributes her interest to the fact that she was raised "as a human being."

THE COURIER

FEATURES

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Thursday, October 12, 1972

Story by Nita Hilliard

Photos by David Hauser

Who is Nancy Drum?

She is a housewife making a home out of the old Lasater Mill house on Lasater Road in Clemmons.

She is Mrs. Renn Drum, the wife of a Winston-Salem attorney.

She is the mother of two young girls--Jennifer, 5; and Meredith, 2.

And she is the newly elected president of the Winston-Salem chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) -- a well-known women's liberation society with nearly 100 members in this area.

How did a wife, a housewife, and a mother get involved in Women's Lib?

According to Nancy, it was because she was "raised as a human being."

She came from a family of all girls, in which she says she was not taught any intellectual or professional limitations.

The first time she realized that society posed limitations, Nancy says was when she went job hunting.

She looked in the women's want ad section of the daily newspaper and could not find a job because she could not type. So not to be outdone, she started answering the ads much to the advertisers' surprise.

(Since then the local chapter of NOW has worked with local newspapers to desegregate the want ads.)

Nancy says that the whole woman's liberation problem begins with the housewife.

She does not feel that women generally choose to be housewives. "The fact that most women in the United States are housewives, proves that this is due to cultural conditioning rather than choice," according to Nancy.

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But Nancy says that she is a housewife by choice. She wants to be a wife and a mother and she does not personally feel that day care centers are the answer for mothers.

"Children under three and four need someone," she explains. "For the child's sake and the parents' sake, they need interaction at this time."

She wants Jennifer and Meredith to be able to decide, as she did, if they want to be a professional or a mother. She does not feel that it will be necessary for her daughters to marry and have children.

But she feels the ideal would be for them to be able to do both -- "to work something out with their husbands so that the fathers can share the responsibility of caring for the child."

She says that they could possibly slow down on their careers while the children are young and work alternately so that they could share in the household duties.

Nancy also feels that communal life may be the answer for future women. The members of the commune could live in individual family units, but share the work

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load.

Nancy says that it is very rough on women during the children's pre-school years. "The women are left alone in suburbia with their children all day and then their husbands come home exhausted."

"But for women who work," she continues, "there are not many intellectually stimulating jobs, or jobs that will even pay enough for baby-sitters."

"People should be hired on the basis of their ability, education, and experience," Nancy says. "Married women should be able to give their husbands some relief."

"Society is unfair to both sexes," Nancy adds. "We need a human rights movement."

She does not think that it is right that the husband is forced to maintain a standard of living while the wife is supposed to sit home and watch television. She says that women should be allowed to help relieve the pressure.

Like most women libbers, Nancy feels that society conditions people to their roles.

"It is utterly absurd," she says, "to say that little boys can't play with dolls. It would be great to allow men to nurture such sensitivity."

Nancy believes that culture exaggerates the biological differences.

"Society says that little girls aren't supposed to get muddy, but little boys are."

She is opposed to the mandatory requirement for girls to take home economics and boys to take shop in the local junior highs. Nancy says that this will be a project of NOW to change the requirements of these "exploratory" courses.

Through consciousness-raising groups, the members of NOW have been exploring the role of women.

Nancy says they have led her to ask "because I'm a woman and am at home, should any activities take second place to my husband's because he is earning a living?"

"One day I had a television interview, and I couldn't find a baby-sitter so I asked Renn and he came home and took care of the girls."

She says that he has been very sympathetic to her involvement but does receive a lot of teasing from his friends.

In fact she says that some of his friends are surprised when they meet her. At least one came out and said in a surprised voice, "You look pretty and feminine!"

Nancy feels that a lot of people do not consider her as an individual but as her

husband's wife. To counteract this, she says she makes a point of introducing herself as Nancy Drum rather than Mrs. Renn Drum.

But she adds that she has found that her mail gets to her a lot easier if it is addressed to Mrs. Renn Drum.

Nancy says that in order to combat "the feminine mystique," society needs to be re-educated or undergo a consciousness-raising.

The public needs to be informed of where women are."

This is one of the purposes of her organization, she says.

"We would like to see change through very responsible and legal channels," she

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Nancy feels that "children under the age of three or four need someone." Here she takes time out to be with Jennifer and Meredith.



# Nancy Drum— A Woman Of NOW

(Continued from page 1B)

says.

But she adds, "When social change is needed, it doesn't do any good just to change the laws. Identities must be changed.

"Women must be educated and we must try to reach them," she says.

Women's liberation organizations have been criticized for only reaching the white, middle-class woman, she says, but she believes the poor must receive a "re-education" as well and she plans to work toward broadening the membership of the local organization.

Nancy describes most women libbers as "moderates" and she says that the local chapter of NOW is composed primarily of moderates, but she hastily adds, "not conservatives."

But she explains, "The women's rights movement contains a wide spectrum of

interest and the media tends to lump the Betty Friedmans and the more radical Germaine Greers together.

"The civil rights movement is old enough to separate into different groups, but the women's is not," she says.

Nancy realizes that it will take time "to free women," but in the meantime she is attempting to free her daughters.

When asked by one of her young daughters what "a captain" is, she replied, "he's a man who takes care of ships," But she added quickly, "or a woman."

And during the primary elections, she took Jennifer to the polls with her so that she could see her mother voting for a woman (Shirley Chisholm) for U. S. President.

Who is Nancy Drum?

She is an enthusiastic and concerned woman of the future.



Nancy wants her daughters to be able to decide if they want to be professionals or mothers. But she feels that it would be ideal if they could be both.

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Nancy entertains Meredith with a bicycle ride showing her that a woman's life can be filled with many activities.



A housewife by choice, Nancy spends most of her day working to redecorate her home which suffered from the flood waters of hurricane Agnes this past summer.



The Drums live in the old Lasater Mill house on Lasater Road in Clemmons.