

Houston  
**Breakthrough**  
Where Women Are News

Vol. II, No. 9

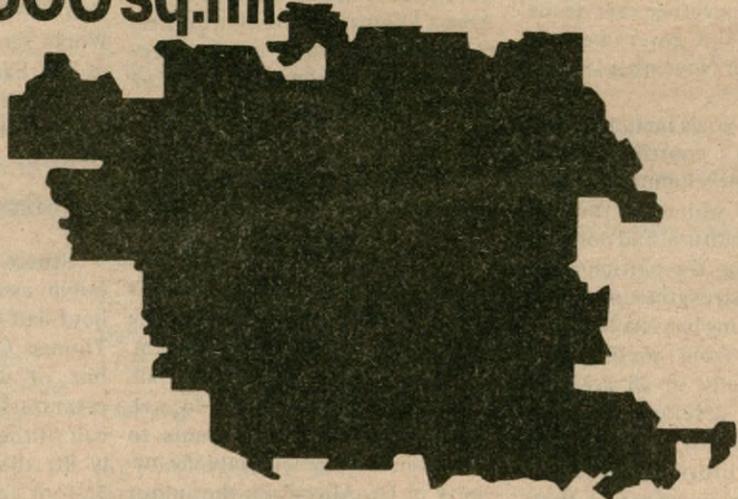
October, 1977

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**SPECIAL  
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ISSUE**



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PAT BOHAN

# Women & Minorities At Large

By Chandler Davis

Discriminatory elections in the nation's largest city council district

When the votes for city council are tallied next month, seven of the eight winners will probably be WASMs — White Anglo-Saxon Males — if the past is any guide.

From 1955, when the present method for electing council went into effect, through 1975, eight elective positions have been filled every two years, for a total of 88. In 85 of the cases, they were filled by WASMs. In the three other races they were filled by incumbent Judson Robinson, Jr., a wealthy black businessman.

During this period, there were more than 30 minority candidacies. Most of the challengers seemed to be as well-qualified as the white incumbents and enjoyed strong support in the ethnic precincts. Nonetheless, with the exception of Robinson, none succeeded in getting more than 40% of the vote city-wide.

The reason for WASM predominance is obvious. A combination of discriminatory electoral devices make it very difficult for other types of candidates to win, despite the fact that Houston's minority population is now over 40%.

These are the place voting system, the runoff requirement, and the at-large device. The small size of the council is also a culprit.

Students of electoral behavior are virtually unanimous in their opinion that these factors dilute the minority vote in cities where racial polarization exists. In Houston they probably exclude women as well. This is especially true for feminists, who have about the same chance in a council race as a candidate representing the Symbionese Liberation Army, at least if their feminism is well-known.

All eight councilmen (I use the term advisedly) are elected city-wide. Of course, five must reside in given districts, but they are still elected at large. In other words, there is only one district from which the councilmen are elected. It is the largest of its kind in the nation.

Had Jordan not benefited from a court-ordered redistricting scheme, she might very well be quietly practicing law today in her office on Lyons Avenue.

Black and Chicano leaders, along with some white allies, filed suit against the city in 1973, arguing that the method of electing

of the law school at Texas Southern University, as Houston's first black city attorney.

King's presence as chief defense counsel in the trial lent credibility to the city's case. Under attack for being unresponsive to the needs of minorities, the city would argue that its black attorney was drama-

timony, the defendant's three main academic experts minimized the influence of the at-large system in diluting the minority vote. Outside the courtroom, however, all three are on record in support of the opposite view.

Professors George Antunes and Kenneth Mladenka of the Universities of Houston and Virginia, respectively, co-authored an article that appeared a few months before the trial began. They wrote:

"(An) important feature of American local government is the at-large election where council candidates are not elected by district but by the entire community.... (In) larger communities at-large council elections dilute minority representation, substantially increase the cost of campaigning for office and make government even more remote from the citizens."

The city's other academic expert, Professor Susan McManus of the University of Houston, presented data during the trial which she claimed showed that the at-large system was not an important cause of minority underrepresentation on city councils. But in an unpublished paper co-authored with another political scientist, intended for an academic audience, McManus reached strikingly different conclusions from those expressed in the courtroom. The data base used by McManus to support these divergent opinions is the same in both instances.

In her post-trial paper McManus wrote that minorities' "inequity of representation is associated with at-large election systems and small city councils."

Minorities (and in my view, women) will probably continue to depend largely on WASMs to represent their interests in Houston city government.

tic evidence to the contrary. Federal Judge Allen Hannay, in announcing his decision last April, cited King's appointment as one of his reasons for ruling against the plaintiffs. That decision is now on appeal.

For the time being, consequently, the council is still the preserve of WASMs. Things could have been very different. Consider, for example, the possibilities open to women and minorities if single-member districts had been decreed and the size of the council were enlarged to 24—the number of state representatives that Harris County elects to the legislature.

There is an ironic footnote to the so-called "single member district suit." In their courtroom tes-

**"In 1973, I ran against Homer Ford. Out of four candidates I was fortunate enough to get into the run-off. In the election, I received 80 per cent of the district, but lost in the at-large vote. In 1975, the same thing happened."—Lawrence Pope, District D**

**"To run a campaign in a city the size of Houston would take 10 people doing what I am doing every day to contact all the different groups that we want to contact."—Kathryn Ross, Position 2**

**"It would keep the expense down in running a campaign. Right now it costs around \$25,000 to get a councilman in."**

—Stan Casey, District A

**"We have got to have single member districts. Running at large means a media campaign, which means thousands of dollars. If we went to single member districts, five of the present council members would lose their seats."—Merylyn Whited, District C**

**"Had Barbara Jordan not benefited from a court-ordered redistricting scheme, she might very well be quietly practicing law today in her office on Lyons Avenue."—Chandler Davidson**

The district has a population of 1.5 million, larger than that of 16 individual states. The minority community alone—Blacks and Chicanos—is greater than the total populations of all but about 20 of the largest cities in America.

Houston is also gargantuan in terms of area. It contains over 500 square miles, compared with the 320 occupied by the five boroughs of New York City.

Houston's great and ever-growing size, measured both in terms of population and geographical spread, makes a low-budget, shoe-leather campaign by a candidate representing minority voters or dissenting viewpoints a rather utopian enterprise.

It is no accident that Barbara Jordan was unable to win her Harris County race for the legislature in 1962 and 1964 under the at-large requirement. Testifying before a Congressional committee not long ago, Jordan stressed that without legislative reapportionment, "I would have lost again....I could not get elected in an at-large election."

council is unconstitutional because it dilutes the minority vote. The Houston League of Women Voters filed an *amicus curiae* brief. They had tried unsuccessfully in 1972 to collect the 50,000 signatures that were then required to petition for a referendum on a city charter change. The League favored a mixed system of both at-large and single-member-district elections.

In 1975, as the case had not yet been tried, the council allowed a nonbinding "straw vote" to be taken on the issue during that year's municipal elections. Some observers believed that their motive was to provide ammunition for the city's case by demonstrating citywide support for the at-large method.

If so, the council made a grievous mistake. Of the people voting on the issue, 53% preferred single-member districts to an at-large type of election.

When the case came to trial last fall, a political development benefited the city's argument immeasurably. Mayor Fred Hofheinz had recently appointed Otis King, dean



CHANDLER DAVIDSON teaches sociology at Rice University. He and Professor Richard Murray of the University of Houston testified as experts for the plaintiffs in last year's "single-member-district suit" challenging the constitutionality of the method by which the city council is elected.

# Editorials

## Voters' guide

"Endorsements are becoming less and less effective. The parties are crumbling and candidates are going directly through the media to the public," in the opinion of political analyst John Staples.

Switch on your TV. Noble Ginther stares you straight in the eye as he says "I'm not a politician. I'm a businessman. I don't have to answer to anyone." Frank Briscoe surrounds himself with Houston citizens who trust him—a white, middle-aged male, an elderly black female, and a young chicano. Jim McConn tells us he's a builder and promises to build Houston. Bette Graham White simply wants you to vote for "Bette." Well, it worked for Jimmy.

Like Uncle Sam, the candidates want you. They want your vote and they will use all the resources of the media to get it: three-colored billboards, slick brochures, flashy montages, jacket-over-the-shoulder shots, outside-the-factory-gate interviews, family portraits in the Memorial area backyard with trees and dogs.

As a barometer of how endorsements are faring, the Harris County Council of Organizations failed to endorse a mayoral candidate this year—the first time in almost 30 years. In fact, they fought about it. At their recent endorsement meeting, supporters of Ginther and Mc Conn actually came to blows. "The black vote is being sold again," observes George Nelson, the widely-respected Houstonian who founded the HCCO in his downtown barber shop back in 1949. "We formed this group in the black community to bind ourselves together. Now it has lost its effectiveness."

In a municipal non-partisan election, voters have few guidelines. They are left essentially with the media image of the candidates.

To this limitation must be added the fact that in a city the size of Houston, it takes an enormous amount of money to run a citywide campaign. Anyone can run, but the average citizen has little effect on who the front runners will be. That is determined by big money interests.

For the voter to make an intelligent, informed decision on the basis of media hype and lavish campaign expenditures seems almost impossible. But not quite. There is one organization that can help—the League of Women Voters.

The League is a "non-partisan organization working to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of all citizens in their government. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate."

The League has always attacked the issues. Its first program in 1920 addressed child welfare, education, inflation and women in gainful occupations. It will spend a million dollars this year on the fight for passage of the E.R.A.

In Houston, the League has printed and distributed thousands of Voters' Keys and Voters' Guides. They publish information on candidates and their positions, provide forums for debate and hold intensive voter registration drives.

You still have to do your homework. You have to decide which candidates and which issues you will support. The League will not endorse anyone. But they will provide you with more concrete and impartial information on candidates than any other source.

*Breakthrough* endorses the League of Women Voters and their commitment to a more informed electorate.

This is the only endorsement we will be making for this election.

## Houston Breakthrough Where Women Are News

Vol II, no. 9

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The IWY National Women's Conference is the largest convocation of women in this country and the first such meeting ever to be funded by the U.S. government. It is scheduled for November 18-21 in Houston.

Conference goals include recognizing women's contributions to the country's development, studying the role of women in the economic, social, cultural and political arenas, assessing the participation of women in strengthening world peace, identifying barriers that prevent women from participating fully and equally in all areas of national life, developing recommendations for removing those barriers, and providing a forum for all women to celebrate their past efforts and to make plans for the future.

### WHERE?

The plenary sessions will be in the Coliseum, 810 Bagby. The Albert Thomas Convention Center, 612 Smith, will house exhibits, lectures, films, and other activities of special interest to nondelegates.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

#### Rally

A welcoming rally for women's rights supporters attending the conference will be held at 4 p.m. Friday on the steps of City Hall. The rally's purposes are: to welcome conference participants to Houston, to commemorate the memory of Dr. Alice Paul, the author of the ERA, and to show support for equal rights for women.

### Film Festival

Films will show continuously during the conference in the West Hall of the convention center. Works screened will include "Salt of the Earth," "Amelia Earhart," "How We Won the Vote," and "Union Maids." More than 20 different films will be shown.

#### Seneca Falls South

Seneca Falls South will be the public assembly area occupying about half of East Hall at the Albert Thomas Convention Center. Exhibits of women's businesses and organizations will occupy the other half of the hall. This area is brightly lit, about 180 feet square with 35-foot ceilings. It will be a space where conference-goers can relax and enjoy, listen, learn, celebrate,

# IWY Update

As a prelude to this historic conference, 56 diverse and dramatic women's meetings, one in each state and territory, were held. American women attending these meetings voted on resolutions and elected delegates to send to the conference.

Resolutions came from a wide range of workshops on such topics as homemaker rights, child care, employment, education, teenage pregnancy, the ERA, credit, older women, female offenders, and minority women.

Public Law 94-167 named the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year (IWY) sponsor for the state meetings and the national conference. Each state shares in the \$5 million provided by Congress for the meeting series.

Recommendations and a final report on the conference will be submitted to the President and Congress in March 1978.

### WHO CAN ATTEND?

The delegates to the conference have been chosen already, but interested visitors and spectators can participate in the many special activities and observe the plenary sessions where resolutions and recommendations will be decided.

### WHO CAN HELP?

If you have already volunteered with the local IWY office, 515 Rusk, you will be getting specific job assignments in the next two weeks. If you would like to volunteer, call the IWY office at 226-5108. And, see page 11 to volunteer for work at *Breakthrough*. (We'll be publishing daily conference news issues.)

### WHEN?

While registration opens at noon on Friday, November 18, at the convention center, most of the activities are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday when most women can participate. Simply register when you arrive at the convention center. Registration fee is \$5, and there is no pre-registration.

## AMERICAN WOMEN ON THE MOVE

First National Women's Conference / Sponsored by  
The United States Commission on the Observance of  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR  
HOUSTON, TEXAS / NOV. 18-21, 1977

Dottie Erwin

### Plenary Session

The plenary session opens at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 19, with speeches by Bella Abzug, Liz Carpenter, and Mayor Fred Hofheinz. After a lunch break, voting will begin at 2 p.m. on the Plan of Action, with a dinner break, and continue from 8:30 p.m. until around 11:30 p.m.

On Sunday, November 20, an international hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. The plenary session resumes at 1 p.m. and adjourns at 5 p.m. for an evening of entertainment.

Monday's plenary session will open at 9 a.m. and adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

### Distinguished Women

Distinguished women in government will give hour-long lectures all day Saturday and Sunday. Some 35 women, including Sarah Weddington, Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Midge Costanza, will give talks in three small meeting rooms (90 seats each) at the convention center.

ventilate, and appreciate. Staged and spontaneous performances will feature vocalists, instrumentalists, sports, dance, poetry, speakers and soapbox oratory. Information booths, including a job placement center, will also be in the area.

### Interfaith Worship

An interfaith worship experience is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday, November 20, at the Rothko Chapel, 3900 Yupon at Sul Ross. The services will incorporate the "I" and "You" becoming "We" through the reconciliation of women and their differences. Free bus service will be provided from the conference area to the chapel.

No workshops per se are scheduled. Instead, success story discussions, skills clinics, a job placement counseling service, special cultural and arts events, and evening entertainment are in the works.

The November issue of *Breakthrough* will carry complete schedule information and special features on conference activities.



PALMER BOWSER



KATHY WHITMIRE



STEVE JONES



JOHN CASTILLO



BOB BREWER

JIM CALDWELL

# Second most powerful city office Run-off predicted in controller race

By Susan MacManus

The City controller race is the most hotly-contested one in the upcoming November 8 city elections. There is no incumbent and five persons have filed for the job, which has a salary of \$14,800. The position is one of the most important in Houston, because the city controller is the only full time elected executive official in Houston other than the mayor. This official has significant checks and balance type power over the daily operations of the city government.

The last elected city controller, Leonel Castillo, resigned in May to become the head of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Henry Kriegel, former city treasurer, has filled the position temporarily since Castillo's departure.

Five of the six candidates in the race for city controller are considered to be serious contenders. They are: John Castillo, former community development director; Kathy Whitmire, a certified public accountant; Steve Jones, also a certified public accountant; Palmer Bowser, a food market owner and former director of CETA under Mayor

Hofheinz; and Bob Brewer, formerly Hofheinz' administrative assistant.

Each of these five has a concentrated base of support. Castillo draws support from the Mexican-American community, which is said to be putting all of its financial and political efforts into the only citywide race Mexican-Americans have a chance of winning. He is a veteran political activist in the Chicano community and closely tied to the Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO), whose members include key leaders in the Chicano community.

Although this is Castillo's first political race, voters are likely to associate his name with that of his brother-in-law, Leonel. Political observers say John Castillo lacks the charisma and organizational abilities of Leonel, but his slogan, "Castillo, Leadership Again," is intended to portray a sense of continuity.

Whitmire draws her support from several sources. Her name is fairly well known in Houston politics, particularly on the north side. Her late husband ran three

*"The city controller is the only one who has the authority to approve disbursement of funds. He is the watchdog of the taxpayers. To the degree that those who control the money, control-he does have power. But I would also use the office to raise the level of consciousness on the part of city council and the mayor-to provide them with financial data to help make better decisions than they do now. Then, they'll have to answer to the people." - Palmer Bowser*

*"The mayor is the chief executive officer and the city controller is the chief financial officer. All spending must be approved through the city controller. The controller can go into other departments and check on priorities. When it is found that the streets are only fixed in certain parts of town or there is favoritism, the controller can point this out to the people. This is the only department head who is independent of the mayor."-Kathy Whitmire.*

*"It's a very powerful office. It has the power of the purse. The controller has to sign for all issuance of checks and bonds. If funds aren't available or properly available, he has the power of legal restraint."-Steve Jones*

*"The office has the power to provide check and balance in a strong mayoral form of government. The city controller can stop any expenditures that are not accountable and can provide leadership in adoption of policies, and can require city council to spell out costs and amounts."-John Castillo.*

*"He reigns supreme as far as certification of funds. I feel the city charter provides authority which so far has been little utilized. I would watch contract compliance and cost overruns more carefully. It is imperative for the city controller to remain independent. Too many votes are taken in city council without their full knowledge of the impact now or in the future. It may be necessary at times for the city controller to go public." - Bob Brewer*

times for city council. Her brother-in-law is a state representative from the north side. Whitmire also will pick up support from the accounting profession. She has been active in professional accounting societies in Houston and among her professional peers she is recognized for her competence.

She draws additional support from women voters, who recognize her as a qualified and independent candidate who could perhaps become the first woman ever to be elected to city government.

Jones is the only one of the candidates who has previously run for public office. He was defeated soundly by Leonel Castillo in his last race for controller. Jones identifies himself as a conservative Republican. He will draw his greatest support from west side voters, who traditionally turn out in heavier numbers than voters in other areas of the city. He was one of the first to announce his intention to run for city controller and had a fair amount of early success in raising

campaign funds from the white business community. However, when Brewer threw his hat into the ring, a great deal of Jones' support shifted to Brewer.

Brewer, who resigned as Hofheinz' chief administrative assistant to run for controller, was active in the mayor's election campaign and has worked for a number of years in the Houston Chamber of Commerce. Of all the candidates, Brewer probably has the least identifiable base of support. He will rely upon the white vote and try to draw on Hofheinz' minority support. However, that support has been eroded greatly because both a black and a Mexican-American are in the controller race.

Bowser, a black businessman and former city official, will draw solid support from the city's black organizations. Bowser, a native Louisianan, is active in Houston black politics. He was rewarded for his support of Hofheinz' campaign with the CETA directorship vacated by John Castillo. Bowser is sure to draw nearly 100 percent of the black vote.

Dr. Susan MacManus is a member of the political science faculty at the University of Houston.



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# Running against Incumbents it's uphill all the way

By Carol Bartholdi

There are eight positions on the Houston City Council, and during this November's election there are eight incumbents.

Being an incumbent has certain distinct advantages when it comes to running a campaign. In a city with approximately 600,000 voters, it is almost financially and politically impossible for challengers to wage a successful enough campaign to overcome the name recognition that accompanies incumbency.

Two of the city council members are running unopposed: Frank Mancuso, in District E, and Johnny Goyen for councilman at large, Position 3. These two men have been on the council for 13 years and 20 years respectively.

Among the other council members, Frank Mann, councilman at large, Position 2, has served the city in this capacity since 1959. Homer Ford has been elected for six two-year terms from District D.

The other men are relative newcomers to the council: Jim Westmoreland, elected in 1973 as councilmember at large, Position 1; Larry McKaskle, in the district B council seat since 1969; Louis Macey, elected to District C seat in 1975, and Judson Robinson, Jr., elected to District A in 1971.

Four of the eight members have been on the council for more than ten years.

Some persons have suggested changing the city charter so that council members' terms would be limited in duration. Last June, Mayor Hofheinz proposed several changes for the city government. They included a suggestion to double the length of the terms of three at large city council seats to four years, and limit office-holding to two consecutive terms.

Breakthrough spoke to several of the challengers and asked them if they were encountering special problems trying to unseat a council member.

"Anyone who runs against an incumbent will have difficulty because historical myth is that the incumbent wins," said Merylyn Whited, candidate from District C, running against Louis Macey. "We're working an uphill battle. I don't know if I want to gamble on you, is what people think," she said.

Whited believes that the number of terms a person can serve on the council should be limited to two, and that the terms should be four years long. The elections should be staggered also, she said, "so that every two years everyone is not out campaigning."

Kathryn Ross, a newcomer challenging Frank Mann for Position 2, says that she also has faced problems challenging an incumbent. "It is difficult trying to make contacts, it's hard to break in," she said. "For two years, the

news media have been covering the meetings of the city council. It is the incumbents' faces that the people see often. People know their names."

"In addition, it is difficult to get financial support," said Ross. "It takes money to get radio and TV spots and printing. People who have been on the council are more likely to get financial support." She stressed that groups are more likely to support the person they believe has the better chance of winning "because they are practical, and don't believe any one can beat the incumbent, and they want him on their side."

Ross also would like to see four year terms for council members and staggered elections.

Francis Page, a challenger to Homer Ford in District D, agrees with Whited and Ross.

He said that the name identification of the incumbent is a great advantage. Challengers of incumbents often have financial troubles in running their campaigns, because "people don't believe they can do it," he said. "It is real interesting, but the smart money will go with the incumbent," said Page, "because people like to bet on a winner."

One candidate for city council,

Jack Lee, dropped out of the race last July for financial reasons. According to the *Houston Post*, Lee said Houston business people were "afraid to put their money on the line against an incumbent."

All of these candidates agreed that challenging an incumbent is a difficult task. However, they all also agreed that there is an even greater problem. That is the system of voting in Houston. "Probably the biggest problem is the citywide vote," said Page. "A candidate has to try to be everywhere at once," he said, because he or she must be known throughout the city, not only in one district.

Carol Bartholdi is working on her master's thesis from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.



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*n.* 1. A woman-owned business specializing  
in quality graphics and printing. 2. A large  
red brick house in the heart of Montrose.  
— *adj.* Having many and varied features.  
— *v.* Producing design, illustration, camera  
work, printing and bindery. — *adv.* 1. To in-  
crease the client's business manifold. 2. To  
satisfy the client.

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## 22 candidates for 4 seats

# HISD board race:

By Janet Beals, Ellen Berman  
and Barbara Bogue

### DISTRICT I

Candidates for District I are Edward Sanchez, Mary Parker, Letha Marion Reynolds, Ginia Wray Wright, Shirley Wedgeworth, Ray A. Morrison and Rev. Arturo Navarro.

#### 1. Coed Phys-Ed

Reactions to Title IX and coed P.E. classes in Houston schools were mixed. While Morrison prefers sex-segregation in physical education classes, most other candidates lean toward mixed classes. Both Parker and Navarro approve of coed classes if separate dressing rooms are maintained, while Reynolds sees them as "not necessary, but not objectionable." Wright and Wedgeworth agree that the court rulings should be followed by the district, and Wedgeworth adds his support of coed classes. Navarro remarks that "the situation is challenging for all children as individuals." Sanchez believes that HISD is doing its part in enforcement, and that the kids are "doing OK" with coed classes.

#### 2. Magnet Schools

Almost all candidates in this district spoke positively of the magnet school system. Navarro, the exception, feels that the program has been over-sold and is a distraction from the real problem of desegregation. Reynolds and Wedgeworth, both of whom worked in the early stages of magnet school development, would like to see the program expanded. Parker and Wright also favor an increase in the number of schools, and Wright adds her wish for more parent education about specific programs. Morrison, Wedgeworth and Sanchez agree that the system has been successful in helping desegregation. Sanchez calls it "the best school system so far"—but Morrison wants to see more vocational schools.

#### 3. Sexist Texts

Reactions differed on the treatment of sexist materials in the classroom. Four candidates mentioned specific action they would take, while a fifth, Navarro, said simply that he wants no stereotypes perpetuated in the classroom. Of the four, Wedgeworth would personally review any questionable text, while Wright and Morrison would do their best to remove sexist material. Parker, believing that equal time should be given to all ideas, would bring the offending material to the attention of the board with the hopes of enacting a policy. Reynolds disapproves of censorship, but believes that a teacher's good judgment can balance and influence the contents of a text. Sanchez feels that a decision of this nature should be left to the state committee that handles these matters.

#### 4. Migrant Children

Three candidates, Wright, Wedgeworth and Sanchez, answered the question of migrant or alien children attending HISD schools tuition-free with a firm "no." Wedgeworth hedged his negative response with

On Nov. 8, voters in Houston Independent School Districts 1, 5, 6, and 7 will go to the polls to select four new trustees to the HISD board.

The board presides over an operation with a current budget of \$379 million and 15,500 employees. The school board in Houston is big business.

A board trustee must be involved in the management of the district's funds, the selection of architects and contractors for new schools, and understand bidding procedures.

Although the complex political maneuvering and legal battle over the breakaway Westheimer Independent School District has grabbed most of the headlines, there are other issues of equal importance facing the board.

These include continued efforts toward desegregation through the magnet schools system, progress toward a fully bilingual system and measures to erase sexism both in the classroom and within the ranks of employees.

With no incumbents among the 22 candidates and scant public debate on these and other school issues, voters may find the following *Breakthrough* poll helpful in choosing among the candidates for this political office.

Here are the questions and the candidates' responses, noted by districts and order of filing.

- 1 How do you feel about girls and boys participating in co-ed physical education classes, as required by Title IX?
- 2 Do you feel that the magnet school system has helped to desegregate the HISD schools?
- 3 If a teacher or parent brought sexist texts or teaching materials to your attention, what would you do about it?
- 4 Do you think that the children of Mexican-American migrants and/or aliens should attend HISD schools tuition-free?
- 5 What would you as a new board member do to bring more women into upper administration in HISD?
- 6 Do you think sex education belongs in schools?
- 7 In light of the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the firing of a gay teacher, how would you handle a similar situation in HISD?

an exception in the case of possible federal or state financing. Reynolds also responded in the negative, saying that the district cannot afford tuition for these non-taxpayers, and that state law must be obeyed. Parker agrees that finances are a problem, but argues that aliens do pay taxes indirectly. Her first concern is for the children, calling it "false economy" not to educate them. Navarro agrees that no child should be denied an education, and sees the issue as a judicial problem.

#### 5. Women Administrators

Only two candidates, Reynolds and Navarro, said they would seek out competent female applicants for upper level administrative jobs, the latter adding that he would "work for balance in top positions." The other five candidates are together in their belief that promotion should be based strictly on qualifications. Sanchez, noting the high percentage of women already in the school system, adds that he'd have to do some research on the problem, while Wedgeworth feels that "we are not that far off in women administrators." Morrison does not feel that promotion is the job of the school board to begin with.

#### 6. Sex Education

All candidates but Sanchez approve of some form of sex education in the schools. Sanchez feels that the subject belongs at home, but is willing to cooperate if parents have other views. Parker approves of parenting classes and would like to see parents informed about the contents of the classes;

but she disapproves of the teaching methods used. Reynolds is in favor of being open and early about sex education, and would also like better parent awareness of the schools' role. She feels we must decide, "Who will conduct sex education in the schools, the students or the teachers?" Wright sees sex education as a necessary subject, to be taught by a "responsible person" as early as sixth grade. She emphasized that sex education meant "hygiene, body development, etc.—not intercourse!" Wedgeworth adds that because of the failure of church and home to do the teaching in this area, the schools must. Morrison approves, if sexually segregated classes are taught by a person of the same sex. Navarro believes very young children are not ready, and that classes should begin with 11- to 12-year-olds.

#### 7. Gay Teachers

Only one candidate, Sanchez, expressed the opinion that he would unequivocally fire a homosexual teacher. "I don't want kids around those kind of people," he says. Three candidates, Reynolds, Parker and Wright, feel that a teacher's off-duty life is his or her own business, and would not fire a gay teacher unless other factors intervened, such as classroom performance or specific complaints from parents. Parker comments, "I do not feel it is my responsibility to legislate morality." Reynolds agrees, and adds, "In my 39 years with the school system, I have never known any homosexuals to be fired for that reason alone, and I don't see any reason to start now."

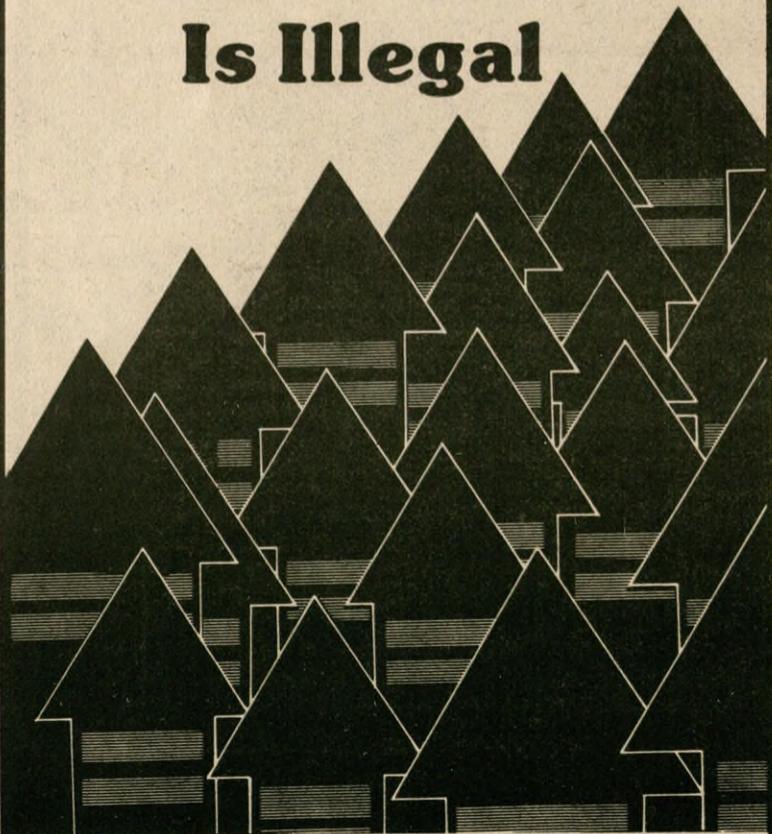
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# Issues and Answers

## Views on board politics

A school board trustee holds a curious position, somehow wrapped in a flag, with images of apple pie and Mother. It is an almost universally unpaid political office but holds great power.

That power stems from the fact that many of the issues school boards deal with closely touch people's lives.

There have always been those who see some of those issues—desegregation, racism and sexism, in particular—as isolated socio-political matters to be dealt with outside the schools. But I feel they are basic to the education of the individual. The child who is dealt with stereotypically, who is put into or kept out of certain courses or counselled toward or away from certain goals because of his or her sex or race is clearly being short-changed.

In the 1960's the big issue was desegregation. Now we have the magnet schools, which are really fine, but have they done much for desegregation?

The question of accepting federal aid sparked bitter debate about "losing local control" which really meant "they will make us integrate our schools." Now, HISD gets more than \$5 million a year from the federal government.

Sex discrimination wasn't dealt with at all during my tenure. No consciousness was raised and there were no laws to use as leverage. Ironically, the school board is the one elected position that the public has always regarded as proper for women. After all, it has to do with children, doesn't it?

The successful candidate will find out he or she has a choice of how to function once on the board. A board member can become a "yes person" to the administration or one who takes direction from stronger members. The responsible member, however, will study the unendingly fascinating, many-faceted operation of the public schools, ask lots of questions and find ways to initiate and pursue matters so as to avoid violating the line of demarcation between board and administration. This person will soon learn the best way to get the public's attention on an issue is to speak of it in financial terms, not in terms of morality and law.

Board members have the power to make changes. Voters must be careful about whom they give that power to and then see that they use it properly. G.B.

Gertrude Barnstone was a member of the Houston Independent School Board from 1964-69.

Wright's sentiments are similar, but she cautions that, "I wouldn't want a person to teach homosexuality in the classroom—and I would not want them to teach religion either." Morris is "not in favor of witch hunts," but doesn't see any advantages in keeping teachers with "open tendencies." Wedgeworth agrees with other candidates of District 1 that "It's their business—their private life," but adds, "I personally would not want them teaching children." Navarro was reluctant to be specific, and only stated that we should surround our children with "emotionally balanced, physiologically stable, and emotionally secure adults that can be a guiding light and inspiration."

### DISTRICT V

School board trustee candidates in the fifth district are Craig Roberts, Andrew Byrd, Bert Bares, William Pisciella, Betty Blue Alexander, Geneva Kirk Brooks, and Asberry Butler.

#### 1. Coed Phys-Ed

All candidates are in favor of expanded athletic programs for girls, with the exception of Byrd, who refused to comment. Brooks feels, however, that girls do not have enough stamina for some activities. Butler stands on his previous school board record with re-

gard to the issue of sex discrimination in education. Pisciella adds that discrimination in tracking girls academically into unproductive fields must not go unchallenged. Roberts also points out that "we need to ensure that HISD meets the spirit as well as the letter of the law."

#### 2. Magnet Schools

All candidates, except Brooks, feel that the magnet school concept must be expanded. Pisciella, noting that 102 HISD schools are totally segregated, feels that the magnet approach to integration needs to be reviewed by a special committee.

#### 3. Sexist Texts

Again Byrd declined to comment. All other candidates report that they would review and make recommendations on any materials passed to them. Alexander and Bares went a step further. Alexander says she would try to ensure that the committee of review for materials used in the schools would have a full understanding of the issues at hand. Bares offered to sign a written pledge that he would work for an immediate review of all such materials or texts.

#### 4. Migrant Children

Brooks alone is opposed to free tuition for children of migrants or aliens, on the grounds that it would encourage an increase in the flow of illegal aliens into the school sys-

tem. Alexander stated flatly that the issue is in the courts, and the schools will have to abide by that decision. Roberts, Bares, Pisciella and Butler all feel that no child should be denied education. "We can't throw the kids out," admonishes Roberts. Pisciella noted that virtually all undocumented workers are paying for the educational system already, either through taxes or indirectly through rent. Byrd adds that he would judge each case on its merits.

#### 5. Women Administrators

All candidates are in favor of increasing the numbers of women at administrative levels. Pisciella has already been involved in affirmative action on this issue in the Houston Teachers Association. Bares brought up the companion issue of poorly paid support personnel in HISD, a largely female group, for which he would also seek higher wages. Roberts affirms, "I know there are lots of qualified women out there," and guarantees that job openings will be announced publicly.

#### Sex Education

All candidates expressed the opinion that the schools must offer sex education, as many children are not getting it at home. Pisciella feels, in addition, that it should be broadened to discuss attitudes towards sexual stereotypes.

#### 7. Gay Teachers

While a majority of candidates in this district feel that a person's private life is their own business, only Pisciella heartily denounced the Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold the firing of a gay teacher. He also affirms his full support of gay rights, feeling that it is an important issue. Brooks, on the other hand, says, "I do not believe that anybody who has a perverted or deviant handicap should be in a situation where they could be models for children. When homosexuals have to flaunt it, they can go into other businesses." Bares, Alexander, Butler, and Roberts share the opinion that if gay teachers do not indulge in improper conduct with children, they should be left alone. Bares notes, "Anyone who doesn't flagrantly abuse the law should not be bothered." Alexander "would not want anyone's civil rights infringed upon," but if a case of abuse was proven, she would recommend removal. Roberts is firm about evaluating teachers on classroom performance alone, though he too would suspend a teacher (via proper procedures) who indulged in sexual abuse. Butler, fearful of witch hunts, again would evaluate on classroom behavior. Byrd feels he cannot make a comment on this question.

### DISTRICT VI

Candidates for District VI are Maxine Davis, Lou Harris, Theda Hoyt, and Howard Humphreys.

#### 1. Coed Phys-Ed

The candidates differed widely in their views on Title IX enforcement and sex-integrated physical education classes. Davis favors the classes, and would like to see a broader program, including more intramural activities. Along the

Barbara Bogue and Ellen Berman are free-lance writers. Janet Beals is a co-editor of the Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Area Women's News.



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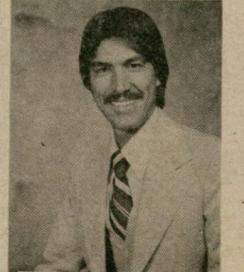
DICK GOTTLIEB

He's running because he ran last time. "I'm going to do this thing until I do it right."



FRANK BRISCOE

He's running because he's convinced he'll win. He's spending more than \$500,000 just to make it right.



ARTHUR E. ABREGO

God told him to run and gave him his position on the ballot . . . but didn't mention where he'll finish.



DANA McNATT

He's a Nazi. Enough said.

# Class of '77:

## Who's most likely to succeed?

By Sam E.J. Akers

It's enough to make you lose faith in democracy. The city's problems and differences are as abundant as ever. We've had a dash of good ol' Texas mud slinging. But the 1977 mayor's race is still somehow boring.

Listening to the major candidates, you'd think the main issue is who is really bankrupt. Why, the *Chronicle* didn't even bother to run its endorsement editorial on the front page. With 12 official candidates in the field, never before have so many offered so little.

Few specific solutions to the real problems of the city have been suggested, much less debated. Even the virtual nonexistence of mass transportation has produced little more than platitudes about needing a "system."

Only the police department, perhaps, has been a first-class campaign issue. The problem of insufficient citizen control has been difficult to ignore after several weeks of front page news about the Torres case. Former officers who had custody of a rowdy, young Joe Campos Torres the May night he was beaten and drowned in Buffalo Bayou, were convicted of a misdemeanor and now face federal indictments.

But, as the master of reruns, Dick Gottlieb, pointed out, the gendarmes have been an issue in every city election in the last 20 years at least. And the answers are always the same. Citizen review boards, police commissioners, more training, higher pay, the beat system, more sub-stations. But nothing ever happens.

Careful plodding, persistence and diligence seem to be the strategy of today's politicians. Never mind inspiration, creativity and substance. That may win votes, but the idea is not to lose any. Keep the rhetoric vague and general, avoid commitments. Noble Ginther, who has the most professionally polished campaign of the dozen, sums it up in a campaign brochure which says Houstonians want a mayor with "No axes to grind. No political ambitions to further. No commitments that would color his judgement." In short, a blank page.

So it's not surprising that the front runner is the candidate who lies lowest of all. Or that the *Chronicle* would endorse him because he "has stayed free of the controversies." In fact, Frank Briscoe is maintaining such a low profile he's often mistaken for Tom Taylor's campaign manager.

Tom Taylor is actually Briscoe's campaign manager, but he

has been making far more speeches than his boss, even to the point of filling in for him at such prestigious candidate forums as the League of Women Voters' and the Junior Chamber of Commerce's. It's so bad Jane Ely, the *Post's* political reporter, could write in a front page story on Sunday that Taylor "always says he doesn't know where Briscoe is—just that he had a prior commitment."

Frank Briscoe is a cousin of mild-mannered Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, and that may be good enough reason not to vote for him. While the other contestants haven't exactly zeroed in on nifty remedies for the city's woes, they do at least emphasize that we have some real problems—the police, disharmony in the fire department, inequitable taxation, streets in disrepair, pollution, crime, friction among the classes, races and sexes . . .

Frank Briscoe's message is entirely different. Taylor says if elected he'll "maintain the quality of life we have now."

### Bad News For Women

Briscoe's election would be bad news for women. He opposes having a city women's advocate. "The Council and the mayor represent all the women of an aide explained. And no one has ever accused Briscoe of being overzealous about affirmative action.

Any way you slice it, this election is not one to boost the morale and optimism of feminists. Of the two other major candidates, Jim McConn also opposes continuing the women's advocate post, and Noble Ginther sounds like he can't decide.

Only two of the candidates are women. Neither stands much of a chance.

Briscoe did manage to make an appearance himself at one function *Breakthrough* attended—his official campaign kick-off at Bavarian Gardens Sept. 12. "The signs are extremely favorable that I will win this campaign," he told his subdued faithful followers. He told them he would be a good crime fighter as mayor, as he had been as Harris County district attorney from 1961 to 1966.

Then he stepped down from the platform to mingle with his fans. No throngs pressed Frank Briscoe's flesh, though. People walked up a few at a time and politely shook hands. The men mostly wore coats and ties even though they were outside, many sitting at picnic tables. The women wore

dresses or polyester pant suits. There were only a couple of blacks and no Mexican-Americans in the crowd. All the long hair was neatly styled. If one did not recognize Briscoe it would have been impossible to separate him from the clean-cut, executive-looking group.

This may be both his strength and his weakness. He is a lot like the mass of conservative to moderate, upper middle class WASPs who almost snatched the mayor's seat for him from Fred Hofheinz two years ago. His television commercials show him going to church with his family, "taking time out from his busy schedule" to attend a son's football game, and burning the midnight oil to show what a hard working mayor he'll be. Houston is a city of great middle class prosperity and although nobody seems to be honestly excited about Briscoe (even Briscoe, apparently), he's the safe candidate for this formidable group. But he's also the Mr. Blah of a blah campaign, and the voters may just yawn and pass him by.

But probably not without a run-off. Briscoe is convinced he will win. Asked how much the campaign will cost, an aide said, "It was originally budgeted at \$500,000, and that's all we can say about that." If there must be a run-off, Briscoe wants to run against Noble Ginther.

Noble Ginther wants to be the Jimmy Carter of Houston. He is a political novice and proud of it. "We've seen politics get in the way too often," he says. Few people had ever heard of him two months ago, when "Ginther Mayor" billboards began sprouting around town with a full color picture of the candidate leaning on a fence rail, wearing a plaid shirt with an open collar. (You suspect he was wearing jeans.)

Taking a page out of Carter's book, Ginther began campaigning early. He held a news conference Sept. 2 to discuss the police department. "I think the macho trip has been part of our problem," he said.

Like Carter, Ginther has put together a top-flight professional, media-wise crew including Bob Heller and campaign manager Bud Hadfield, who has himself run for mayor.

Ginther is a classic "unknown quantity." But, as with Carter, the came-from-nowhere theory is to a certain degree the naive product of mass media simplicity. Carter had been governor of a state (and crowned the epi-

some of New South politics during his reign by a *Time* magazine cover story), a state senator, a school board member and so on when he "came from nowhere" to run for president. Ginther is a millionaire and a son of a millionaire, a lawyer and well acquainted in the oil and gas business (he admits his friends in oil are helping foot the bills). And in Houston, that's coming from somewhere.

Ginther says his campaign will cost about \$200,000 and that some \$50,000 of it will be his own money. But he has reportedly borrowed heavily beyond that, more than he had planned.

Despite his background, Ginther has emerged as the most liberal of the biggies. And he at least has tried to discuss specifics. But occasionally that has gotten him in trouble. He said he would seek a \$500 million bond issue for street repair but backed off when some municipal finance experts doubted the city could float that big an issue, much less do it without a tax increase as Ginther claimed. And his proposal to place a ceiling on the amount a piece of property could be revalued for the tax rolls each year is illegal under the Texas constitution.

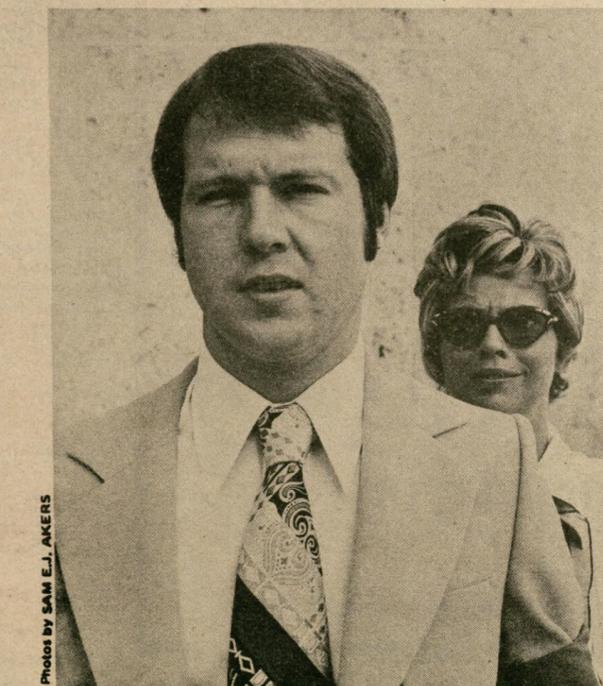
But Ginther's real message is that he is not one of those nasty old politicians. "You're not supposed to mention other people's names," he said after uttering Briscoe's name at a news conference. "You see I'm still a novice at this." At the League of Women Voters' forum, he admitted he is now a politician but coyly corrected himself when he used the politician's royal "we."

Ginther's official position is that he would retain the post of women's advocate and he tries to steer away from the topic by saying it's a shame we have to have one. Then he talks about other groups that could use an advocate, like the elderly. He openly admits he doesn't particularly like to talk about the women's advocate.

The candidate with whom Ginther has locked horns the most for a run-off spot, Jim McConn, shares Briscoe's view that the City Council and mayor should be advocates for all citizens. In other words, no women's advocate in his administration.

It becomes obvious that whichever major aspirant wins, the women's advocate post will certainly not enjoy the stature and power it did under Hofheinz, especially during his second (and last) term.

continued on p. 10



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### MAYOR RACE con't. from p. 9

McConn is a former city council member who did not seek re-election for a third term in 1975 because financial problems had hit home building business during the recession. The Ginther people said his firm is bankrupt, so McConn is not "fiscally responsible." McConn countered that although he was in debt, he will repay it all, and at least he had never taken formal bankruptcy as Ginther once did. "If you get in trouble as mayor of Houston, you're, hopefully, not going to be able to declare bankruptcy," McConn said.

McConn and Ginther have fought each other hard, sparring over the minorities and moderate to liberal part of the spectrum which Briscoe has trouble attracting. They battled to a draw over the blacks. The Harris County Council of Organizations split and endorsed no one formally. Vice president Zollie Scales Jr. charged that Ginther supporters tried to buy his support with an expensive, new car. The *Forward Times* jumped on McConn's city council record. Then the Black Organization for Leadership Development endorsed McConn, while the black Baptist ministers gave the nod to Ginther.

McConn has more experience in city government than any of his opponents and doesn't seem as much the creature of the slick media manipulators as Ginther. He appears honest and decent, if not brilliantly creative. Some liberals feel he may not be great, but he has a much better chance of knocking off Briscoe in a run-off than Ginther, because Briscoe could harp on Ginther's inexperience.

McConn is the number two spender in the race (he even put an ad in *Time*). Insiders expect his effort to cost at least \$300,000.

Dick Gottlieb is the Hubert Humphrey of Houston politics. He came close once, in 1973 against Hofheinz, and is still running. This is his third race, and no one doubts him when he says, "I don't know of anyone in your city who wants to be mayor more than I do." Like Hubie, Gottlieb, a former city council member and television personality, has kept his sense of humor, opening the League of Women Voters' forum with "I'm going to do this thing until I do it right."

He appeals to the same sort of voter as Briscoe, basically conservative, but has little big time support due to his track record. Gottlieb will probably spend less than \$10,000 but is almost assured of fourth place because of his name recognition.

Gottlieb would not retain a women's advocate if elected.

### Bette Graham White and the Seven Dwarfs

On the surface, Bette Graham White seems to have political savvy. She was co-ordinator of volunteers for Hofheinz in 1975 and has worked in several winning campaigns. Her husband is big in public relations, and she says she will spend between \$30,000 and \$50,000.

But her political involvement has been superficial, many say. And she almost lost her race for community development commissioner for Montrose and the Fourth Ward to gay activist Pokey Anderson, who ran as a write-in. At a gathering to honor Montrose's liberal state Rep. Ron Waters, she was caught completely off guard by his endorsement of Ginther. She reportedly lost her cool and stormed out. There is nothing wrong with being upset by not getting an endorsement, but *not* knowing what was coming suggests she is still somewhat of a novice.

White sounds very liberal and progressive, but one wonders what she has in mind when she talks of "bringing the churches into the administration of the city." Much of her support comes from her association with charismatic Christians.

She would enhance the power of the women's advocate, she says, and would create others for groups such as children. And perhaps a sizeable vote for her would show that many agree with White "it's about time" Houston had women in high office.

The other seven hopefuls are just that—hopefuls. God told Arthur E. Abrego to seek the mayor's post, or so he says. The 29-year-old X-ray technician borrowed part of the \$1,250 filing fee on his add-cash checking account. "If I can get some more donations, I'll spend \$500," he said of his uphill battle. As for the women's advocate, "her duties—I didn't really understand them." He says, nonetheless, he would create three women's advocates—one each for blacks, Chicanas and whites.

Ovide Duncantell is the only black in the contest and may draw the most of the remaining seven candidates. He says his pitch will cost less than \$5,000. A long-time political gadfly and former aide to County Commissioner Tom Bass, he may not be far off when he says the police get away with what they do because of the unholy alliance of the Chamber of Commerce, the 100 Club and the Houston Police Association. He supports the women's advocate.

Manuel Velasco is the other Mexican-American in the race One-upping Briscoe, whose roots go back to Stephen F. Austin's Fort Bend County colony, Velasco brags that his family has been here "since the Treaty of Velasco, when Texas became Texas." Asked about the women's advocate, he said, "As mayor, I will be advocating for all the people." But the middle-aged ethnic stands little chance with what an aide said is a war chest of less than \$5,000.

"If you could control the police, you'd have a lot less crime," socialist worker Diane Sarge said. The corporate aristocracy is the cause of most of our problems, she claims. Sarge would expand the job of women's advocate and create similar positions for others. Less than \$5,000 will be spent on her campaign and that of two other socialist worker candidates, she said.

Allen Vogel claims the endorsement of the Libertarian party (there are no official party candidates, since the city charter mandates non-partisan election). He is the logical extension of the theory of government that less is more and believes, therefore, a women's advocate would be superfluous in his administration. "However, I'm not sure it wouldn't be necessary in another administration." Vogel says he'll spend less than \$2,500.

Dana McNatt enjoys the support of the Nazi party. Asked if women would have a larger role than present in his regime, he seemed startled and then said, yes, they would. "So many good things have been said about women throughout history—behind every good man there's a woman. That sort of thing," he said, adding there were many high ranking women in Nazi Germany, "... I can't remember any, but..."

Larry Robinson rounds out the list. The most amazing thing about this successful young businessman is that he will spend, according to campaign manager Andy Wooten, \$50,000 on the lost cause. Of the women's advocate, he believes "the position is warranted but on a smaller pay scale."



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## ✓ A Checklist for Breakthrough Readers

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In the critical matter of advertising, our own small staff is working with volunteer sales people (taking time from their own careers) who have already worked wonders in getting advertisers signed on the dotted line for our special conference issues. Already listed on our advertising roster at press time were such names as Houston Lighting & Power ... Sears ... Saks ... Foley's ... Jamails ... Avis Rent-A-Car ... Associates in Growth ... Ms. Magazine ... most radio and television stations ... and many more ...

We've got a start — but we need help to provide assurance that we'll be able to pay our printing bill for 90,000 papers when it comes due.

Here's where you can help... Think a minute. Are you in business for yourself? Do you work for someone else who should buy an ad? Do you have a sister, mother, father, brother, friend or neighbor in business, or in a position of influence?

Everybody does.

And, in advertising sales of this type — getting in the "back door" is far more effective than making an appointment at the front door. Our sales staff has discovered you can lose a lot of time going through proper channels.

So — please put on your thinking cap and drop by our office at 1708 Rosewood to pick up an advertising brochure and advertising contracts. Or plan to attend one of our regular advertising meetings — held each Sunday at 6:00 and each Monday at 7:00. We'll be delighted to pay you a 15% commission on every sale you complete. (That's \$120 on a full page ad, so it's definitely worth your time.)

If for some reason you don't want to handle the sale yourself, but you do know a good prospect or two, give us a call and we'll take it from there.

### 2 You can help as a feature writer, production artist, booth salesperson or circulation distributor . . .

If you can contribute your skills and experience as a writer, artist or help with circulation — to get our three important issues to all the right places at all the right times, we'll most gratefully welcome you aboard as a member of our special November staff. And if you're interested in booth sales at the conference, you should know we'll be sharing our booth with *Ms.* magazine.

### 3 You can even contribute financially . . .

Frankly, we would actually prefer your time, talent, energy and sales contacts to your money — *BUT MONEY IS ONE MORE WAY YOU CAN HELP.* We are planning a "signature" ad section which will run under the headline "What kind of person reads Breakthrough?" — and we'd like to run just as many names of our actual readers as possible. (This is an ideal way for out of town readers to participate in this event.)

If you'd like your signature to appear on this special souvenir page (in all three daily November issues), just send us \$10.00 and your signature. If you would like to be listed on our honor roll as a "sponsor," send \$25.00 and your signature. To be listed as a "patron," send \$50.00 or more, plus your signature.

Patrons may also, if they wish, write as many as 50 words of greeting to convention participants and visitors which will be printed over their signatures. Sponsors may include as many as 25 words. All signatures should be written in BLACK INK on WHITE PAPER, and mailed immediately to *Breakthrough*, along with your check and greetings.

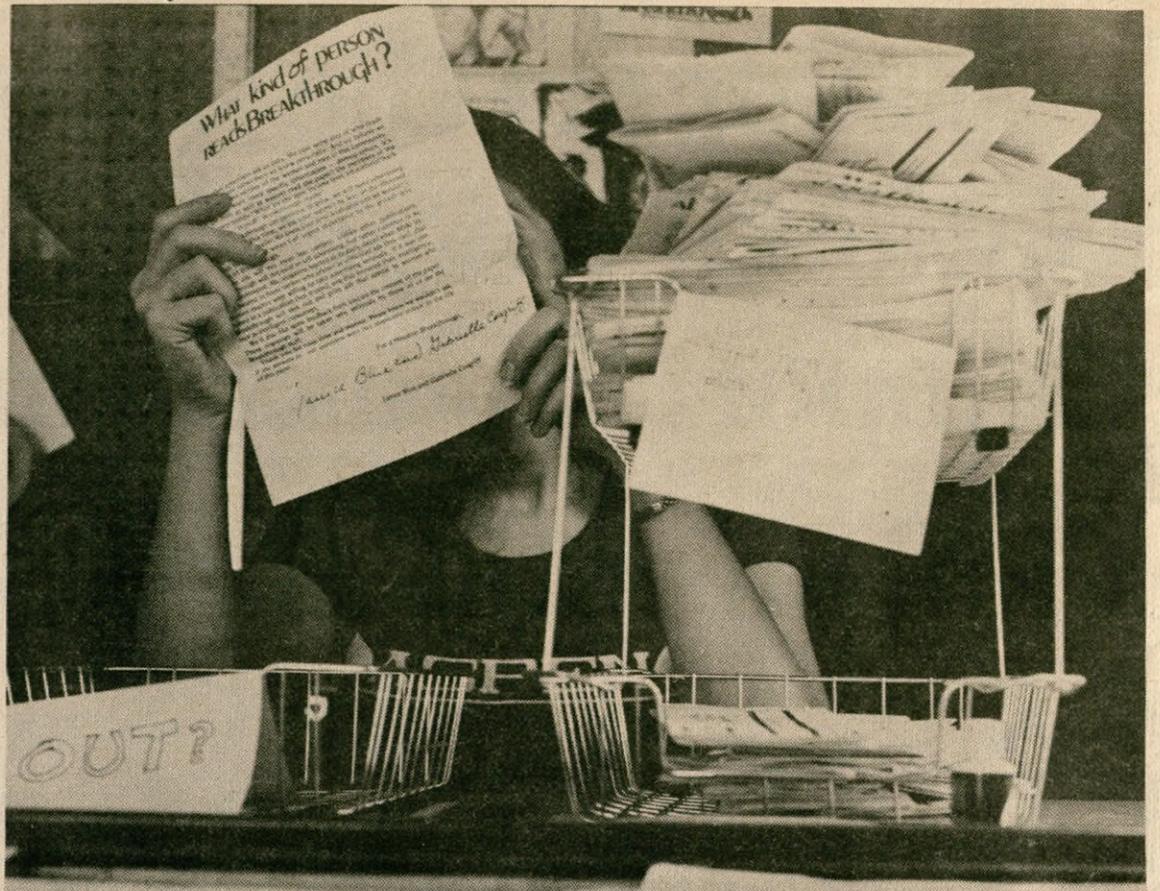
Ruth and Neal Barrett of Barrett Associates advertising agency are coordinating this project — you may call them at 664-8055 for additional information, or for their free professional assistance in wording your message.

## We are running out of time

Call us today at 526-6686 to volunteer your time and money. Or drop your commitment in the mail immediately. Just mail it to *Breakthrough*, Box 88072, Houston, Texas 77004.



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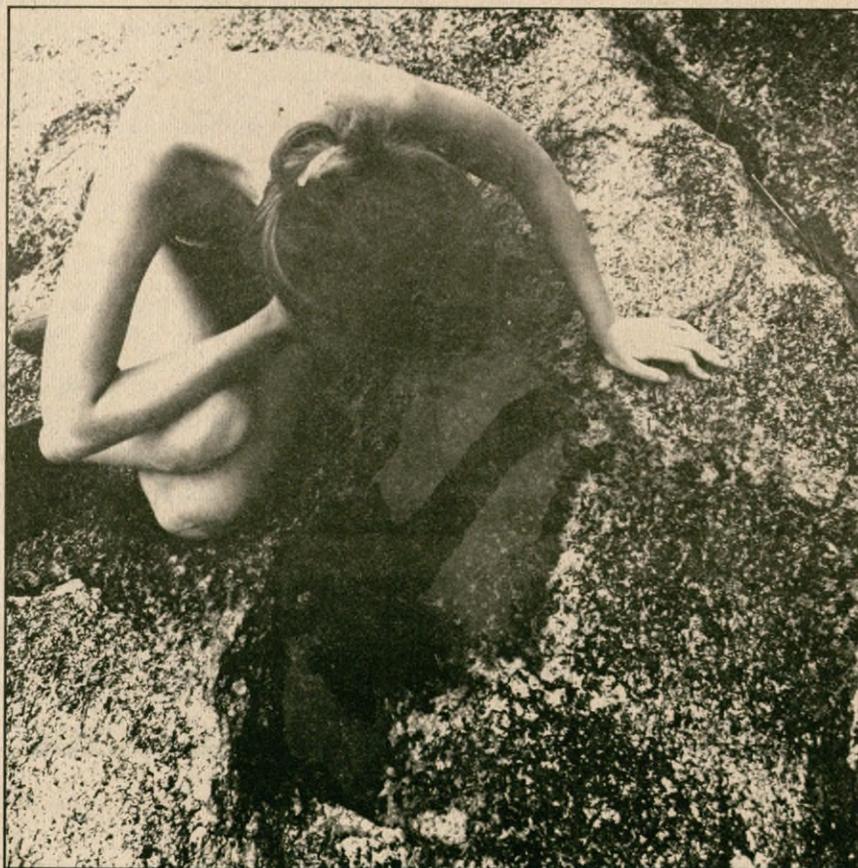
1012 West Alabama

527-9211

Your response to our "What Kind of Person Reads *Breakthrough*" questionnaire overwhelmed us. We were told by media analysts that a five per cent return was average; a ten per cent one exceptional. At press time, we had received almost 25 per cent. (On one day alone our "postage due" was \$35.) It was not only the numbers that amazed us but the time you took in responding—sometimes with added pages of comments. A newspaper is its subscribers, and we value thoughtful reader feed-back. Your comments were positive, perceptive, often witty and gutsy enough to say what's wrong even when it hit close to home. Many of you expressed interest in the findings. Lynne Mutchler, a professional data analyst, has offered to code the responses, and we will publish our reader profile in the near future. We were just as curious as you are to see what kind of person reads *Breakthrough*. Thank you for telling us the paper is needed. Somehow it's made all the hard work and long hours worthwhile. You encouraged the entire staff. It was like an early birthday present. (*Breakthrough* will be two years old in January.)

janis fowles · totsie stewart · marilyn marshall jones · suzanne paul · nancy landau · laura garza · jean ann whithington · al mathias · glynda robbins · debora diamond hicks

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george kause · gay block · beth parker · teresina b guerra · margaret sass · f. carter smith

**SCHOOL BOARD  
con't. from p. 7**

same line, Hoyt would like to see more emphasis on recreation, rather than competition. He also believes that HISD is fulfilling Title IX guidelines. Humphreys, on the other hand, prefers sexual segregation in physical education classes, while Harris has no comment at all.

**2. Magnet Schools**

All candidates in District VI viewed the magnet schools favorably, and two believe that they have been positive desegregation efforts. Humphreys calls the program "a step forward," while Harris sees the magnet schools as better than other integration attempts so far. He adds, however, that parents still need to change their attitudes. Hoyt wants the program strengthened and expanded, particularly in terms of city-wide vocational schools. Davis would also like to see more vocational magnet programs, and sees adequate transportation as an additional need to increase effectiveness of schools.

**3. Sexist Texts**

All candidates questioned believed that sexist texts or teaching materials need to be scrutinized. Harris feels that there are problems in the area which need to be worked on. Humphrey stands against any sexism at all in the classroom, while Hoyt encourages emphasis on the individual rather than on one's sex. He also advocates working publicly for a better textbook situation. More concretely, Davis recommends the establishment of a textbook committee, or even a parent advisory committee to review materials.

**4. Migrant Children**

Two candidates, Davis and Hoyt, believe that children of

aliens or migrants should not receive a tuition-free education. Davis adds that any child attending school should be supported by parent-paid taxes, though she is willing to abide by the court's decision in the lawsuit in progress on this subject. Both Harris and Humphreys reserve comment on the matter.

**5. Women Administrators**

The candidates are divided on the question of bringing more women into upper administrative posts. Davis promises to promote qualified individuals, without specifically seeking out women. Humphreys, taking a similar view, would promote strictly on merit. Hoyt, also advocating merit promotions, believes that this action would obviously place more women in top positions. Harris, contrary to the other candidates, would make deliberate attempts to find qualified women, though he is unsure of the board's power in this area.

**6. Sex Education**

All candidates agree that sex education does have a place in the schools, though they differed in specifics. Davis would like to see sex education as an elective taught by a specialist. Hoyt approves of the concept of a physiology course which teaches the function of the human body, but would reserve the teaching of moral values for parents and churches. Harris would support a sex education program if it were "sensible." Humphreys adds that the dissemination of this information by the schools is preferable to other methods of spreading it.

**7. Gay Teachers**

Two out of four candidates in District VI would follow the Supreme Court decision. "Whatever they say, we'd have to abide by," notes Davis. Humphreys,

also in favor of the Supreme Court decision, adds, "I am opposed to gay teachers, but if the district objected to this view I would go along with them." Hoyt holds an alternative opinion. "If they go public, they lose their effectiveness. Anytime a person's personal life intrudes with their work, I'm agin' it!" She adds that she would not dismiss a gay teacher, otherwise. Harris was stumped by this question, and decided to reserve comment.

**DISTRICT VII**

School board trustee candidates in the seventh district are Stephen Haase, Tarrant Fenaley, and Jack Josey Terence.

**1. Coed Phys-Ed**

Both Fenaley and Terence are in favor of coed physical education with reservations; both are concerned about the ability of girls to withstand the rigors of football. Haase believes there is some validity in coed classes, but is not really convinced either way.

**2. Magnet Schools**

Fenaley, on the committee overseeing magnet schools within the district, is satisfied that they are serving their purpose. Haase agrees, mentioning that it has given children new opportuni-

ties. Terence would like to see the idea expanded, including a neighborhood school concept which would change school boundaries and create new, but local, racial mixes in schools.

**3. Sexist Texts**

Terence would refer any issue on sexist materials to the proper committee, while Fenaley is uncertain about what sexism is. Haase, on the other hand, definitively says, "I wouldn't allow it."

**4. Migrant Children**

Both Fenaley and Terence feel that any non-citizens should be denied schooling. Haase, however, says, "I don't see how we can turn them down," and hopes for federal money to help the situation.

**5. Women Administrators**

Fenaley reports that he would advise hiring qualified women, but wouldn't recruit any. Terence feels that there should be an emphasis on balancing past discrimination, but also would not actively recruit. Haase, who wants to redo the structure of top level administration anyway, feels that this would be an excellent opportunity to bring women in. "It's a must," he says.

**6. Sex Education**

Fenaley and Terence are both in favor of sex education in the schools, if carried out in a "professional and dignified" way. Haase

would start sex-ed classes in first grade, "in small doses," because, he notes, "kids keep getting smarter."

**7. Gay Teachers**

Haase's reaction to gay teachers in HISD is this: "Keep it in the closet. I couldn't support it if I found out." If Fenaley found a teacher actively advocating homosexuality in the classroom, he would "take some action—but on a case by case basis." Terence does not personally approve of a homosexual lifestyle, but says "If people want to do it, we can't regulate it." He admits that he would be reluctant to fire a teacher for this reason alone, but if "there were a chance in a thousand that a schoolchild could be misled or molested" he would have to consider action. He would rather warn future teachers of possible consequences than fire those presently employed.



**224-9460**

*Patricia Anne O'Kane*

Attorney & Counselor at Law

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**Roberta K. Tillinghast, President**  
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# To&From

general announcements

Editor, Jeannine M. E. Klein

The Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union will hold an open house Nov. 10, 3 to 8 pm. Credit union members may vote for officers or become one, or be involved in other ways. There is at this time a vacancy in the board and credit committee to be filled by appointment. Contact the HAFFCU office for more information on the position or the open house.

The winner is . . . Dottie Erwin. Erwin's entry was selected as the winning poster for the National Women's Conference (see page 2). She receives \$500 for her poster, which will be displayed during the Conference. The poster will also be reproduced and sold will also be reproduced and sold as a conference souvenir. The runners-up in the poster contest were Kirsten Soderlind and Marlene Matalon, whose posters will also be on display.

Teachers wanted for non-credit, informal, evening and weekend classes such as assertiveness training, rape prevention, do-it-yourself divorce, travel tips, gourmet cooking, disco dance, buying antiques, dream interpretation, career workshops, refinishing furniture, car buying, etc. All ideas welcome. Call 721-5911 for information.

Female wanted to share large, five-bedroom co-op, coed house. Your own bedroom. Use of rest of house including darkroom, computer, sundeck. Inexpensive, friendly, close to Rice/Med Center. 668-6499, evenings.

Roommate wanted. Feminist non-smoker to share large Montrose house. Privacy fence, fireplace, lots of windows. Call 529-5308.

The Greater Houston Chapter of Federally Employed Women will sponsor a happy hour on Saturday, Nov. 19, beginning at 5 pm at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 801 Calhoun. All federally employed persons attending the International Women's Year Conference are invited!!



## Massage

To explore the spaciousness within  
To balance energy

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Beth Kendrick  
529-5308

The Women's Group of the First Unitarian Church, meets at 10 am on Sunday mornings, at 5210 Fannin, in Room 11. Future topics include Politics and a Woman's Face, with Bette Graham White, Oct. 30; and Working Relationships between Men and Women, Nov. 6. The meetings are open to the public. Mary Anne Krupsak, Lt. Gov. of N.Y., is tentatively scheduled to address the Women's Group and church membership during the National Women's Conference, Sunday, Nov. 20 at 10 am. To confirm call Lena Shipman at 627-0614 (evenings).

## health & body awareness

In recognition of International Women's Year, Baylor College of Medicine is sponsoring a free symposium, **About Women In Medicine** on Saturday, November 5, from 1 to 5 p.m., at Cullen Auditorium, Baylor College of Medicine. It will consist of a series of lectures to explore cultural conditions associated with biological differences between the sexes, and the implications these differences have for the delivery of medical care in our society. Topics will include "Images of Women Patients in Medical Advertising," "Psychosomatic Medicine and the Woman Patient," "Rape and Woman Battering: Crisis Intervention," and "Child Care and the Woman Professional."

The following classes and workshop are offered by Beth Kendrick and Alethea Dollison, feminist counselors and body workers. For further information and registration call 529-5308 or 723-6699. **Body Awareness Class I** - For women with little or no previous experience in yoga, breathing or massage techniques. Will focus on our own patterns of tensions and ways we can release this blocked energy. Class will meet for five Monday nights, when a minimum of six women register. Fee is \$25, \$10 deposit. Facilitated by Beth Kendrick only. **Body Awareness Class II** - For women with some experience in massage techniques. Will focus on breath awareness, massage, polarity and reflexology. Class will meet on six Tuesdays, 7:30 to 10 pm, with a minimum of 9 women. Fee from \$25 to \$35; \$10 deposit. **Women's Weekend Workshop**-As women we are concerned with the physical and emotional healing of each of us as whole, unified human beings. To help facilitate an awareness and integration of the various aspects of ourselves we will draw on techniques from Gestalt counseling, meditations, breathing, body awareness, and a political consciousness of ourselves as women in a male-dominated society. We will create a supportive environment in which you may choose to work on relationships, growth, change, or the release of energy. Meals are included and space is available to spend the night. A maximum of 16 women. Fee from \$30 to \$45. \$10 deposit. Beginning Friday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m., and ending with lunch Sunday, Nov. 6.



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## WIRES

Women's  
Information and  
Referral  
Exchange  
Service

527-0718

The Texas Department of Human Resources (formerly the Department of Public Welfare) announced that federal and Texas Medicaid funds are no longer available for most abortions, including those for rape and incest victims. Medicaid funds may be claimed only when the attending physician has certified in writing on the claim form that the mother's life would be endangered were the fetus carried to term. Termination of ectopic pregnancies are, for example, still eligible for funds. Also, services for the prompt treatment of rape or incest victims before the fact of pregnancy is established, including the use of drugs or devices to prevent implantation of the fertilized ovum, are still authorized Medicaid services. For more specific information, contact the Department of Human Resources.

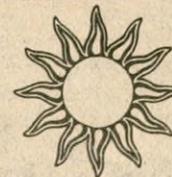
**SAFARI** Adventures in Body Awareness: is a growth studio that offers products and workshops to celebrate sexual freedom and body awareness for women. The books that **SAFARI** offers focus on sexual enrichment. Some of the books that are available are: *Liberating Masturbation*, A Meditation on Self Love by Betty Dodson, \$4; *My Playbook About Sex for Women*, invented and handlettered by Joani Blank, it is full of play, body awareness exercises and fantasy games for self discovery and enjoyment, \$3.50; *Good Vibrations: The Complete Woman's Guide to Vibrators*, by Joani Blank, \$2.25, an excellent book to purchase if you are considering one of the following body massagers: Wahl Deluxe Massager, an electric massager with 2 speeds and 4 attachments, \$20.40; Wahl 4-in-1 Body Massager, an electric 1 speed with 4 attachments, \$17.25. Both massagers are fully guaranteed for one year. All prices include tax and mailing charges. Send check or money order to Safari, P. O. Box 4028, Austin, Texas 78765. Send 25 cents for catalogue, free with orders.



The Texas Kilgore College Rangerettes will perform at the opening night of an exhibit at the Contemporary Arts Museum by Barcelona artist Antoni Miralda. Miralda has been staging color-oriented events with central elements of color, food, and ritual since the late sixties. The opening night performance begins at 7:45 pm on Oct. 28 at CAM. The exhibition, with the Rangerettes' highly developed formations as a major theme, will run through Nov. 27.

## seminars

**Mothers and Daughters: Together and Apart** is a workshop that will give mothers and daughters the chance to explore together the changing stages of their relationship, and the ways that they support and stretch one another. It will offer a time of sharing their fantasies of one another and of themselves as women. It will be a time of talking about what every daughter does for Mom's sense of herself as a woman, and to discover together the specialness of being Daughter and of being Mother. It will take place Saturday, November 5 from 9 am to 4 pm. Angie Grindon, Beth Stecker and Carol Stecker are discussion leaders. Fee is \$30 per person, \$40 per mother-daughter pair. For registration and information call Interface, 626-7990.



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