

# NOW's call for boycott is poor sportsmanship

In response to the passage of Senate Bill 23, considered by some to be the nation's most restrictive abortion law, the Utah branch of the so-called National Organization of Women has honored Utah by calling for a comprehensive boycott of the state.

NOW is calling upon tourists to vacation elsewhere, conventions to convene in other states, businesses to locate in other areas, and the IOC to deny Utah the 1998 Olympics.

According to Becky Elliott, the executive director of Utah NOW, SB23 "is no longer a state issue"; the boycott will make it a world issue. NOW is urging the world to "Say no to Utah, the back-alley abortion state."

NOW is part of a cluster of organizations whose ideology is incompatible with Utah's values: within the gambit of NOW's affections can be found sodomites and socialists, for example. Accordingly, the NOW boycott may improve the state's intellectual hygiene. This boycott — like the boycotts levied against Arizona and Miami as punishment for being "politically incorrect" — has less to do with tangible results than it does with the effort to make its participants feel virtuous.

A few observations about the origins of the Boycott may be useful in the effort to understand NOW's motivation.

A Boycott is a form of ostracism or quarantine, although the term has (incorrectly) come to signify an organized effort to deny patronage. "Ostracism" had its origins in Greece around 500-480 B.C. The Athenian custom was to designate a day on which a vote would be taken to expel troublemakers from the community; anybody was eligible for expulsion.

Names were written on shards of broken pottery (such a shard was called an "ostrakon"); if an individual received 6,000 votes he was sent into exile for 10 years.

This perfectly democratic procedure was invented by a Greek politician named Cleisthenes, who had come to power by suborning factional strife against landowners and religious leaders, while extolling the "common man." Once fac-



Will Grigg

AT HOME

tions had served Cleisthenes' purposes he used ostracism to outlaw them — that is, he used the process to criminalize disagreements and thereby cut down potential rivals.

The modern term "boycott" originated in Ireland in the 1880s. An Irish radical named Charles Stewart Parnell used a modified form of ostracism to punish those who opposed "peasant rule"; such an opponent was to be "isolated from his kind as if he were a leper of old." One of the first targets of Parnell's disfavor was a land agent named Captain Boycott.

The boycott occupies that juncture at which democracy becomes coercion. It can be considered a form of blackmail. Nevertheless, the Boycott is broadly compatible with the constitutional principle of freedom of association: the right to associate implies the right to withhold one's association. The NOW's boycott of Utah will probably be the political equivalent of a Scud missile — a loud, messy weapon of little practical importance.

The practice of ostracism, it should be remembered, was devised by a canny politician who was seeking to silence his rivals. It is a good tool for those who seek power and aren't terribly fastidious about legitimacy. The NOW — a tiny group with no mandate from America's women — is displaying an authoritarian streak by calling for a boycott of Utah, but in this it is being perfectly faithful to its pedigree.

Regarding SB23, the pro-abortion movement lost fair and square, and self-government depends upon the ability of the governed to recognize the legitimacy of a political defeat. The NOW's boycott of Utah is more than poor sportsmanship (sportsmanship?); it is a symptom of a dictatorial disposition.

# Fathers move away from fashionable notion of more involvement

Special to the Herald

Despite the fashionable notion that today's "new" fathers are nurturing, involved parents, they actually are moving away from the center of family life, says a Brigham Young University family sciences assistant professor.

Alan J. Hawkins presented findings from his research at the recent International Conference on Gender and the Family at BYU. He also offered suggestions for changing the trend.

The seeds of a shift that took fathers from home are more than a century old.

They began, Hawkins said, when a growing industrialized, urban work force took fathers away from the home front during the largest part of the day. The father's primary role evolved to that of economic provider, leaving the mother to care for home and children.

"The links of fathers have become even more tenuous during the past 40 years, because mothers also have entered the labor market, and husbands share the economic provider role with their

wives," he said.

A popular theory about that labor shift is that fatherhood is changing to include more intimate involvement with children in response to mother's increased participation in the labor force.

"Unfortunately, this scenario is more myth than reality," Hawkins said. "While exceptions exist, most fathers have not moved closer to the center of daily family life."

He listed the following reasons, suggested by studies of the family over the past five years:

1. Fathers' participation in child care and house work has not increased substantially in 20 years.
2. Work in the home done when the parents return from jobs is primarily done by mothers, and the token participation of "helping" husbands remains the rule.
3. Often the father isn't even home at all. Recent national estimates indicate that divorce will affect more than two-thirds of children born in the 1980s and nearly 90 percent of children will remain with mothers.
4. Statistics on non-custodial father

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## Jumping for charity

Mike Connelly jumps during a fund-raiser for the American Heart Association at Rock Canyon Elementary Thursday. Two other students,

# Troop rally set for mall

To show support for troops serving in the Persian Gulf, the Provo/Orem Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Yellow Ribbon Day in the J.C. Penney Court of the University Mall Saturday.

The Yellow Ribbon Ceremony will begin at noon with guest speaker Paul Meyer, who is on temporary leave from the Persian Gulf. Orem Mayor Blaine Willes and a representative of the Provo Municipal Council will then give their support of the war effort.

At the completion of the ceremony, yellow ribbons donated by Orem Plaza Florist will be distributed to all those in attendance.

University Mall and 96 Gold FM are sponsoring a contest to encourage correspondence with the troops. Students in all local schools have been asked to write letters to the soldiers. The school that has the most letters written to the troops will win a \$100 gift certificate for the University Mall and other prizes.

# Outreach program growing

By CHRISTI C. EVANS  
Herald Staff Writer

After a year in operation, Provo City Library's Outreach Program is taking books to about 25 of



# Representatives corporal punishment

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The House on Thursday killed a bill that would have outlawed corporal punishment in Utah schools, with opponents arguing that removing the threat of the rod will spoil the child.

Catholic school. "Well, really ment for? You You feel pain again," he said. He said the the, "sacred