

N.O.W. NEWS

Bay Area Chapter

National Organization for Women

Volume V, Number 3 - March, 1977



THE LAST FEW BUTTONS ARE ALWAYS THE HARDEST

Program/Business Meeting: 8 p.m.
Uniting Church - El Camino & Reseda

Thursday, March 3, 1977
Clear Lake City, Texas

"WOMEN ON THE MARCH"

Marking the start of the 2nd annual NOW National Essay Contest on the subject "Lost History of American Women," the program offers this film record of the tempestuous struggle for women's suffrage, and a view of the status of women in 1968, the year the film was made - a double period piece. Marjorie Randal is presiding officer for the meeting.

 NOW CALENDAR

MARCH 1977

- 2 (Wed) .. Germaine Greer - Speech at UH/CLC Women's Week - KPFT-FM (90.1) 8-10 pm.
 3 (Thu) .. Bay Area NOW Monthly Meeting - Uniting Church, CLC - 8 pm.
 5 (Sat) .. Rally & March: "Women United in Pursuit of Equal Rights" - Houston City Hall, 12 noon. If Emmeline Pankhurst could march, you can too!
 13-15 .. Texas Child Care '77 - Family Institute - Austin. Information: 772-3752.
 14 (Mon) .. HoustonArea Feminist Federal Credit Union - Annual Meeting - 3rd floor Auditorium, Capital Nat'l. Bank, 1300 Main at Polk, 7 pm.
 19 (Sat) .. Texas NOW Council - Budweiser Beer Distributorship, 2404 Canton, Dallas. Frances Hicks, Jeanne Saletan, Marjorie Randal, Twiss Butler plan to attend. Come too.
 24 (Thu) .. Women's Rights Coordinating Council. Call Sonia Carmean (488-9270) for time and place.

APRIL

- 22-24 .. NOW National Conference - Detroit, Michigan.

Women's Referral Service

A Woman's Information, Referral, and Exchange Service (WIRES) has been established in Houston as a project of Women in Action, which is a coalition of 56 organizations and over 100 individual members. WIRES is an information center and referral service developed especially to serve the growing and changing needs of all women in the greater Houston area, regardless of age, race, religion, sexual preference, or economic status. WIRES serves as a clearinghouse of information of special interest to women and maintains files of non-sexist services available to women in the following areas: health care, counseling, legal services, credit, employment, child care, education, welfare agencies, housing, and women's organizations. Many services are available on a sliding-fee scale. If you need information or a referral in any of these areas, call WIRES at 527-0718. For further information, call Sonia Kay Carmena or Julie Noble Walker at the Women's Center, UH/CLC, Suite 1-313, 488-9270. --Julie Noble Walker

Shoulder to Shoulder (From City Hall to Sam Houston Park)

On Saturday, March 5, the Women's Rights Coordinating Council will sponsor a march and rally commemorating International Women's Day. We will assemble at Houston City Hall at 12 noon and march from there to Sam Houston Park.

The theme of the rally, "Women United in Pursuit of Equal Rights," will address such issues as the ERA and Abortion - the right to choose. Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, women's advocate for the city of Houston, and Zora Jones of the National Council of Negro Women will speak. The Stand Up Sisters will also perform at the rally, which will begin at 2 pm. Each group is encouraged to make their own banners, posters, and chants for this event, which is being endorsed by many WRCC affiliates, including Bay Area NOW. Even now, Frances Hicks is unfurling the bright red Bay Area NOW banner, featured in TV and newspaper coverage of last year's IWD event. Let's all get behind it and march!

Association of W's Faces Charges

Charges that the Association of the W's (Women Who Want to be Women) violated the Texas election code were filed recently by State Representative Chris Miller (D-Fort Worth).

The statement submitted to Secretary of State Mark White by Representative Miller noted that the Association of the W's, chartered by the state as a nonprofit corporation, paid for a political advertisement which was published in the Fort Worth *Sunday Observer* prior to the November 1976 election.

Under the Texas election code "it is unlawful for any corporation . . . to make a contribution or expenditure" in any election, and such a violation constitutes a third class felony, punishable by a two-to-ten year prison sentence.

Secretary of State White has forwarded Representative Miller's charges to the office of the state Attorney General for appropriate action.

Myths of Rape

(Speech delivered by Nora Mertz, Rape Victim Advocate, Bay Area Task Force on Rape, at Rape Colloquium II, part of the UH/CLC Women's Week program, February 3, 1977.)

Even before this program, we all knew quite a bit about rape. Haven't we known for years that a woman can't be raped if she doesn't want it? Even in the comic strip on the back of your program, the saloon girl flattens the amorous cowboy.

Here's how much one woman wanted it. "I awoke one night gagged with my hands pinned down by someone who was wearing leather gloves and holding a razor to my throat...and then I did get my wrist cut slightly so I realized...that I was risking my life and that I'd better hold still..."(1)

Another woman said, "Did you ever see a rabbit in the glare of your headlights when you were going down a road at night? Transfixed - like it knew it was going to get it - that's what happened." (2)

In one study, 85% of rapists needed some form of physical force or display of weapon to achieve their goal. (3)

Another prevalent myth is that rape is a crime of sexual gratification. A letter to the Houston Post last month advanced that view. "What about the element of allurements?" the writer asked. "Perhaps by lifting legal (and moral) sanctions against prostitution, some sex-hungry mortals will be allowed an outlet for their cravings. Frankly, I believe the number one sex problem in America today is prudery." (4)

One 67 year old victim had a different view of her rapist's cravings. "I looked through the peephole," she said, "and there was a young man with a package. Of course I opened the door right away. He had a wrench in one hand. He shoved me against the wall and started hitting my head." (5)

"If a woman goes out looking sexy the average offender turns away," according to Dr. Joseph Peters, director of the Center for Rape Concerns at Philadelphia General Hospital. "They are not looking for an erotic experience, they are out to attack women in general." (6)

We've come a long way since we believed that rape was not possible since "a woman runs faster with her dress up than a man does with his pants down." There is a long way to go.

Many people believe that only young, attractive females become rape victims. It isn't so. Women between 14 and 30 years old are a high-risk group, but rapists are not very selective. In one study, victim ages ranged from 15 months to 82 years. (7) Sexual abuse of children by a member of the family is not uncommon, and the rape of male prisoners by fellow inmates is by now well documented.

We don't have time to cover all the commonly held ideas about rape, but here are a few facts that may be surprising. About 40% of rapes are gang rapes (8); not, in anybody's mind, a tender sexual experience. At least 50% of rapes are planned in advance.(9) This is not the sudden snap of a timid man's inhibitions or shyness. Most rapes take place in the victim's home - these women weren't "out asking for it." In most rapes, the victim is of the same race and social class as the offender. (10) Black men are not lusting after white women.

But what about the rapist? Is he himself a victim - victim of a woman who changed her mind? Is he a salivating, snorting psychopath driven by demons he cannot control? The psychological profiles of convicted rapists are closer to the accepted norm for healthy males than the profiles of others convicted of other violent crime. The typical American rapist is just an aggressive, hostile youth who vandalizes women instead of cars. But while vandalism is never condoned, rape is sometimes spoken of as "showing a girl a

Myths of Rape (cont.)

good time" or "just some of the boys having a little fun with her." Over a third of all rapes are gang rapes - two or more attackers (11). That means most rapists are not alone. The victim is alone.

What about the rapist as raving maniac? Only about 2% of murders are rape-murders. Rapists don't often mean to kill. Even those who do are usually rational. Listen to the words of one of our more famous rapists, who murdered Kitty Genovese (12). He said, "I just set out to find any girl that was unattended and I was going to kill her...I could run much faster than she could, I jumped on her back and stabbed her several times." That was his fourth carefully planned rape-murder.

Other rapists use a clever con scheme. The Boston Strangler was practically made into a folk hero. He would fast-talk women into letting him into their apartments. Saved a lot of trouble and unnecessary noise that way.

Rape and rapists have been romanticized, shrouded in mystery, and glorified in song and fable. This is unconscionable. Susan Brownmiller has studied and researched rape for nearly ten years. She came to these conclusions: "It is an ugly, dull act committed by punks, not the charming and witty rakes or the sexually deprived and yet, on the shoulders of these unthinking, unpredictable, insensitive, violence-prone young men, there rests an age-old burden that amounts to an historic mission: the perpetuation of male dominance over women by force. Because some men rape, all women must fear." (13).

And I tell you: until women cease to be a commodity, some men will rape.

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1. Susan Brownmiller, Against Our Will, Simon & Schuster, 1975, p. 381.
 2. Ibid, p. 358.
 3. From study by Menachim Amir of 1,292 offenders in Philadelphia between 1958-1960.
 4. Houston Post, January 17, 1977.
 5. Brownmiller, op. cit., p. 347.
 6. Newsweek, November 10, 1975, p. 79.
 7. Dr. Charles Hayman's 5-year study at Washington, D. C. General Hospital, 1965-71.
 8. Brownmiller, op.cit., p. 182. Cf. (2)
 9. Ibid., p. 183.
 10. Ibid., p. 348.
 11. Ibid., p. 187.
 12. Winston Mosely, age 29, killed Genovese 3/13/64 in Queens, N.Y. 38 People heard or saw her ordeal without calling police.
 13. Brownmiller, op. cit., p. 209.
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Angleton chief slams timid crime witnesses

Houston Post 2/23/77

ANGLETON — If any of the five witnesses to the abduction of a 17-year-old girl had reported it immediately, it might have saved her from being raped and beaten, Police Chief Derwood Kennedy said Tuesday.

Richard Duran Friendenbach, 22, accused in the girl's abduction, is being held in the Brazoria County jail under bonds totaling \$200,000 after being returned here from California.

The girl was abducted from Quail Manor Apartments about 11:20 a.m. Jan. 29, and at least five persons saw her being forced into a car, Kennedy said. She was found severely beaten about two hours later in a field just off County Road 208.

One man passed by several times in his car but did not report it to police because he thought it was a family affair, Kennedy said. Finally, he said, a woman

called police and another woman wrote down the license number of the suspect's car.

Kennedy said a patrol car was two blocks from the abduction, which lasted about five minutes.

He said four witnesses gave statements to police but one refused because he did not want to get involved.

Police traced Friendenbach to his job about an hour after he had fled. He was arrested last week on suspicion of robbery in San Diego, Calif. The charge was dropped when Friendenbach waived extradition.

He was charged with kidnaping and aggravated rape before Justice of the Peace A. L. Lee Saturday. Lee set bond at \$100,000 on each charge.

Friendenbach was indicted Dec. 15 for rape of a child and was free on \$10,000 bond when the abduction occurred.

Legislative Update by Shirley McFaul et al.

"DON'T AGONIZE--ORGANIZE!"--how's that for a slogan? Better yet, as a plan for action? A large number of important issues need our visible support. In an effort to move past agonizing on to organizing, we'll have a letter writing campaign as part of our next meeting. Bring your stationery - we'll have stamps to buy. A prize for most letters written! And perhaps for the most ingenious! It's a discipline we must learn to do! With that in mind, here are some issues:

ABORTION: Anti-abortion "Right to Life" forces are urging the calling of a constitutional convention to consider an amendment banning abortion - four states have passed bills asking Congress to convene one. Also, the appointment and confirmation of Joseph A. Califano Jr. as Secretary of HEW threatens availability of abortion to the poor women of this country who depend on HEW funds for all their medical care. There will again be efforts to place anti-abortion riders on appropriations bills. On the state level, Senate Bill 416 (Walter Mengden) would allow public and private hospitals and medical personnel to refuse to perform abortions; SB 585 (Jack Ogg) defines viability as 22 weeks, allows for earlier redefinition, revises Penal Code to say a person performing abortion after 22 weeks commits an offense, and places other restrictions on circumstances of abortion. Both bills were referred to the Human Resources Committee: Brooks (Chair), Braecklein (Vice-chair), Andujar, Clower, Doggett, Harris, Jones of Harris Co., Lombardino, Meier, Patman, Truan.

To fight for continuation of the present legalized abortion status is to protect the following: reproductive freedom, personal liberty of women, loved and wanted children, the rights of the poor - always the last to receive services. It is essential that we let public officials know that we support freedom of choice. Write or call:

- 1) President Jimmy Carter and Joseph A. Califano Jr. concerning Mr. Califano's statements of personal aversion to abortion and his personal belief that no federal funds should be used for abortion.
- 2) Senators Tower and Bentsen and your member of Congress asking for support of the freedom to choose for every woman regardless of her ability to pay. Also, please remember to thank them for all their pro-choice votes in the past.
- 3) Gov. Dolph Brisco, your state senator and state representative, asking them to reject any attempts to call for a constitutional convention for any reason.
- 4) The Chairman and any members of the Human Resources Committee, pointing out the fact that neither bill is necessary legislation.

 President Jimmy Carter, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500. 202-465-1414.
 Joseph A. Califano, Secretary of HEW, Washington, D. C. 20510
 Senator __, U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510
 Representative __, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515
 Senator __, P.O.Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx. 78711
 Representative __, House of Representatives, Austin, Tx. 78711
 Governor Dolph Briscoe, State Capitol, Austin, Tx. 78711

ERA: Indiana said YES, Nevada said NO,
So now we have just three to go!

Our job is to make sure that the recission effort in Texas gets nowhere. Walter "Mad Dog" Mengden and a few compatriots are leading the offensive. Same old "potty" arguments, appeals to insecurity, fear of the unknown and doubtless ghastly consequences of ERA, etc. We must let our legislators, friends, newspapers know we will have none of it! The anti-ERA folks are hard at work. We cannot afford to be caught napping.

DISPLACED HOMEAKERS' BILLS: Called HB 444 and SB 515 in Texas legislature (see p. 8) National legislation is also in the works, an opportunity to promote the same concept on both fronts. The Texas bill says: "Homemakers are an unrecognized part of the work force who make an invaluable contribution to societal welfare. It is the intention of the Legislature in enacting this legislation to provide the counseling, training, and

Legislative Update (cont.)

service programs for displaced homemakers necessary to promote the health and welfare of this growing group of citizens and to enable them to enjoy independence and economic security." Two centers, one urban, one rural, would operate for two years as a pilot project, providing counseling, training and placement for homemakers who have "lost their jobs." Support appears good - even Jack Ogg likes it. The Burke-Bayh (federal) bill would appropriate money for 50 centers on a first come - first served basis, 90% federal, 10% local financing. Write bill sponsors to thank them, ask Texas House Health and Welfare committee members and members of Senate Human Resources Committee to hasten bills out of committee.

Commission on the Status of Women: HB 875 by Sarah Weddington, and John Wilson of LaGrange (thank him for being consistently and fairly in support of issues important to women). The bill will go to the Judiciary Committee where Reps. Danny Hill, Jim Rudd, and Bob Maloney will need to be reassured that the Commission will not be a lobby group for the ERA. Rep. Mike Ezzell opposes the bill and needs to be told politely how beneficial the Commission would be for Texas women. SB 437 by Andujarhas been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Let her know that you appreciate her efforts in support of this issue.

JOBS BILL: NOW continues to support full employment, recognizing that women and minorities have been hardest hit by heavy unemployment. The NOW Labor Task Force asks that we write senators, representatives, and President Carter urging:

- 1) that they support a greatly expanded federally-supported jobs program
- 2) that this program give special emphasis to the dire needs of women and minorities
- 3) that any public works and public service jobs programs include the construction and staffing of child care centers
- 4) that they support the drive for full employment

Note: tell them we are more interested in direct job creation than in tax rebates.

APPOINTEES: Jimmy Carter should be constantly reminded of his promise to appoint more women and minorities at all levels of government. Supportive letters to Rosalynn Carter might help.

STATUS OF TEXAS BILLS: Call toll-free to learn the status of any bill - 1-800-252-9693 The Texas Women's Political Caucus (711 San Antonio, Austin, Tx. 78701) publishes an excellent newsletter which offers an issue-by-issue update on legislative activity that is clear and concise. The only information it fails to provide is how much it costs to be a TWPC member or subscriber.

REMEMBER: Next meeting, we'll all write together. If you miss, write at home and call it "housework"!

NOW Regional Conference

State Coordinator Barbara Duke says: with passage of the new National By-Laws, we are now part of the South Central Region with New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado. By mid-March we must have chosen a site for a Regional Conference to be held within 60 days after the National Conference. Further information when plans are complete.

NOW National Conference - Detroit Michigan - April 22-24, 1977

ERA Rally, April 22, 11 am. Cadillac Hotel. Martha Griffiths, Barbara Mikulski, K. DeCrow.

Workshops: ERA Strategy, Battered Women, Women in Poverty, Women & the Media, Displaced Homemakers, Lesbian Rights

Entertainment: Ivy Bottini. Lori Jacobs, Deadly Nightshade, Theater Company of AnnArbor, MORE

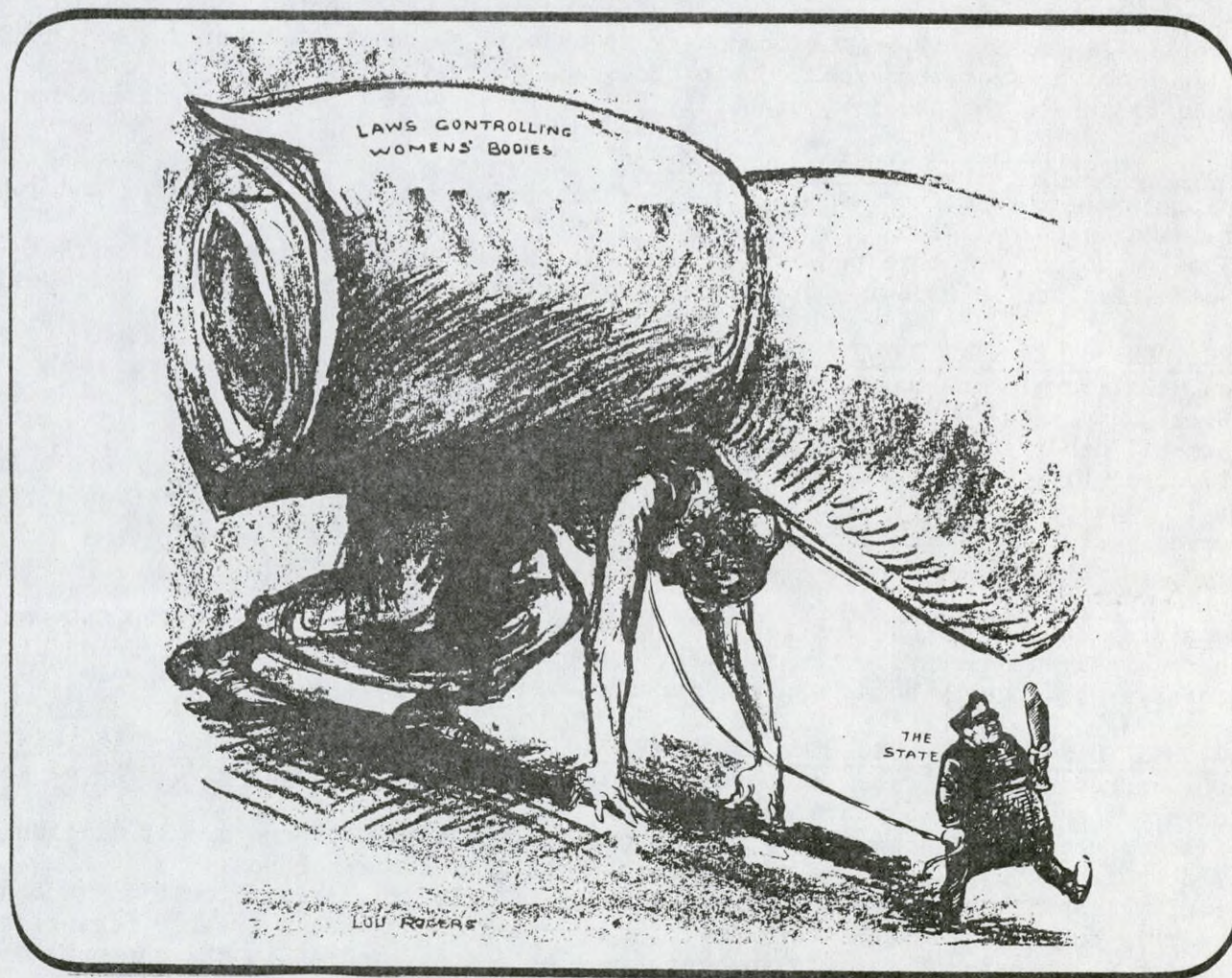
Transportation: Call (512-826-5095) or write (9110 Broadway #M201, San Antonio 78217) Gail Baier before 3/21/77 re special air travel rates.

HAFFCU Annual Meeting Scheduled

The 2nd annual meeting of Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union shareholders will be held Monday, March 14 at 7 pm in the auditorium of the Capital National Bank, 1300 Main at Polk. Members of the Board of Directors and Credit Committee will be elected and a general status report on HAFFCU activities will be presented. To nominate yourself or another HAFFCU member for the Board of Directors or the Credit Committee, call Laura Oren, 527-9108. Nominations of verified HAFFCU members will also be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Although the HAFFCU Office Manager position will not be open for several months, applications are being accepted. For more information on this salaried position, call the incumbent, Rema Lou Brown, 527-9108.

Two important factors in the continued success of HAFFCU are available only from its members - regular deposits and their volunteer time. SMALL DEPOSITS MADE REGULARLY REALLY ADD UP. Coordinators of volunteers are Rema Lou Brown and Mazel Lee (674-2521 and 226-4817 - office). Call them for more information.

WHOSE Right To Life?? (Déjà Vu Division).

"Her Legal Status." Birth Control Review, May 1919

Late bulletin, Women's Rights Coord. Council meeting, 2/24: Speakers at the March 5 International Woman's Day Rally will include Nanette Bruckner, Pat Allen, Linda Cryer, Gretchen Mieszkowski, Carolyn Waddell, and Jean Quataert who will review the history of the I.W.D. event - a fascinating story. Other WRCC business to be reported at Bay Area NOW meeting, March 3. --Evie Whitsett, Alt. Delegate

WHO ARE DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS?

- persons who are over 39, and
- who have worked without pay as a homemaker for one's family, and
- has had or will have difficulty finding employment, and
- has depended on the income of a family member or government assistance

WHAT IS A DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS' CENTER?

It is a multipurpose service, providing:

- counseling to aid participants to gain confidence to attempt to enter the job market.
 - counseling to make voluntary job experience saleable in the open market
 - job training to ready the participant for employment equal to both skills and needs.
- It is a place where a variety of services will be available, including:

- psychological counseling and problems of re-entering the business world
- money management
- health care, especially problems of aging and menopause
- marital dissolution and problems of widowhood
- health insurance, social security, and income maintenance programs

It is a co-ordinator of community resources, and a model self-help program

- employing displaced homemakers themselves as staff persons
- developing new jobs in community service and self-employment
- working aggressively in the community to encourage industry, labor unions, and local chambers of commerce to help provide both training and jobs for older women
- and to stress the ability, stability and usefulness of this segment of the population

AREN'T THERE SERVICES ALREADY AVAILABLE?

Yes, but none that effectively combine both confidence training/counseling and job training in one place.

- Some resources are unresponsive to the older woman returning to the job market
- Some women are so used to the dependency role they fear the concept of self-sufficiency

ARE THERE OTHER STATES WITH SIMILAR PROGRAMS?

Yes. California and Maryland have operating displaced homemakers' centers.

- Florida passed legislation, but did not appropriate funds for operation.
- Some 17 other states are currently considering similar legislation.
- **Federal bills by Representative Yvonne Burke of California and Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana propose the establishment of 50 centers nationwide on a first come, first-served basis, to be funded with 90% federal and 10% state/local matches.

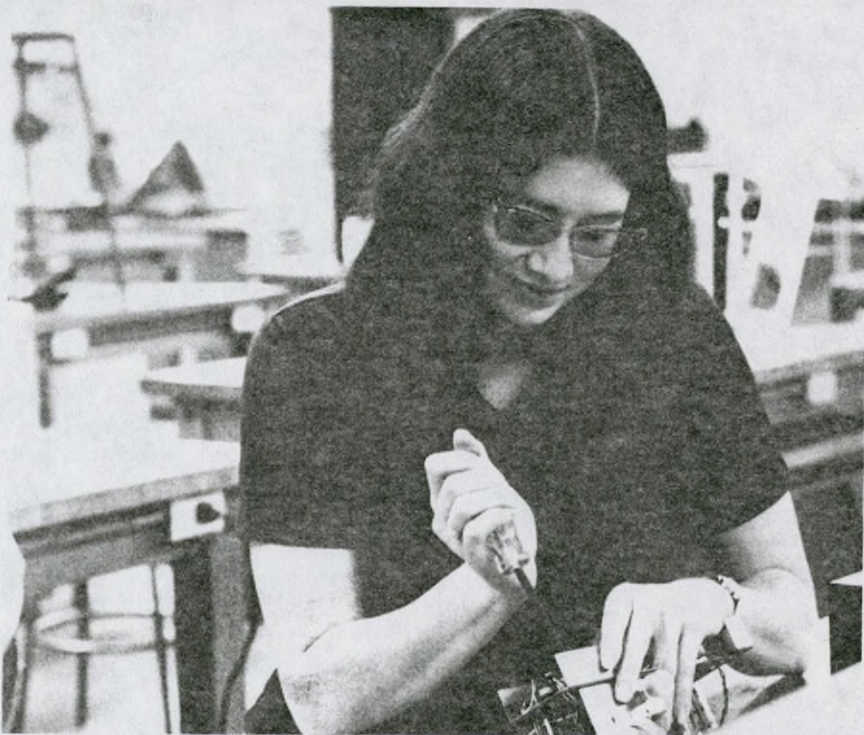
HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Depending on the outlook for the federal funding (see above), about \$300,000 would be required to underwrite the two-year, two center pilot project. Supplemental monies are currently being applied for from private foundations in Texas.

WHY HAS THIS BECOME A PROBLEM, AND WHAT WOULD THESE PEOPLE DO WITHOUT THESE CENTERS?

- Our current divorce rate is one-half of our marriage rate each year. 25% of all divorces are after 15 years of marriage.
- Life expectancy of women is 74, while that of men is 56. There are 12 million widows in the U.S. who live 18.5 years longer than their husbands.
- Family transience has meant less cohesion, and made it more difficult for women to rely on their families for care. Such dependence causes a greater financial burden which many of today's younger families cannot handle in the current economy.
- It is not known what these persons would do without help.

* Senators Bill Patman (Ganado), Chet Brooks (Pasadena), Ron Clower (Garland), Lloyd Doggett (Austin), Gene Jones (Houston), Jack Ogg (Houston), Carl Parker (Port Arthur), H. Tati Santiesteban (El Paso).



Job opportunities in industry are greater than ever before. Whether you are single, married, divorced, widowed, with children, or without children, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

What does matter is that today, 47 percent of all women over age 16 are working. That means 35 million women are working an average of 25 years.

The statistics are overwhelming YOU WILL BE A PART OF THE WORK FORCE. With the ever increasing cost of living, you will enter the work force because you need to support yourself and/or help support your family. In other words, you will work for the same reason men work: ECONOMIC NEED.

Even though economics is the reason the vast majority of women are working, most women limit their career training exploration to the traditional, low-paying, dead-end jobs usually held by women. Because of tradition and a lack of information, women do not explore the many jobs and job training opportunities available to them in the skilled/craft areas precisely those areas that lead to careers with much greater salary potential than the traditional female jobs. Starting salaries in these skilled/craft jobs range from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per hour, raises are frequent and regular, and fringe benefits are very good.

MINI-COURSE

A two-part mini-course to introduce women to careers that have traditionally been "off limits" to them. Most women are not adequately informed of the numerous career options they have in today's labor market. They continue to perceive their choices as being limited to the traditional careers that women have always followed: teaching, nursing, and secretarial careers.

Part I: Introduction

This two-hour seminar will provide those in attendance with first-hand information from women already trained and employed in a skilled/craft job, from area employers who are anxious to hire the qualified female worker and from a member of the Houston Community College System counseling staff who will answer specific questions concerning the programs offered by HCC. Part I of the mini-course will be offered at the following times and locations:

February 22 - Cypress-Fairbanks Campus, 5514 Clara, Noon

February 23 - Jones High School, 7414 St. Lo, 7 p.m.

→ March 3 and April 26 - Austin High School, 1700 Dumble, 7 p.m.

Other seminars will be scheduled. Watch the newspapers for exact dates and locations.

Part II

The second phase of the mini-course will offer the female student an opportunity to actually experience welding, machine shop, auto mechanics, auto body repair, and radio and television repair. For one week, Monday through Thursday, each student will be taught some of the basics in these particular areas and will have the opportunity to see what is involved in a particular training program. In this manner, the participating woman will be much better informed and able to make a career decision based on fact, not fiction, concerning the many training opportunities now available to her. Students will be able to discuss these HCC training programs with a member of the counseling staff and will be given any additional information they might need in arriving at an appropriate career training program for their particular needs. Cost of Part II is \$10 and all seminars are held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

→ March 21-24 (deadline March 14)
March 28-31 (deadline March 21)

April 4-8 (deadline March 28)
April 11-15 (deadline April 4)

Please number each shop course in order of preference. Enrollment will be on a first come, first serve basis with each class limited to 15 persons. To assure your place in a class, send in your completed application and check for \$10 made payable to Houston Community College System, as soon as possible.

Auto Body Repair (1400 McKinney)
Auto Mechanics (1400 McKinney)
Machine Shop (1500 Louisiana)

Radio & Television (1500 Louisiana)
Welding (1500 Louisiana)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 524-3179

(Clip and Return to Houston Community College, 22 Waugh Dr., Houston, 77007)

NAME _____

SOC. SEC. NO. _____ PHONE NO. _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PREFERRED DATE FOR PART II _____

Remember, HCC's primary interest is in YOU. Our staff will work with you to design a career plan that will be appropriate for your specific needs.

