

# Newsday

15 CENTS  
FRIDAY  
OCT. 8, 1976

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER • SUFFOLK EDITION

**NAME CHANGE**—A State Supreme Court Justice has refused to allow a Babylon feminist to change her name from Ellen Cooperman to Ellen Cooperperson. Page 7.

## Her Name's the Same

Riverhead — A State Supreme justice has refused to allow a Babylon feminist to change her name from Cooperman to Ellen Cooperperson.

Justice John Scileppi concluded that the change "would have serious and undesirable repercussions, perhaps throughout the entire country."

The person legally named Ellen Cooperman of Babylon Village has been known to her friends and associates as Ellen Cooperperson for the past three years. She is president of Feminist Productions, a company in Babylon that makes feminist films and is a member of the Huntington Chapter of the National Organization for Women. Her business cards and business checking account identify her as Ellen Cooperperson.

"My credit cards say Cooperman and

my personal checking account says Coperman," she said. "These are some of the things I'd like to change." But the basis for the application to change her name was "so my name could reflect my own beliefs on human equality," she said.

In the decision handed down yesterday, Scileppi took exception. Of feminism, he said, "I have an abiding respect for the core principles of the movement itself. I recognize that it is a serious movement sponsored in the main by serious-minded people. In fact, my prime reason for denying the instant application is that the use of the proposed name would demean the women's liberation movement and expose it to unjustified ridicule."

In proclaiming a fear of national repercussions, Scileppi said that people with surnames like Jackson might

want to change their names to Jack-child. "The given name Carmen would be converted to 'Carpersons,'" the decision states. In addition, Scileppi said, "'clergyman' might be changed to 'clergyperson.'"

"I think the judge's decision is ludicrous," Ms. Cooperman said. "He states the court has a generally liberated attitude and inflicts his own bias on this case." Her attorney, Susan LeBow, said the case will be appealed.

Catherine Ferrera-Hasel, who is president of Huntington NOW and whose name contains both her father's name and her mother's maiden name, said, "The core is a person's ability to make decisions and choices based on their own needs and sense of self. I think the decision flies in the face of the very cause of what the judge says he has concern for. —Dallas Gatewood



Ellen Cooperman

**The Smithtown News**

P. O. BOX 805  
SMITHTOWN, N. Y. 11787

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

TOWN OF SMITHTOWN  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK      —: SS.  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that an Order entered by the Supreme Court, Suffolk County, on the 13th day of December, 1977, bearing Index Number 77-22630, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the County Clerk located at the County Center, Riverhead, New York, at the Document Room gives me the right, effective on the 23rd day of January, 1978, to assume the name of Ellen Donna Cooperperson. My present address is 31 Greenway South, Babylon, New York; the date of my birth is March 28, 1946; the place of my birth is Brooklyn, New York; my present name is Ellen Donna Cooperman.

9157-12-4 2 aff

... Mary LaVecchia ..... being duly sworn deposes and says that he is the principal clerk of the Publisher of THE SMITHTOWN NEWS, a newspaper published by the SMITHTOWN NEWS, Inc., every Thursday at SMITHTOWN in the Town of Smithtown, County of Suffolk, N. Y., and that the Legal Notice of which the attached is a copy was published in said SMITHTOWN NEWS on ... Dec. 22, 1977 .....

*Mary LaVecchia*

Sworn to before me this 22.. day  
of ..... Dec ..... 197..7

*Margaret L. Luionackre*  
Notary Public, Suffolk County, N. Y.

MARGARET L. LUIONACKRE  
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York  
No. 52-7628100 Suffolk County  
Commission Expires March 30, 1978