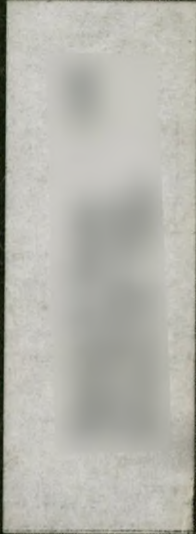


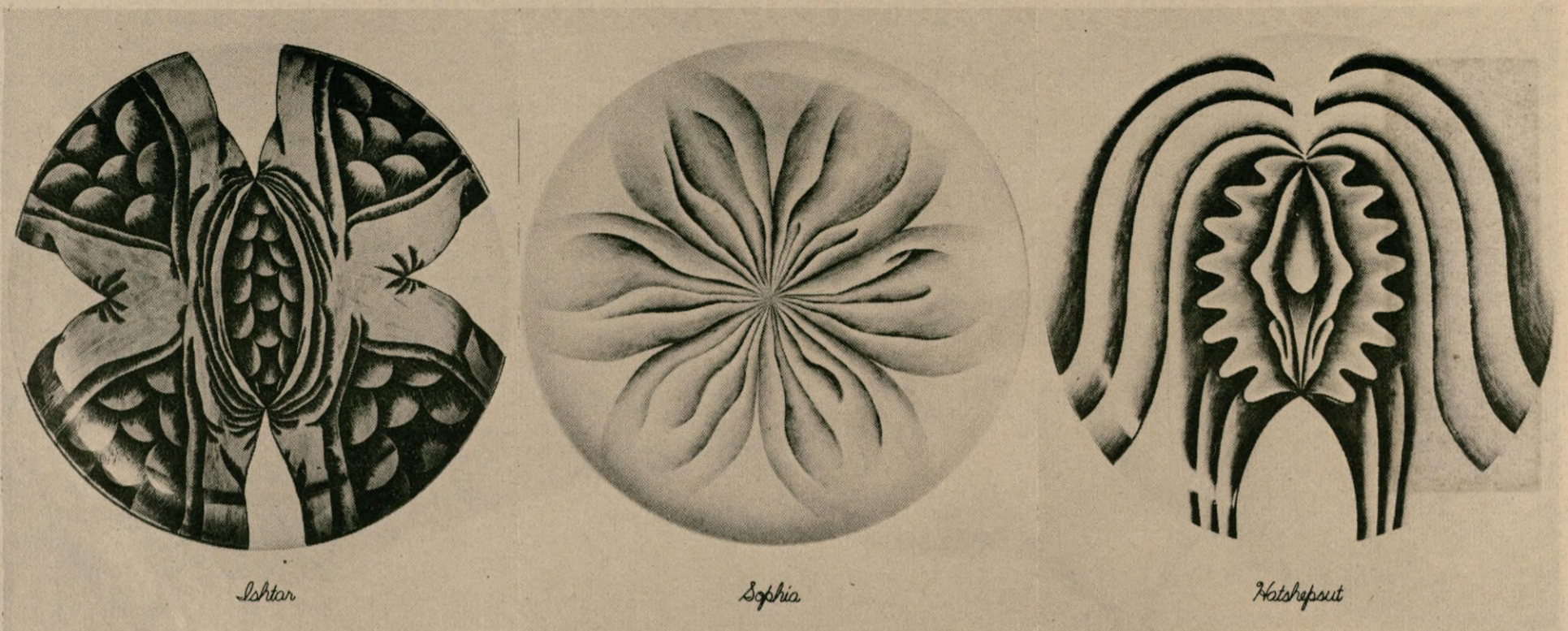
Houston
Breakthrough

Where Women Are News
June 1979 \$1



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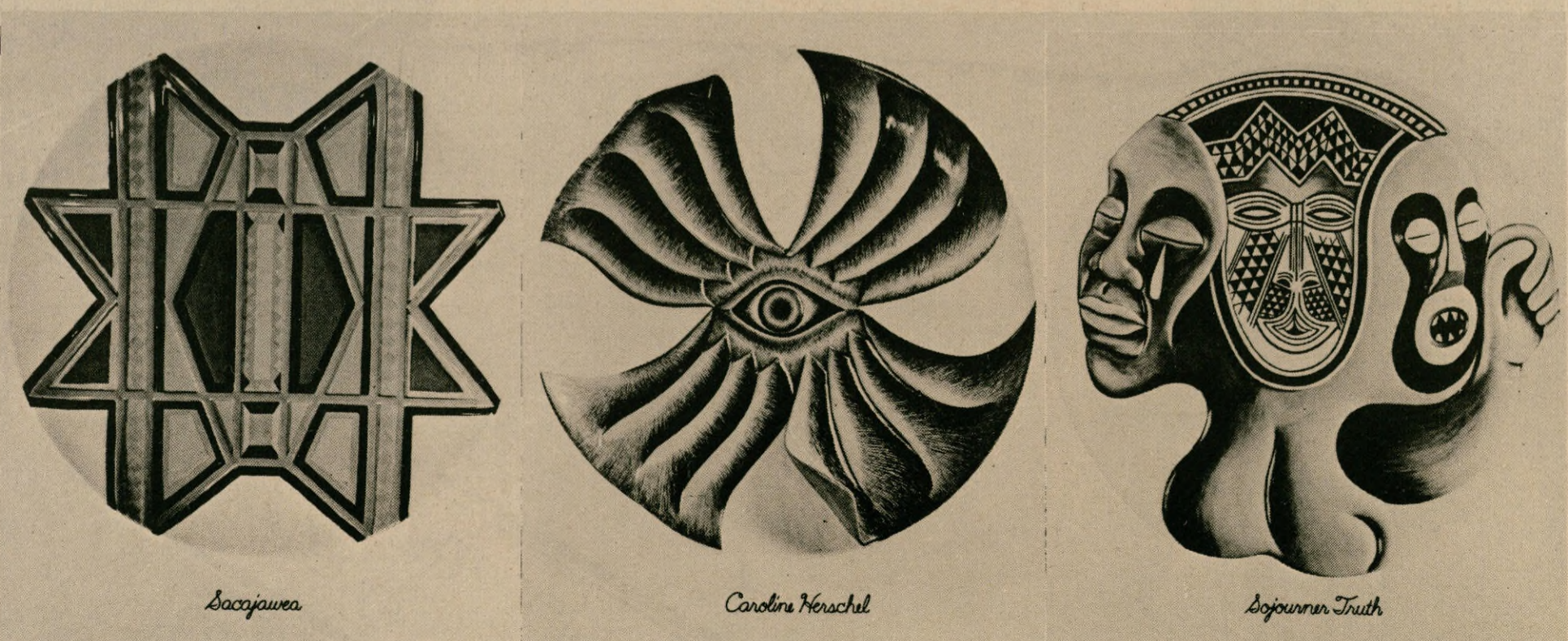
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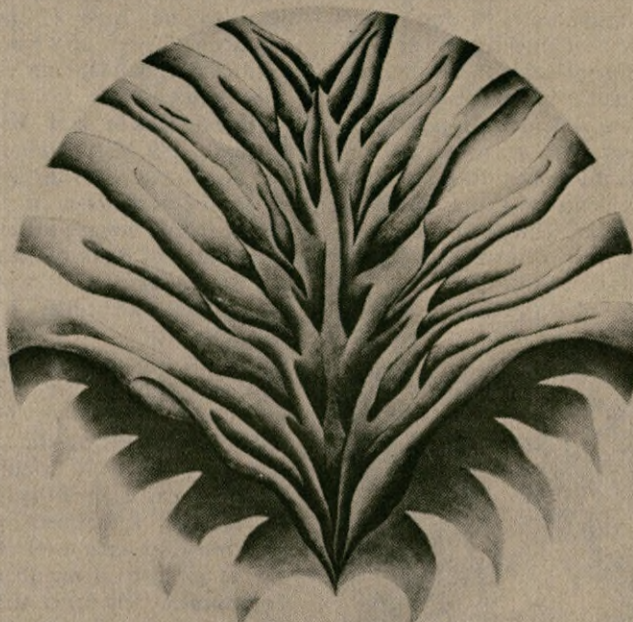
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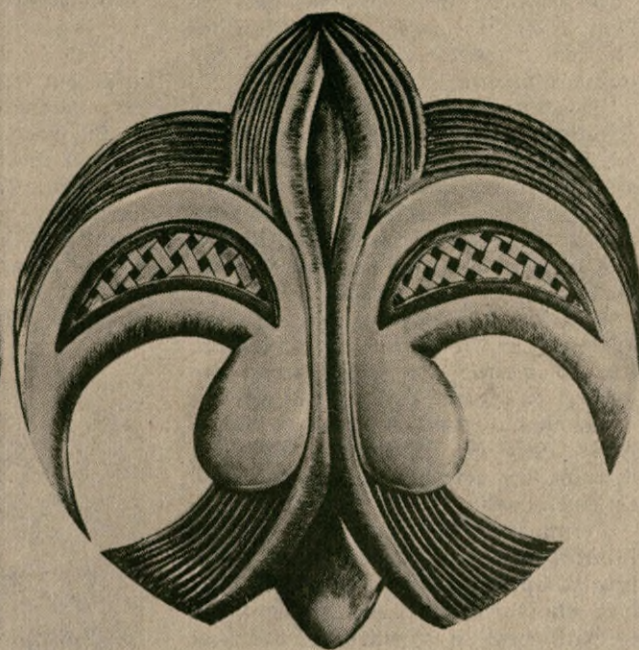
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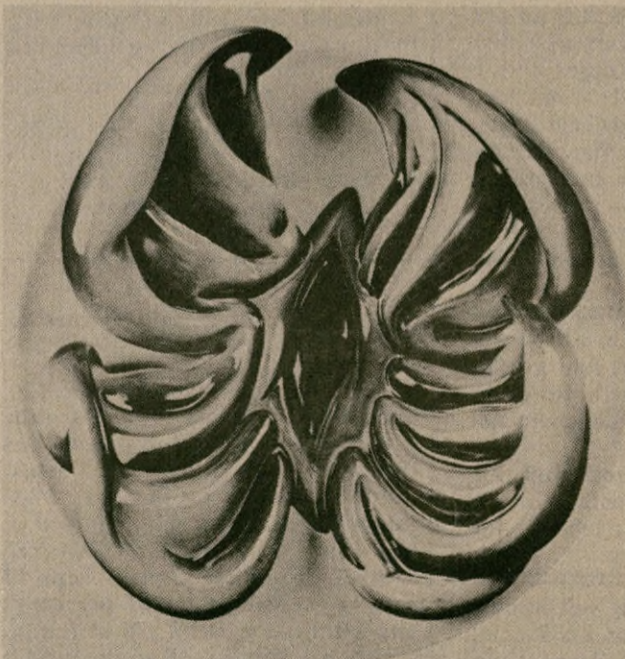
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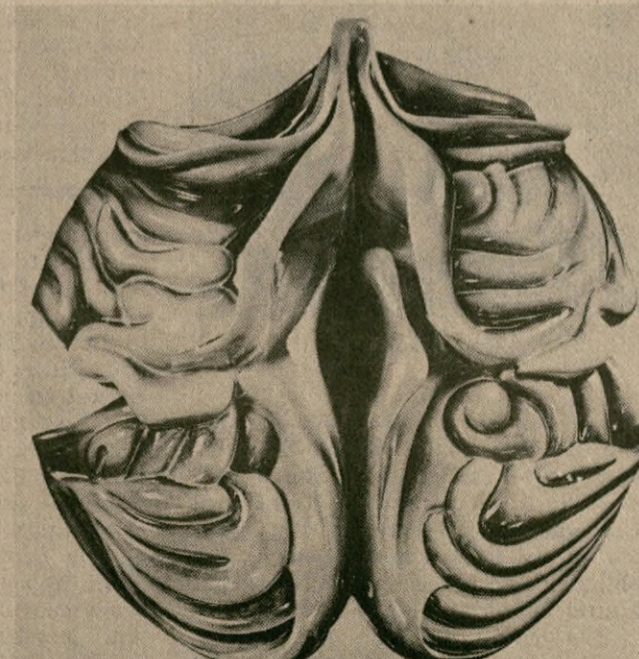
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Susan B. Anthony



Elizabeth Blackwell



Georgia O'Keeffe

Newsmakers

Houston
Breakthrough
June, 1979 Vol. 4, no. 5

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Second-class postage paid at Houston,
Texas.

Houston Breakthrough USPS 413130,
is published monthly (except for the
bi-monthly issues of July-August and
December-January) by the Break-
through Publishing Company, 1708
Rosewood, Houston, TX 77004; P.O.
Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004; Tel.
713/526-6686. Subscriptions are \$7
per year, newsstand \$1.00 per copy.
This publication is on file at the In-
ternational Women's History Archive
in the Special Collections Library,
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
60201. Postmaster: Send Form 3579
to Houston Breakthrough, P.O. Box
88072, Houston, TX 77004.

"The Mother, the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit," is how Fr. William Gibbons referred to the trinity in a mothers' day mass last month.

This startling departure from the traditional Catholic liturgy is not an isolated instance. Catholic clergy in Houston are becoming increasingly aware of women's issues, thanks to the efforts of the local chapter of St. Joan's Alliance, a Catholic organization dedicated to securing equality for women.

Last May 30, the feast day of St. Joan of Arc, the Houston group presented "Joanie awards" to clergy who have worked to advance the status of women.

Gibbons received an award, as did Fr. A. R. Doga, Fr. John Keller, Fr. John Perusina, Fr. Jerry Winkelman and Rev. Cy Wuenschel.

Perusina is the first priest in the Houston-Galveston diocese to hire a woman as a pastoral minister. Winkelman, a high-school chaplain, has encouraged girls to participate in a variety of liturgical roles.

All the recipients were judged to have shown a sensitivity to women's issues, particularly by their use of non-sexist language in the liturgy.

"We hoped by acknowledging those who are doing some positive work, we could also prod the ones who are standing still," said spokesperson Janis Ross.

"We'll be starting this summer with a session on how to handle anger," said Ross, "because we think the next two programs will generate some. In July we'll take up what the early church fathers thought and wrote about women. In August, we'll explore contemporary manifestations of misogyny, including the political implications of rape."

St. Joan's Alliance is open to women and men who support the organization's goals. For information contact: Janis Ross at 529-3488 or Sydney Moroney at 469-2648.



KAREN SILKWOOD

The jury awarded \$10 million in punitive damages and \$500,000 in actual damages to the estate of Karen Silkwood in a suit against the Kerr-McGee Corporation of Oklahoma City. Kerr-McGee was accused of negligence in the plutonium contamination of Silkwood's apartment in November, 1974.

The jury's decision against Kerr-McGee could set a precedent that will allow residents contaminated by the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania to take legal action of their own, which could result in more jury decisions against the nuclear industry.

Judge Frank G. Theis, commenting on the jury's decision, said, "I don't think it's fair to say that nuclear power is on trial, but I think it's fair to ask the jury to send the nuclear industry a message."

Silkwood was killed in a mysterious one-car accident while en route to give a *New York Times* reporter documentation on safety problems at the Kerr-McGee plant in Oklahoma. The documents were never found, the evidence indicating another car forced Silkwood's off the road was presented at the trial.



PAGE LAWSON

Page Lawson, director of Volunteer Services at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, has been named the first recipient of the Joan Hanlon Memorial Award for Outstanding Professionalism in the field of volunteer administration. This award honors the late Joan Hanlon, former director of the Volunteer Action Center of Houston, who died earlier this year.

Since Lawson became director of volunteers in 1973, she has increased the number of volunteers from 250 to over 700 and has expanded the number of department programs from 18 to 33. The volunteers contribute over 6,000 hours each week to provide service and care to cancer patients at the Institute.

A graduate in psychology at Louisiana State University, Lawson serves as president of the Houston Area Council of Staff Directors of Hospital Volunteers, and is a former board member for the Volunteer Action Center. She is also a member of the M.D. Anderson Chaplaincy Committee.

Former White House aide Midge Costanza is coming to Houston to join in the celebration of Gay Pride Week, June 22-30. She will appear at a gathering in Spotts Park on Buffalo Bayou following the Gay Pride Parade on Westheimer. Also appearing will be Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force, Houston Congressman Mickey Leland, and San Francisco City Supervisor Harry Britt.

As the first woman to hold the title of Assistant to the President, her frequently quoted comments on women's rights, human rights and the ERA provided much of the liberal veneer the current presidency enjoyed in its early months. Costanza astounded the nation by inviting gay leaders to her White House office to discuss problems facing gay Americans. She held the position for 20 months, resigning in the wake of a power play among Carter's top aides.

Three Houston businesswomen were honored on June 12 by the Greater Houston Chapter of Women in Communications for outstanding contributions to the community.

Hazel McKee and Marie Oser were elected 1979 Matrix honorees and Susan Bischoff received the Headliner award.

McKee is assistant vice president and manager of women's services at First City National Bank of Houston. In 1976, she established the women's services department, the first of its kind in Houston.

Oser is founder and executive director of Texas Child Care '76 Inc., a non-profit organization which promotes public awareness of child care. She also serves on the U.S. Commission for the International Year of the Child.

Bischoff, a business writer for the *Houston Chronicle* received the Headliner Award given to a member of Women in Communications for contributions in her profession as well as to the organization. Bischoff has been a reporter with the *Chronicle* since 1974.



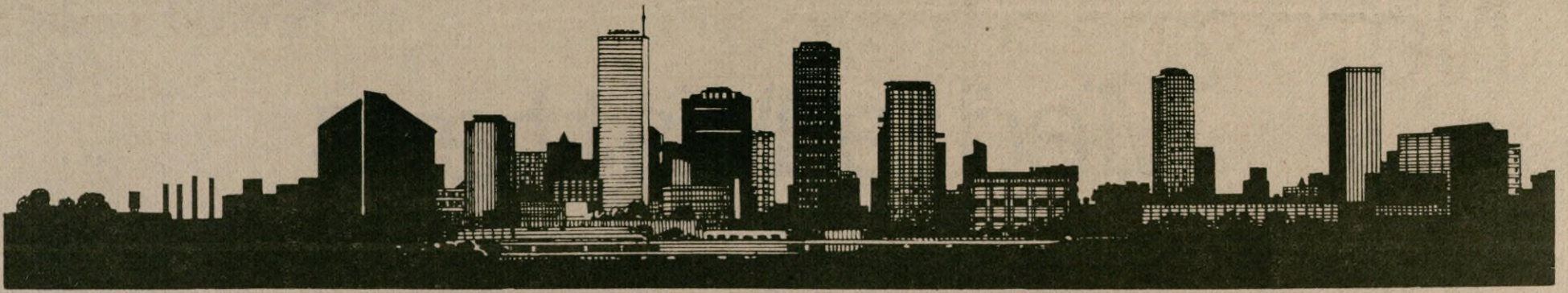
SUE BENNETT

On May 17, following a trial in State district court, Family Connection counselor Sue Bennett was found innocent of sexually abusing a child. Bennett is one of four counselors at the halfway house for runaway teenagers who have been cleared of charges stemming from an investigation by juvenile police officers. Bail bond and legal defense for Bennett totaling \$10,500 is being paid by donations raised by the Sue Bennett Fund Committee. Donations are urgently needed and may be sent to The Sue Bennett Fund, 1390 W. Pierce, Houston, Tx. 77019. For further information call 527-8712. *Breakthrough* will carry a detailed report of the arrests and trials of the Family Connection counselors in the July-August issue.

Rancher and E.R.A. lobbyist Norma Inman Cude Schreiner is the first woman ever elected (May 18) to the board of directors of the South Texas Longhorn Association.

Schreiner breeds registered longhorns and quarter horses in Mountain Home, Texas and has worked as a lobbyist for the Equal Rights Amendment.

On July 2, Susan B. Anthony will become the first woman to appear on a U.S. coin. In her honor, the National Organization for Women suggests that all feminists pledge their first fifteen Susan B Anthony dollars to the N.O.W. National E.R.A. Ratification Fund—one dollar for each unratified state.



Bill Narum

COMMENTARIES

by nikki van hightower

Never Give a Woman a Gun

I have always been somewhat amused by the reaction of some men to the idea of women in the military, particularly women in combat. In fact, this could be the issue that could block any resumption of draft registration.

Perhaps I could better understand the resistance if women were safe and protected in civilian life. However, there is not a single little girl in our society that does not grow up with the awareness that she is not really safe on the streets, that women are perceived as easy victims of all crime, and that they are the primary targets of rape.

As more and more data come out on sexual and domestic crimes, we are also becoming sadly cognizant of the fact that the home is not a particularly safe place for women either.

So, why all this fuss about women in combat? When one gives the matter much serious thought, it seems quite logical that women, above all, should be trained in combat techniques, first for a lifestyle that demands self-defense, and second, for national defense. After all, life for women in peacetime, will, in many cases, keep them well trained for wartime.

I suggest that those who feel so strongly about women not serving in combat should start by saving them from their combat roles in civilian life for which they are currently untrained. Once that is taken care of, then we should deal with the issue of women in military combat.

Another reason all this flap about women in the military amuses me is that it totally ignores women's past and present contributions to our national defense. During the Senate debate on the extension of the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, when Senator William L. Scott of Virginia proposed a substitute amendment which would exempt women from military combat duty, even Barry Goldwater had to speak out against the inconsistencies involved in the effort. He stated during the debate, "As the Senator knows, I have always resisted women going into combat. However, today we are training women in the U.S. Military Academy, and in the Merchant Marine." Senator Goldwater also quoted the following public testimony made by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

"When I was Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force in Vietnam I presented over 200 Purple Hearts. We do not give Purple Hearts except to people wounded in combat. These were women serving as nurses in hospitals, serving as nurses in ambulances, and so forth, which the North Vietnamese bombed. So, before you talk about preventing women from going into combat we have to have a new definition of it."

Many women have been killed or injured in combat during all wars in which we have engaged, and yet this fact gets totally ignored in the debates over women's role in the military. Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell III, commander of the Fifth Army recently stated, "I don't think we, as a body politic, are prepared to see women come home in body bags or as multiple amputees." In a sense, he is right. Although it has happened we, as a society, don't seem to be willing to hear about it or face up to the fact that it has already happened. Since there is no demand for women to prove their "manhood," there is just no glory to be gained from sacrifices.

Is it really worse to see women in body bags or as multiple amputees than men? If the answer to that is yes, does that imply that we place greater value on women's lives than men's lives? It would be hard to convince most women of that, particularly the ones who have been the victims of male violence. So if greater value of women is not behind this debate, what is? Could it be the desire to keep women separated, disadvantaged in other areas of life, and keep their image weak—so men can be strong?

Energy Crisis: Fuel for a New Era?

No single issue since the Viet Nam War has brought into question the viability of our government and economic institutions as has the issue of energy. Yet I sense that what we have so far seen is only the tip of a gigantic iceberg. The implications of the energy issue are so vast that we can only speculate on its potential for change in our society from what we know today.

On this issue, unlike that of Viet Nam, it is not only the young who are being most immediately and directly affected. It is, as usual, the poor, the elderly and those on fixed incomes who are being hardest hit by rising energy costs. Low income families, many of whom spend half their budgets on energy bills during the heating season, are also forced to use relatively large amounts of energy because they often live in substandard housing, which is inefficient to heat and therefore especially costly.

Most of us who fall into the vast middle class have already had to do some conscious reallocation of our spending priorities and, in some cases, modifications in our lifestyle, to adjust to rising costs and shortages.

The problems related to energy will leave no one out. As shortages continue, the debate over allocation of resources will draw in rich and poor alike. The struggle for access is going to be intense,

for it is tantamount to the struggle for existence itself.

Just as no one will be able to escape the impact of shortages, nor will anyone be able to escape the impact of pollution. The reliance on *money-making* energy sources has drawn us in the direction of high polluting energy sources. "Unmeterable" sources have received scant attention from the energy industry. Water and air pollution and the radioactive pollutants from a nuclear energy plant accident cannot be confined to the ghettos. We cannot put freeways around it or over it, or build fences high enough to keep it out of our bodies.

Acceptance is rapidly spreading in this country that the energy matter has made us vulnerable as a nation—vulnerable to exploitation from the outside, vulnerable to exploitation and turmoil on the inside. We're beginning to understand the tradeoffs that have been made for the right to gluttonous usage of energy. At this point, all alternatives look pretty grim.

Disillusionment and fear are growing that our future is badly out of control. People do not know whom to believe anymore, or if anyone really knows what they are doing on the energy matter. Cynicism is the order of the day.

A recent Associated Press-NBC poll indicated that 68 percent of the public still believes that the oil shortage is a hoax. Many consumers anticipate that as soon as prices get high enough, perhaps to \$1.50 per gallon, the shortage will at least temporarily disappear while the oil companies reap their windfall profits. Regular reports of investigations, indictments and convictions of oil company executives tend to confirm the worst suspicions of the complicity of the oil companies in the present shortages of fuel.

The nuclear energy issue has brought a new and painful awareness of the limitations of science to solve our problems. Science, the religion of the last few decades, may not know what it is doing. Some scientists vigorously resist this demotion to humanity. They insist that they still have the answers, that there is absolutely no health risk from low levels of radiation, and that Three Mile Island only proved that the system works. However, hundreds of other distinguished physicians and scientists cite nuclear power plants as an "unprecedented threat to public health." Although there are still believers, it is becoming increasingly evident to the public that we can no longer place our health, safety and future in the hope that some scientific cavalry will come riding over the hill to save us at just the right moment. David Rosenbaum, a consultant to the General Accounting Office and a former professor of theoretical physics at Boston Univer-

sity commented, "The public has been deluded into thinking that if all the scientists just buckle down, they can figure it all out. That's just not true when you have a modern, complicated technology. You just can't calculate everything."

Probably the biggest toll in loss of credibility brought on by the energy issue has been the federal government. A recent congressional report put out by the Office of Technology Assessment stated that neither the federal government nor the energy industry is regarded by the public as a reliable source of information about energy. I'm afraid it is far worse than the report suggests. There is a serious question of whether our present leaders, given the structure within which they are operating, are capable of establishing an energy policy at all. So far, they have been collectively incapable of defining the "public interest." The immediate nature of the energy issue has not allowed them to avoid the difficulties of long-range, far-reaching policy decisions, as they are usually able to do, through reducing them to a series of non-threatening, incremental decisions. The big stakes are high in this matter. Everybody is into the act. Big money is involved in all the alternatives. These are uncomfortable times for politicians, and so no policy is being made.

Recessions, depressions, wars—these are not unlikely outcomes of the present energy situation.

So far, the government and those economic institutions associated with energy have not given us much reason to hope for a secure future for our country. Perhaps this issue simply outstrips their capabilities for problem-solving. Let's hope that their impotence and weakness will draw out our strengths and creativity. Maybe our present leaders are only capable of functioning in a wasteful environment. Now may be the time for us all to rethink our lives, as well as our ideas of acceptable qualities of leadership. Maybe while we are sitting in gas lines we can use the time to ask ourselves if our technology has really taken us in the direction we would like to go, if it is enhancing our humanity or undermining it, if we should be less willing to turn over our futures to scientists, corporations, and big government, and finally, if they were so smart, and really knew what was best for us, why we are sitting in these gas lines, sweating, breathing carbon monoxide fumes and fighting off rising blood pressure.

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower is the executive director of the Houston Area Women's Center.

Media Matters

by gabrielle cosgriff

"I just can't take any more," said Laura Furman, resigning her job as senior editor of *Houston City Magazine*. "I thought about it hard over the Memorial Day weekend and decided that unless I was hurting people by resigning, I wanted nothing more than to do that."

Furman resigned because *City's* new owner, Francois de Menil, FDM Publications, pulled a story on the South Texas Nuclear Project (STNP) from the magazine's June issue. De Menil had already enraged staffers by yanking the same story from the May issue (See *Media Matters*, May 1979), then had mollified them temporarily by saying the story needed more research and checks for libel.

At a luncheon with the staff on May 16, de Menil said the story could be printed "whenever David wants to run it."

Editor David Crossley, who had assigned the story originally, and who shared the byline on it with Andrew Sansom, immediately put it in the June issue.

"All of a sudden there was this containment, as Haldeman used to say in the White House."

—Sansom

That issue was at the printers, on the boards, when de Menil pulled it again. "That was it for me," said Furman.

In her letter of resignation, she expressed her concern that killing the story "reflects an attitude toward the readers I cannot condone: that is, a magazine is only a business whose duty it is to make money . . . but any form of media also bears the responsibility to make known information that is important to the health and well-being of its public. . .

"In a city that is choking on its own boosterism, I was convinced that the combination of good hard stories and good service pieces would make our magazine a success, and one we could be proud of. I still have hopes that this can come to pass, but I no longer feel the dedication and energy necessary to carry on as senior editor."

That was also the last straw for Crossley and Sansom, as far as their story was concerned. They withdrew it from *City* and made it available to *Houston Breakthrough*, *Texas Observer*, and *Galveston County's In Between* magazine.

"When the story was pulled the first time, I was depressed," said Sansom, "but then when it happened a second time, I felt the situation shouldn't have happened. All of a sudden there was this containment, as Haldeman used to say in the White House."

"I called Francois in New York and told him I would like to have this story published, and published in this market. He said 'give me a few more days.' We flew the research and libel materials up to him. The next thing I heard, it wasn't

in the June issue."

"This story exists by itself," said Crossley, "and is apart from my position as editor of the magazine. I wanted it to get out to the people of Houston."

So why did de Menil kill the story? The reason he gave several reporters was that it needed more research and libel checks.

According to Furman, senior editor Linda Sylvan and research editor John Wilburn "packaged the research and did a research memo—that is, they made it understandable to a lay person as they were taught to do at Readers' Digest—and zipped it off to Francois in New York."

De Menil told KPRC-TV that he didn't want "a magazine that terrorizes people and makes them want to leave Houston."

Texas Monthly's page on "State Secrets," (May, 1979) reported, "Francois de Menil thought the story might embarrass his friend and neighbor George Brown, founder of Brown & Root, which is building the nuclear plant." No source for that information was given.

The same rationale was offered by

City staffers, but again, no one had any first-hand information. When I asked de Menil if that report were correct, he said, "No, not at all."

Whatever reasons de Menil gave for pulling the story seem academic considering this one fact: It was agreed on May 1 that the story would not appear in *City* magazine, at least not in the May issue.

In a letter of intent to buy the magazine, dated May 1, it was stated as a condition of sale that the magazine "delete the article on nuclear energy." The

"This story exists by itself and is apart from my position as editor. I wanted it to get out to the people of Houston."

—Crossley

letter was signed by publisher Gary Easterly and FDM Publications vice president Miles Glazer.

I asked both de Menil and Easterly if indeed the story was ever intended to run in the June issue, or if 'delete' meant 'kill.'

Easterly thought the letter was intended only to keep the story out of the May issue. He understood it could appear at a later date. Did he think the promise of running it in June could have been made to calm a restless staff? "That's possible," he said.

De Menil said, "In my mind it was not going to be run in June because more re-

search was needed." Then why did his staff include it in that issue and take it to the printer? "Well, I think there is a misunderstanding between them and me, and that's unfortunate," he said.

In a telephone interview, de Menil declined to discuss "conditions of sale" several times, saying "I don't think that's anybody's business." Finally, he said,

"In a city choking on its own boosterism, I was convinced that good hard stories and good service pieces would make our magazine one we could be proud of."

—Furman

"Look, if someone has leaked something to you, that's unfortunate, but it doesn't mean I have to comment on it."

Nor was he willing to comment on his plans for *City* magazine. "That would sort of take the wind out of whatever announcements we may make . . ."

Not much was forthcoming, either, on his recent trip to Cuba with local U.S. Congressman (and former Menil Foundation board member) Mickey Leland. De Menil had provided the private jet to fly Leland and his party to Cuba on an unofficial visit. Leland was received as a Member of Congress and had a 30-minute discussion with Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

De Menil took along a writer from Washington and a photographer from New York. When asked why he didn't take anyone connected with *City* magazine, de Menil replied, "A photographer is a photographer . . . the reporter was approved by the editorial staff. There was no one on staff who was capable of writing that . . ."

I asked, "Was the journalist chosen by the editorial staff?"

magazine. There will be a presence where there was none before, and that's just a fact of life."

Laura Furman had spoken of the independence of the staff at *City*. "We started out independent and it seemed to us, and maybe this was naive, that our problems were financial. This is like getting married for security and then finding

out that you're only allowed out of the house five minutes every day."

De Menil made no bones about his active participation in the magazine. "If they (the editorial staff) want all of the liabilities, then they can put up all of the money, and then they can . . . be independent. But as long as they're not sharing the liabilities they cannot expect to have a complete free rein. It's just normal business practice."

"That's life," said Crossley. "He does own the magazine."

In Between printed the story on Thursday, June 9. *Breakthrough* is running it in this issue (see box opposite page.)

The day the story broke in Galveston, KPRC-TV began a series of reports on the nuclear story and the situation at *City* magazine. They were the only local news organization to pick up on the story.

The *Washington Post* ran a story on it on June 10 and *Newsweek* has a story in their current issue. *The Houston Post* and the *Houston Chronicle* have not mentioned the story. The other Houston TV network affiliates have said nothing. KTRH Radio, when it finally covered the story the next Monday, quoted only the NRC spokesperson, who dismissed the allegations in the story as just problems in "record keeping." "They do not represent any real significance to the construction of the plant," he said.

Harold Scarlett, *Post* environmental writer, said *In Between* publisher Joe Murphy had promised him a copy of the story the day it broke. None was forthcoming for several days.

Scarlett commented about the story being on TV that night. "I'm a little teed off that he got it to a TV station and left us out in the cold," he said. "After reading the story, I frankly don't see what all the shouting was about. We have carried virtually all of this material already in the *Houston Post*."

Would Scarlett have used the story if he hadn't been "scooped" by the TV station? "I would have been more favorably inclined to do something with it," he said.

Had he written anything on the STNP in the last month? "No."



LAURA FURMAN resigned her position as senior editor of *City*

The *Austin American-Statesman* ran a story May 30 on a special investigation into the STNP by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, stemming from allegations made to federal officials during a routine inspection May 16-23. There was no local reporting of the investigation.

Carlos Byars, environmental reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*, feels that out-of-town publications are "catching up with matters that we covered some time back. Some people that are not in the media directly think we ought to be

down there camped on their doorstep, watching every weld made and printing every word that anybody says that objects to the plant and likewise ignore anything the company (HL&P) says about it. That's not the way this reporter works or this paper works. The presence of *Time-Life*, *Newsweek* etcetera does not impress me."

Like Scarlett, Byars has not reported on the STNP in the last month

KPRC's (June 9) 6 p.m. newscast had a story on the STNP and interviews with

Sansom and Crossley. The 10 p.m. report centered almost exclusively on the plant with Jim Parsons, an HL&P spokesperson, giving an on-site explanation of steps taken to correct some design flaws.

Parsons apparently called KPRC after the first report to complain that the report gave the impression the problems still existed when in fact they had been corrected.

According to KPRC news' George Caldwell, Parsons said they had "problems," not "big problems." By 10 p.m. the report noted that problems had existed, but they had been taken care of.

have something to tell us."

So what about the *City* story itself? Its critics have charged that it was not well-researched and was a weak story. "Much ado about not very much," said the *Post's* Scarlett. "I think there were grounds for killing it because of poor research," said Fox.

"This story was never intended to be the definitive piece on the situation," said Sansom. "It's simply an analysis of the public record. It's all from NRC documents and the congressional record."

Crossley agreed. "Andrew was going to do that first story and then go right on,

"If they want all of the liabilities, then they can put up all of the money, and then they can be independent."

—de Menil

Friday's edition of the *Matagorda County Tribune* ran an article headlined 'HL&P Disputes Television Story,' which read like an HL&P press release.

Parsons was the only source quoted in the story by staff reporter Jim Barlow. "Parsons said that he talked with KPRC news after the 6 p.m. report and that the 10 p.m. report was more accurate."

In light of the national concern over potential dangers of nuclear power, I asked Tom Fox of KPRC-TV news why there has been so little local reporting on the STNP. "The only thing done on this has been on HL&P's initiative," he said. "They call a news conference when they

he had a lot more material that he was working on. He will be doing more stories on it. They just won't be appearing in *City*."

"Yes, it's a small story," said Laura Furman, "but if we'd published it at the right time and then the NRC decided to investigate, wouldn't that have been nice for us?"

It is a fact that the de Menil family and George Brown have a long and close association, which has been perceived by some observers as the reason de Menil killed the story. He denies it.

(continued on next page)

Einstein's Ghost

by Andy Sansom and David Crossley

SOUTH TEXAS NUCLEAR PROJECT UNIT 1
APRIL 16-19, 1978
RO REPORT NO. 78-08:

"... on April 18, 1978, four outdated reactor containment drawings... were observed in the Unit 1 containment area where related work activities were being performed.

"... the inspector observed that the bolted joint of four structural beams to column 103... in the Unit 1 containment was only partially inspected as confirmed by the responsible [quality control] inspector, yet the record print... was marked indicating that the inspection was completed..."

SOUTH TEXAS NUCLEAR PROJECT UNIT 2
APRIL 17-20, 1978
RO REPORT NO. 78-07:

"The IE Inspector observed that although Unit No. 2 containment liner weld seam No. 95... had been only partially prepared for welding, fabrication check list, FCL 2th-17.0 had been signed indicating that preparation was complete and the seam was ready for welding. This is an infraction."

Typed at the top of another report: "Weld defects were found on 28 reactor coolant system support structural steel columns. Cause was inadequate welding techniques."

In such reports filed by inspectors acting on behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), one finds examples of failure to follow adequate welding procedures, to provide specified in-process inspection, to provide revised drawings; all infractions uncovered during inspections of the construction of one of the world's largest nuclear power plants, eight miles from Wadsworth, Texas, twelve miles from Bay City, and ninety miles from downtown Houston.

While the accident at Three Mile Island has increased the public debate over atomic energy, recent events at and near the site of the nuclear power plant Brown & Root, Inc., is building for a consortium of utility companies managed by Houston Lighting & Power (HL&P) may soon catapult the already beleaguered facility into national prominence.

The South Texas Project, due to be completed in 1983, is a joint project of HL&P, Central Power and Light Company in Corpus Christi, and the municipal utilities of Austin and San Antonio. Increasingly, the project is under attack from anti-nuclear power critics as well as from some former and present construction workers and inspectors. At least one lawsuit is in the offing in addition to allegations and evidence of faulty workmanship, improper procedures, carelessness and violations of safety standards. Workers and residents near the plant report tension on the job site, where there are signs of hostility between personnel assigned to build the plant and those assigned to ensure its safety.

Opponents of the project, as well as

(continued on next page)

MEDIA MATTERS

(continued from previous page)

In fairness, it can be argued that de Menil ran the risk of offending his family by killing the story. The de Menils are strong supporters of civil liberties. As Furman pointed out, "civil liberties are very important in the anti-nuclear movement, and Francois pulled that story."

It is also a fact that Brown has enjoyed a long and close association with Oveta Culp Hobby, owner of the *Houston Post*. Some observers have wondered if that were the reason the *Post* did not

handle the story. "Definitely not," said Scarlett. "Nobody has ever tried to muffle me."

It should also be pointed out that Mrs. Hobby, owner of the *Post*, is also Mrs. Hobby, owner of KPRC-TV, which ran the only series on the story.

And while we're on the subject, George Brown is on the board of the Houston Endowment, which owns the *Chronicle*, and Laura Furman worked for the Menil Foundation from 1970 to 1976.

There is still a lot of unrest at *City*, and a lot of ambivalence. The staff seem

to be smarting from their sudden loss of independence, and there is something of a "love-hate" relationship between them and their magazine, as publisher Easterly put it.

This is perhaps best characterized by Laura Furman. She resigned as senior editor because of a principle, but would like to continue as a contributing editor.

Speaking of her colleagues at *City*, Furman said, "It's been a decision on everyone's part to stay. Their intelligence and their integrity haven't changed and obviously this is a conflict that's going to go on. I only hope (de Menil)

will recognize the quality of the people he has there."

As for de Menil, it was rumored that when Andrew Young was in Houston recently, de Menil discussed with him the possibility of taking a rodeo to Nigeria.

I asked de Menil if he had any plans to take a rodeo to Nigeria. "Not at the moment," he said. "I have enough problems right now."

Gabrielle Cosgriff is an editor of Houston Breakthrough.

EINSTEIN'S GHOST

(continued from previous page)

opponents of nuclear power itself, have become increasingly active in the wake of the worst nuclear reactor accident in U.S. history, and are exchanging mind-boggling allegations about the South Texas Project from holes in the concrete to intimidation, coercion, and beatings.

One of the most widespread rumors is that one of the massive containment shells is one foot off-axis from the building it is meant to join through a maze of pipes. That rumor seems to have come from a September 11-14, 1978, inspection report that spoke of a "special unannounced investigation of allegations regarding a mislocation of the Unit 2 structure." But the report also says "No items of non-compliance were identified."

Part of the problem is in the interpretation of the language and form used in the inspection reports. For instance, under a section called "Enforcement Status" there are recurring citations of negligence or falsification of documents, or failure to keep track of the correct drawings related to the reactor's concrete and steel containment vessel, or failure to follow approved maintenance procedures for the cooling system and pumps; all critical parts of the facility. However, on the same pages on which these seeming infractions are explained, there are summaries that describe an inspection and these tend to end with "No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified." The summaries do not refer to the same inspection noted under "Enforcement Status," but the form has caused confusion, leading to cries of "cover-up."

Some of the problems being brought to light at the South Texas Nuclear Project are in areas of the plant in which problems arose in the film, *The China Syndrome* as well as at the \$1.1 billion plant at Three Mile Island, which went amuck after only three months of service.

Even while the cloud of low-level radiation hung over Pennsylvania like Einstein's ghost, word began to spread from Houston, Austin, San Antonio and the South Texas area that the HL&P

facility was a chaos of concrete, falsification and good-will problems. A San Antonio group called Citizens Concerned About Nuclear Power has been approved by the NRC as an intervener in hearings about the South Texas Project. Members of that group intend to show proof that the facility has construction deficiencies and say that the reactor vessel itself has a design defect. They also plan to prove that inspection documents have been falsified.

On April 5, San Antonio Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez wrote a letter to U.S. Attorney General Griffin B. Bell requesting an investigation of all the charges. In his letter Gonzalez said, "I have received reports that inspectors at the South Texas Nuclear project have been subject to various kinds of harassment and intimidation. . . An inspector named Perry claims to have been fired for insisting that safety standards in his section be met. Another inspector named Swayze claims in a lawsuit that he was fired for over-zealous inspections. Other less specific allegations have been reported to me, indicating that inspection documents have been falsified and that inspector initials have been forged."

These issues could come to a head soon during the course of a lawsuit filed by Dan Swayze, a former quality control inspector for Brown & Root, who now lives in Port Lavaca. Swayze had been monitoring concrete procedures and standards for two years at South Texas and doing well by normal measures of promotion and raises in pay. But Swayze apparently was a stickler and became a focal point of hostilities between concrete construction crews and quality control personnel on the job. He claims that after being questioned by superiors about bribery allegations against him, he was fired by Brown & Root. The NRC investigated the allegation and officially found that it was without substance. Swayze has filed a suit for civil damages against Albert D. Fraley and Brown & Root for libel and slander and wrongful discharge. (Fraley, a Brown & Root superintendent, was Swayze's boss.)

Some critics wonder how HL&P and Brown & Root, which are having this early trouble controlling subcontractors

and construction crews, will be able to control the installation of the reactor itself, as well as the cooling and electrical systems on which the safety of the surrounding populace will depend. Though the NRC has cited Brown & Root repeatedly, the company is quick to point out that the problems noted were corrected, thereby proving the inspection system works.

Most of the infractions committed at South Texas have been in the interest of speed, a commodity HL&P officials would no doubt like to see more of. Delays of all kinds have helped raise the estimated cost of the facility from \$1 billion to more than \$2 billion. In the wake of the trouble at Three Mile Island, further delays are likely, as the design is checked and perhaps changed. There will also be proceedings conducted by the NRC to determine whether South Texas should be licensed to operate. At the same time, the NRC is considering an application by HL&P to build another nuclear power plant at Allen's Creek, near Wallis, only forty-five miles from downtown Houston.

While the aim of some critics is admittedly to stop construction of any nuclear power projects, others are simply trying to make sure that the gigantic facility near Houston is built properly. While HL&P and Brown & Root officials argue that layer upon layer of inspection and safety systems ensure the plant will be safe, others point out that the same or similar systems were in force at Three Mile Island. In any event, there is evidence that there has been negligence at the South Texas Project, and that documents have been falsified, whether through negligence, accident or otherwise.

Rep. Gonzalez, in his letter to Griffin Bell, said, ". . . should these allegations be true, it would indicate that an attempt has been made to defraud the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which I judge would be a criminal action against the government. If, indeed, there is cause to believe that such an effort has been

made, I request that you act at once to investigate fully and bring action against the responsible persons."

But the largest problem the South Texas Project faces is the growing public awareness that the facility, one of two being built in Texas, even exists. Not long ago, NRC hearings about the facility were virtually unattended by objectors; now people from all over the state are filing to be contenders in the process.

One of those trying hard to stop the construction is Peggy Buchorn of Brazoria, who lives less than thirty miles from the plant.

When Buchorn first became concerned about the project, she visited the law library at the Matagorda County Courthouse at Bay City, where the construction reports and other public documents relating to the nuclear project were supposed to be available for public inspection. She claims she was unable to find most of the inspection documents and promptly complained to the NRC in Washington, which sent someone to the library to make sure the materials were there and available.

Buchorn, a conservative, middle-class rancher, is affiliated with an organization known as Citizens for Equitable Utilities, Inc. (CEU). CEU and other groups like it are discovering that they have a lot in common with Texas groups lobbying the legislature for the right to have statewide public referendums on tax issues. Those referendums are also backed by Governor William Clements, an oilman who supports nuclear power. (After the Three Mile Island reactor had calmed down Clements reaffirmed his support for nuclear power but called for proper safeguards.) If anti-nuclear sentiment were to become part of the referendum movement kicked off by Proposition 13, the South Texas Project—and HL&P's customers—could be in for more trouble. And if the construction problems are not cleared up, everybody in the upper Texas coast area could be in for trouble of a more permanent nature.

Andrew Sansom is director of the Texas Energy Extension at the University of Houston and David Crossley is editor of Houston City Magazine.



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"I rate this session a big, fat F"

interviewed by Melanie Mayeaux

Billie Carr, Democratic National Committeewoman

"This legislative session was one of the worst I've seen. I think its accomplishment was to wipe out all of the consumer protection legislation established when Price Daniels Jr. was speaker of the house. It seemed to turn the clock backward in every way possible.

"Those of us who had a special interest, or had some interest in legislation

that was people-oriented, spent all of our time trying to put out fires, trying to defeat bad legislation. Therefore, we were unable to push anything really good.

"The only bright light of the legislature was that some of the bad things didn't get passed thanks to the 'killer bees.'

"Bill Hobby is the big loser in this session. I think he came out making lots of enemies, losing friends. And he didn't accomplish what he set out to do. I think

he ended up looking like a fool.

"That is unfortunate. Everybody tried to warn him and tried to get him off of dead center. He just would not listen.

"The real story might be, 'Who was the guiding hand behind Hobby that kept him so hard-nosed?' None of us seem to be able to find that out. He ruined what I think would have been any kind of political career. What was so important to him that he would do that?"

"The proposal for the split primary was so blatantly dishonest. It so defeats the whole two-party system. The Republicans weren't for it because it doesn't help build their party. The Democrats weren't for it for the same reason.

"Both parties are interested in building their parties with people who really think like the party is basically and traditionally geared. This proposal would have defeated that purpose.

"Hobby had nothing to gain. He is not up for election in 1980. If he runs for Governor, he is not going to do it when a Presidential campaign runs. He didn't act for his own personal benefit.

"The whole thing was apparently geared to help Connally. Some people think that Ben Barnes was master-minding the whole thing. But when they saw that the bill met with such public disapproval, they began to pull out. I'm not sure that they didn't just leave Hobby hanging high and dry. But he didn't have to hang there! I don't know why he did.

"The 'killer bees' did create an excitement. People were for them even if everybody didn't know what they were really doing! Whatever it was, it seemed to be against the establishment, so the public thought it must be a neat thing. That's kinda where public sentiment seems to be these days.

"The 'killer bees' left and didn't even take a change of clothes or anything. They hid only five minutes away from the capital. They thought they would be back the next day, that Hobby would come to his senses and not try to enforce the majority rule but stick to the two-thirds agreement which had been adopted at the first of the session.

"Well, instead, Hobby said no, he was not going to deal with them—he was going to stick to his guns.

"So they had to stay five days! That built up more determination on the 'bees' part, and more public sentiment. The Texas Rangers looked like the bumbling bees that couldn't catch them. The whole thing got to be a real big to-do.

"But what that meant in the legislature is that some of the other bills got side-tracked. All of them were bad ones. So, in effect, the 'killer bees' not only stopped the split-primary bill, but also a lot of other bills.

"I think what happened to the teachers was nothing but political punishment for having, as a group, supported Hill. I think that Clements' not giving them their raise was blatant punishment for that.

"The farmers were mistreated again. The governor had made some commitments to them, which he didn't keep. The farmers went away feeling real put out.

"While we averted and aborted some bad things from happening, we can't really claim that a lot of great things happened.

"For the common good, it was a flat failure of a session. We were lucky to get out of there without being worse off than we are!

"I have always been an advocate of annual sessions. But until we change some faces, I may come out for a program for sessions every 10 years. I really don't think I want those people to go back up there and do anything. I am almost will-



"If I've said it once, I've said it a dozen times. . . ."

Greg Stephens

ing just to say 'King's X! Just leave us alone! Don't do anything.'

"I don't want them to meet once a year—I couldn't stand it! If they took any more things away from people, I don't see how we could live.

"I rate this session with a big, fat F!

"I sat there and watched as Billy Clayton gavelled down so matter-of-factly the consumer legislation that Price Daniels Jr. and the legislature he was speaker of had so carefully put together. This session did it so brutally, it was painful.

"Also, before this we were able to stop in committee all the 'right-to-life' and 'pink lady' legislation. S. B. 117 is the one breakthrough those groups have had in a long time. I think it is upsetting because the legislation is bad and because they were able to push it through.

"Once again, I think another one of those anti-abortion bills might have passed if it had not been for the 'killer bees.' I don't think people realize that the five-day delay prevented a lot of bad bills from coming up. Even Hobby, by being so hard-headed, indirectly helped."

Merlyn Whited, Director, IMPACT

"Had we not had the people we did participating, I think some horrendous pieces of legislation would have gone through.

"I was primarily focusing on allocation of monies, or legislation that would have a very negative impact on low income people. I was particularly interested in the Texas Department of Human Resources (DHR) budget. We were working to get the basic living grant raised, and it was, by a small amount. This was a very small victory!

"Most of the people who are living in poverty in Texas and are recipients of

these DHR programs are single parent families, headed by women. It is really frightening when you realize what Texas is doing to its people. One-fifth of the children in this state are living in poverty.

"I think the best time to develop effectiveness with elected officials is when they're running for office. They are more receptive then. While they're in Austin, I think they get sensory overload; they just don't hear too well!

"If you show up one day during the heat of the session and say, 'Hi, I'm really concerned about all of this stuff, politicians will look at you and say, 'Yea. Where were you when I was getting elected?'"

"Bill Hobby is the big loser in this session. I think he came out making lots of enemies, losing friends, and he didn't accomplish what he set out to do. I think he ended up looking like a fool."—Carr

"If you show up only at the session, you minimize your effectiveness. To maximize it, start getting active for the next session now—right now.

"I have a feeling that many women believe that political decisions are made on the basis of what is morally right, decent and humane. That idea is the furthest thing from the truth. Politics is nothing but a bloodless war that determines who's going to get what, and how much of it, for how long. And it's in the form of a game which is called the legislative session!"

Joan Glantz, Spokesperson, ACLU and TARAL

"There were 10 very serious anti-abortion bills this session. Before the session convened, we in the ACLU knew that the committees last session were responsive to some of our concerns. This time, they weren't. Our legislation was a lost cause. And it took a lot of effort to keep more devastating legislation from being passed.

"We would have been all right on S. B. 117 except that Tim Von Dohlen had a lot of credits coming to him from a lot of people. He said he was going to call it his bill, and he wanted these people to vote it out. That is what happened.

"The potential for the bill is that a lot of doctors will refuse to do second trimester abortions.

"We are positive that it is unconstitutional, but that doesn't mean very much until somebody brings litigation or the attorney general makes a ruling on it. Given the complexion of most of our attorneys general, that kind of ruling doesn't happen too often.

"Houston is fortunate that we have some Representatives and Senators who have always been supportive of our concerns. 'Babe' Schwartz and Chet Brooks are also marvelous.

"We consider the session a disaster, but the failure is minor compared to what it could have been. The bill we have is unconstitutional, but it will take time to get that clarified. In the meantime, we'll just have to see what the doctors do. If they

This resistance appeared to be based on a very exaggerated form of hearsay.

"It was a surprise that there was any objection to 117 at all because it is not an anti-abortion bill.

"All it does is specify that the doctor stop killing the baby. If that stops abortion, then so be it. The bill did not relate specifically to abortion. It was never intended to be an anti-abortion bill.

"We were a little surprised when the Texas Medical Association (TMA) began lobbying against 117. Then, we found that some of the vested interest in the performance of abortion in Texas is related to the TMA. It makes sense that doctors would be concerned about possible malpractice when their current operating procedure is such that the baby is allowed to die, or encouraged to die.

"There was no attempt whatsoever in this legislative session to stop abortions. The arena for that battle is the supreme Court or Congress. The educational level in Texas is not high enough to pass the type of legislation that would be useful in court action.

"It is the first time since the Supreme Court decision January 22, 1973, Roe vs Wade, legalized abortion all nine months that any legislation has passed directly related to the act of abortion to protect the born, or unborn. S. B. 117 protects the born. We see it as a major breakthrough.

"One of the main arguments was possible birth defects to the child. Why would there be birth defects? You can go to hospitals all over and see premature babies who, with proper care, are no more defective than you or I. Defects might result from the method of abortion. Some techniques are more damaging than others. If you do have major defects, it will point out the inequity of abortion, especially in regards to the child.

"People in the 'right-to-life' movement are not unsympathetic, nor are they unconscious to the potential danger in the defective child. I don't think it is unfair to say that if it would take some defective children to be born to be living witnesses to the atrocity of abortion, there are more than enough people in 'right-to-life' to adopt and care for these children.

"Politics is a bloodless war that determines who's going to get what, and how much of it, for how long. And it's in the form of a game called the legislative session."—Whited

adhere to it, then it could prove to be very detrimental.

"S. B.117 was certainly aided by the Speaker of the House, Billy Clayton. He broke an historical tradition by assigning the bill to a different committee in the House than in the Senate. When asked why he did it, he said it was to help Mengden's bill get out of committee.

"This fight is not over, in Texas, or nationally. It is going to be around a long time. To say the legislative session is finished for a year and a half is the worst thing we can do. These people ('Right-to-lifers') are strengthening every day. We must be ready for them."

Ira Early, Spokesperson, Foundation for Life

"It was surprising to us to see a focus of opposition on a bill like S. B. 117 rather than, say, 118 or 119. Those two bills sought to cut back abortions. 117 did not.

"Our surprise was that there was not more common ground between feminist groups who morally would be supportive of humane treatment of the living child. Instead, there was a great deal of opposition, even from outside letters and such.

The bill did not mandate the state to take over the care of these children."

Wanda Schultz, Legislative Action Chair, Conservative Caucus

"We are happy with the defeat of the International Year of the Child (IYC) because we feel that it is a disguise. The leaders of the IYC are trying to misinform the public into believing that the movement is concerned with poor, neglected, and abused children, like we all are. But if you look very closely, you will find the same bunch of what I call radicals that put on International Women's Year (IWY) put on IYC also.

"I am in favor of parental rights. That's why I don't think we need any United Nations commission telling us how to rear our children, especially when that whole bunch comes out of Communist countries. Sweden, for instance, a socialist nation, just passed a new law making it illegal for parents to spank a child. The Bible tells me 'spare not the rod.' I think this is a definite infringement on parental rights.

"Getting IYC stopped in the Senate is the Conservative Caucus' biggest success this year.

"Our biggest loss is the new wording in

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the family code that says each spouse has equal obligation to support the other spouse. Formerly it stated the husband should support his wife, and the wife should support her husband only when he was unable to support himself.

"I am certainly in favor of a woman supporting her husband if he is disabled. But on the other hand, I want women to have the protection of not having to go to work if she feels that her children are better off with her in the home. Then she has the right to be totally supported by her husband. If she wants to stay home and be a full-time wife and mother, then she should have that right. If she wants to work, she should have that right also.

"This bill is another loss of rights for women. I assume it was changed to go along with the state ERA. We were hoping Clements would veto it. Apparently, he did not.

"We are also pleased that S.B. 117 passed.

"As far as the ERA, we are very sorry our bill to rescind did not get out of committee. We are totally thrilled the ERA

a woman named Michol O'Connor, a U. S. Attorney. She researched all the different states' legislation regarding rape, trying to see where obvious needs were left un-met, how Texas compared, and what could be done.

"She decided that we're getting nowhere saying over and over that rape is not a sexual crime, that it is a crime of violence. That line just gets lost on the general public. Instead she thought, we should do away with a word that is loaded with sexual meaning—rape—then we could begin to convince jurors and judges that the rape victim is a victim of a violent crime.

"Along with that proposal, she worked in several changes which we hailed as moves that have long been needed.

"One was the proposal that both sexes could rape and be raped. That has been needed for a long time.

"Another change would have made it assault under the law if a person had oral or anal contact with the genitals of another. Up to now, the legal definition in-

"It will take defective children born to be living witnesses to the atrocity of abortion. There are more than enough people in 'right-to-life' to adopt and care for these children."—Early

was defeated in state after state, and rescinded in another state, bringing the total to five.

"We are also thrilled that since the economic boycott was instituted by NOW, not one single state has ratified.

"We think the ERA is more dead than alive, for all practical purposes.

"Overall, I would assess the legislative session as good, more good than bad."

Gail Padgett, Director, Houston Rape Crisis Coalition

"There were two bills that particularly interested me this session.

"The first, S. B. 500, would have changed the word 'rape' to 'assault' in the penal code, and would have made several other changes in the meantime. That bill died when the session adjourned.

"The second one did pass, and I am hoping it will prove to be a meaningful bill in time. It deals with compensation for victims of all crimes. Criminal offenders, on prosecution and conviction, will be fined. This money will be pooled, so that victims of crimes can be compensated for repair of physical damage, loss of time from jobs, psychiatric follow-up.

"There are some problems. Victims must file for the money through the Industrial Accident Board, which is a very slow process. So they can't collect until long after they have had to pay out-of-pocket. Victims who have no money will have to track down free services, which are virtually non-existent.

"Also, I suspect that it is going to take a while for the money that is being collected from the offenders to accumulate to an amount that is going to be meaningful.

"All in all, though, I think this bill is very promising. The legislature is realizing the need for such compensation—for victims of all crimes.

"Certainly rape victims will be as appreciative as anyone. For the last several years, the state has paid for the collection of legal evidence, which includes the standard rape examination. Damages, however, were *not* being paid. There was no compensation for lacerations and broken arms till this bill came along.

"S. B. 500 started off being written by

volves only a penis and a vagina. The new law would have also included attacks involving foreign objects, not covered before.

"O'Connor also worked in the proposal that you could charge assault if you were not cohabiting with the perpetrator of the crime. If you were living together, married or unmarried, you could not.

"Now obviously this did not include living-together married couples, which is something we have been trying to move toward. But it would have brought us a little closer. If you'd been dating and having sex but not living together this proposal would have made it a little bit easier in court to charge assault.

"Another point, which might have been added when the bill was out of O'Connor's hands, I found out about only in the last couple of weeks. A strange little clause in the proposal said a person could not charge assault if the attack were something predictable because of employment.

"I can't imagine the kind of situation they could be thinking about. Prostitution? We are pretty good at looking for the good intent. We are also good at seeing loopholes. But we can't find a good intent in that particular clause.

"We are very glad to see the bill die, because as amendments were added and deleted, it lost every good point except the name change.

"When it first began, I felt real good about it. I would have much preferred that it also include people who are cohabiting with the victim, but I was quite willing to compromise in order to make the other gains.

Pokey Anderson, Member, National Board, Gay Political Caucus

"Most of my information comes from the Texas Gay Task Force lobbyists in Austin. This is really the first year they've lobbied, and for a first year effort, I think they did a fine job.

"According to their releases, their basic stance was a holding action! They were concerned about some very anti-gay

continued on page 20



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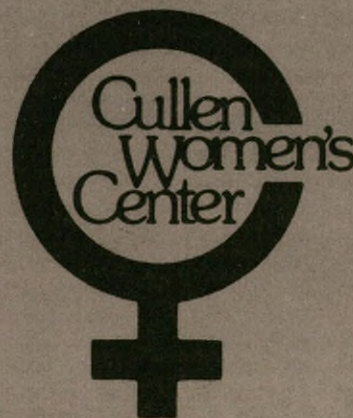
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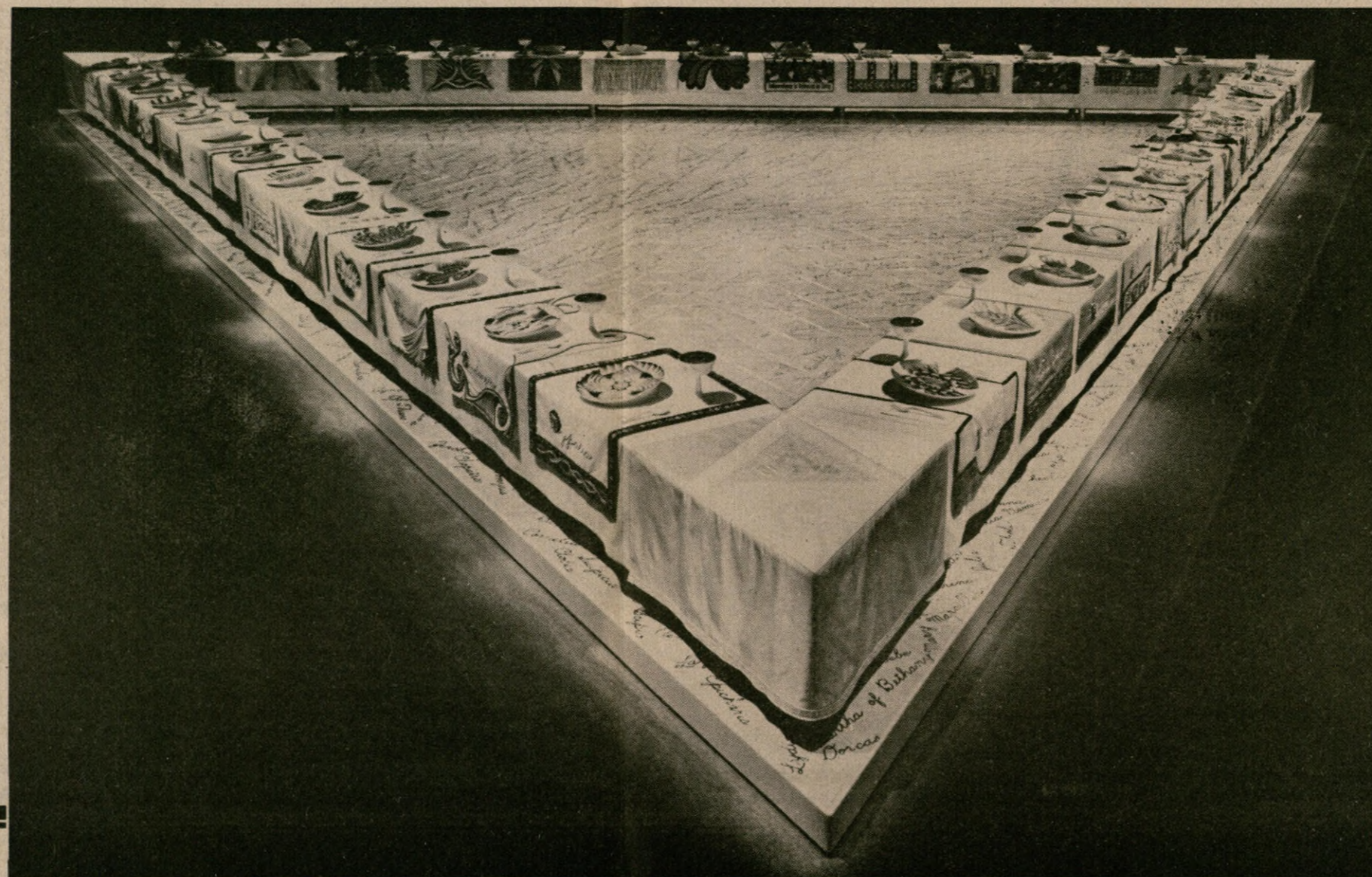
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THE DINNER PARTY

by Nancy Lane Fleming



The Dinner Party by artist Judy Chicago is a monumental work in the form of a huge triangular banquet table, measuring 48 feet on each side. Place settings for 39 historical and mythological women line the table. At each place setting is a 14-inch ceramic plate, representing an abstract image of the woman honored, from the Primordial Goddess to American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. The painted, sculpted plates rest on elaborate needlework runners, one for each guest, representing her cultural and historic period. The mammoth table stands on a floor made up of triangular porcelain tiles on which are written the names of 999 women of achievement throughout history. The floor serves as a foundation for the women honored at the table, and symbolizes the importance of women supporting one another.

—N.L.F.

"I have been personally strengthened and transformed not only by discovering the efforts women have made in the last two centuries, but also by realizing that women have fought for their dignity and their rights from the moment they first lost their Goddess and their power. *The Dinner Party* is a symbolic history of our past, pieced together—like the Heritage Floor—from small fragments which tell us something about our achievements and our condition throughout Western civilization. The women represented are either historical or mythological figures; I have brought them together—invited them to dinner, so to speak—that we might hear what they have to say and see the range and beauty of a heritage we have not yet had an opportunity to know.... To reclaim our past and insist that it become a part of human history is the task that lies before us, for the future requires that women, as well as men, shape the world's destiny."

—Judy Chicago, *The Dinner Party: A Symbol of Our Heritage*

Somewhere in the early seventies, artist Judy Chicago came to see in domestic objects a metaphor for women's domesticated and trivialized circumstances. As her idea evolved, she conceived the idea of painting abstract images of great women on china plates, and setting the plates on a table in a reinterpretation of the Last Supper. In Chicago's "First Supper," the women portrayed would be honored guests, at the same time honoring the women who have prepared the meals and laid the tables throughout history. Because the women would be confined in the plates within the place settings, the work would reflect their oppression as it declared their achievements.

This ironic tension became the force behind *The Dinner Party*. "I want people to feel joyous that these women are being celebrated and, at the same time, I want them to say, 'What are those images doing on plates?' The piece is like one giant shriek!" Chicago said in an interview in *Mother Jones*.

The women honored at *The Dinner Party* are served up on plates in an expression of horror at the ways women have been consumed—swallowed up by history as it has been told by men. The names on the Heritage Floor are written in gold china-paint; they flicker in and out of view as you walk around the table, suggesting that "herstory" has existed all along, but has been hidden from view.

Chicago deliberately chose traditional techniques—china painting and needlework, techniques associated with women, and thereby denigrated as "craft," not

art. The plates and runners represent the domestic objects into which homebound women have painstakingly poured their talent and creativity. *The Dinner Party* insists on a redefinition of art as it insists on a retelling of history.

The Dinner Party declares that women's experience is important. Important enough to be the subject and basis of art. Butterfly images appear in most of the plates, a symbol of rebirth and liberation which has become Judy Chicago's trademark. They twist and rise from a center, petals surrounding a central orifice, suggesting woman—open and sensual. Accustomed to phallic symbols—a spike or beam—viewers are often startled by these transformed female images.

In the later plates, notably those representing Susan B. Anthony, Virginia Woolf and Georgia O'Keeffe, the butterfly forms become increasingly unconstrained in high relief sculpted ceramics of remarkable technical achievement. Consistent with the confinement of women expressed throughout *The Dinner Party*, however, the images struggle upward but never leave the surface of the plates.

Chicago's volunteer cooperative totaling 400 men and women—stitchers, painters, sanders, carvers, clay firers, researchers—worked on the project for five years in the conviction that art can change our view of the world.

"I see feminist artists as spearheading a whole revival of art that is relevant in society," said Chicago. "I think it's possible to make art of high quality that will appeal to a broad number of people.

The Dinner Party doesn't require that you know a lot about art, but I don't think I've compromised art by making it accessible. I wanted to introduce the information to a wide audience, and this meant making a multiple-avenue approach to the piece."

In her determination to make the work more accessible, Chicago turned to print and film. Her book, *The Dinner Party: A Symbol of Our Heritage*, includes information on the 1,038 women celebrated in the work, and background on the project's development. A feature-length film, in collaboration with filmmaker Johanna Demetrakas, is forthcoming. With the assistance of Diane Gelon, Susan Hill and Katie Amend, Chicago has also formed a non-profit corporation, Through the Flower, which owns the exhibition and from which they hope to develop related projects—feminist outreach and children's programs.

Chicago and her staff were able to obtain some grants to fund the project, but much of the support came from small donations. (Please see related story, p. 14.) Through the Flower is trying to raise additional money through the sale of posters, slide sets, postcards, a bibliography and books relating to the exhibition. Write Through the Flower, P. O. Box 1876, Santa Monica, California 90406.

Nancy Lane Fleming was associated with Houston Community College's Learning Resource Center. She hosts the weekly Breakthrough on the Air on KPFT-Radio.



Mary McNally

Will Houston host *The Dinner Party*?

By Dian Brown

The Houston Contemporary Arts Museum has turned its back on an important new artwork by nationally acclaimed artist Judy Chicago. But if a group of Houston women have their way, Houstonians may still have an opportunity to see *The Dinner Party*, called a "blockbuster" by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, where the exhibit opened March 15.

Despite the exhibit's popularity, the Houston Contemporary Arts Museum gave Chicago's work the cold shoulder. Acting Museum Director Betsy Knight says the CAM board "did not want to commit itself to an exhibit of this magnitude until the new director is named." (Buffalo, N.Y., curator Linda Cathcart comes on board September 1.) The museum couldn't "legally charge an admission fee since they do not have a permanent collection." The museum was not in a financial position right now to sponsor *The Dinner Party*, said Knight.

"Hogwash," said Mary Ross Taylor, head of Texas Arts & Cultural Organization (TACO), a group formed to bring *The Dinner Party* to Houston.

"I've been going through this charade with the board for three months. In the beginning, I was willing to be a good sport and work through all the channels. But then we began to realize they were wasting our time. Avoiding, postponing, sending us around in circles. It's a form of contempt, really. Why couldn't they just come out and say they didn't want the show?"

The CAM board has refused to meet with TACO representatives to discuss raising the money. "They even refused to acknowledge in writing that they wouldn't meet with us," said Taylor. "They never gave us anything in writing. It was very unprofessional. We can only conclude from their stonewalling, that they've denied *The Dinner Party* on its merits."

The CAM was first approached about the exhibit back in April by San Francisco Museum Director Henry Hopkins,

who was enthusiastically promoting the show. By the time the exhibit closed June 17, the museum's controller Sheldon St. John said it had brought in \$10,000 a week for the institution, which upped its regular \$1.25 admission fee to \$2.00, and thereby increased its average \$2,500 weekly income fourfold.

"We've never seen anything bring in money like this has," St. John said. "There was a two-hour wait to get in every day. The response has been absolutely tremendous," they told Houston. The CAM wasn't interested.

"I wanted to make a piece that was beyond judgment. For example, if you go and you see the Sistine Chapel you don't say, 'Oh, I don't like it.' It's irrelevant whether you like it or not. Whether it's good or bad is irrelevant, it simply stands as a testament to human achievement. When I was in Europe traveling around I went to the Leger Museum and the Matisse Chapel and Picasso's house. And I so longed to see that kind of achievement having been made by a woman."

—Judy Chicago in *Chrysalis*

"San Francisco can charge admission. We can't," said Knight. "At the time we were approached, we didn't have a director, and we couldn't have afforded it without an outside organization putting up at least \$20,000. It's too late for October. But the door is never closed."

"Don't get me wrong," said Taylor, "Betsy Knight is a very honest, professional woman who's been put in a terrible position. I don't think any door is open there at all."

"They're certainly telling the truth when they say they can't afford it. But what's significant to me is they refused to meet with a group of Houstonians who are offering them a way to get the money. They're a public institution, funded by city funds, charged with offering a service to the public. But there is no accountability."

In addition to appeals from TACO, Hopkins and others in the arts, at least

two board members were in favor of sponsoring the Chicago exhibit. (Jim Searls and Sissy Kempner were outspoken in their support. Some board members even offered to help raise the money.) But the problem, according to Taylor, was the lack of support for the exhibit on the CAM executive board.

"This incident is an instant replay of what Houston artists have been going through with the museum for years. The Contemporary Arts Museum has used and bled the community and bled the artists. They're killing the arts in Houston. You can call around the coun-

try and hear horror stories about our reputation.

"They're trying to keep a low profile. But their profile is so low it's going to render them no longer an institution of contemporary art. There is no way to have the judgement of history on the art of the present moment. The board doesn't realize that a museum of contemporary art is going to have to take some chances," said Taylor.

Meanwhile, TACO has been shopping around Houston, looking for another institution to sponsor the exhibit. The Museum of Fine Arts is not interested. "We checked," said Taylor. "They can legitimately say it's the province of the Contemporary Arts Museum. So that lets them off the hook."

Rice, the University of Houston, and St. Thomas have also been contacted. Ironically, the University of Houston, which has shown the most enthusiasm

for *The Dinner Party*, doesn't have the space: the Blaffer Gallery is too small for the unusually shaped work. And the oblong gallery in the Rice Museum won't accommodate the square-shaped table either. TACO is still shopping, negotiating and looking for contributions. For more information, or to give donations, contact TACO at 4601 University Oaks, Houston, Tx. 77004.

The problems confronting the showing of the Chicago exhibit aren't peculiar to Houston. The Seattle Art Museum where *The Dinner Party* was to go after San Francisco, shelved the idea "on grounds that the exhibition space it originally set aside has been pre-empted." And the Rochester, N.Y. Art Museum, which was to have shown the exhibit in October, is now waffling about whether to reschedule it in 1980.

"They all say the piece is too big, or it isn't art, or they want us to raise the money to show it," Chicago explained. "Most of them see our approach as 'pressure,' and they feel it's incumbent on them to resist," the artist said in a *New York Times* interview in April.

With the exhibit's closing June 17, Chicago and her non-profit corporation, Through the Flower, which owns the work, face the prospect of storing the exhibit at a cost of \$1,000 per month, unless another sponsoring institution can be found. That prospect, combined with the unpaid bills leftover from the \$250,000 initial costs of the project have put Chicago in the red.

"The level of awareness of people attending the exhibit—even feminists—is extraordinarily naive," said Taylor. "Because they're so awed by what they see, they envision pots of money going directly to *The Dinner Party*. But they have no concept of what the exhibit cost to get together and no concept of the expense of transporting it, setting it up, insuring, promoting it."

Unless Chicago and her organization can obtain more sponsoring institutions, the bill will continue to pile up, and the public will be denied access to an important tribute to womankind.

Dian Brown is a working feminist.

M.E.'s Gallery

by G G Yellen

We talk in May, when the heat is not yet awful. Out on the patio, beside and beneath an oak tree, we are drinking cold cinnamon tea. A light breeze and a wandering cat disturb little in our quiet conversation. Inside the house, a man is fixing a snack.

Mary Ellen leans over and smiles, fingering her white cotton cap-sleeved crocheted top:

"This isn't art. I love it. I've worn it three times this week, but, you see, it follows a pattern, and it really was made to be worn. Of course, that doesn't detract from its beauty, but in answer to your question, no, it's not something I'd show in the gallery."

The home of Mary Ellen and Tom Whitworth, at 1408 Michigan (in the Montrose area), is also the home of *M.E.'s Gallery*.

early on to succeed in academic and professional life, manages to hold four festive openings a year, rotate artists frequently, search out new media, hire a gallery-keeper during busy seasons, keep books, and work full time as a senior research assistant in environmental biology. She studies the curves in DNA.

She pours me another glass of cinnamon tea.

"Women were my teachers through high school—nuns, at a Catholic girl's school." Then college at LSU, and a master's degree in biology. "My whole background is in science. I like the financial security of my job at M.D. Anderson. But it wasn't strange for me to go into business, too. I kind of feel I have it in my blood. The men in my family had businesses—ice, grocery, dairy—so I've heard business talk all my life. I took a

"The difference between craft and art is the element of surprise. Art surprises, or moves you in some way. Frequently it unnerves you."

"The best thing about having the gallery here is, we're ready for the energy crunch. We live here. Tom's law office is walking distance. So is the Tower Theatre, and several new restaurants. I expect Montrose to grow into a neighborhood where there's less driving, more walking."

The gallery shows crafts media—"ceramic, glass, fabric, wood, fiber, soft sculpture, jewelry,"—as used by artists "who surprise me." That's what makes the difference between craft and art—the element of surprise. The artist, in addition to showing you that they can manipulate the medium well, has something to say that nobody else has said before.

"Sure, a complicated procedure done well is a joy to look at—like this blouse," continued M.E.

We both smile.

"But art surprises, or moves you in some way. Frequently it unnerves you"—just as the tiny Satans do that giggle together on the rim of Bill Wilhelmi's vases and plates. Wilhelmi, a Corpus Christi-based ceramicist, has shown twice at *M.E.'s*, "and I hadn't intended to show in Texas at all." But a mutual friend from Corpus, M.E.'s and Tom's hometown as well, introduced them, and Wilhelmi's work sold well. Wilhelmi remarked, "I like doing business with her. Mary Ellen is very considerate of the people she shows. Some places, an artist comes in and gets ignored; with her it's not a high pressure thing."

Not a high pressure thing, and yet M.E., whose mother encouraged her from

couple of Small Business Administration courses when I started. It didn't seem frightening to try it myself.

"I went into business when other crafts galleries were closing. Got loans from some people I knew. There was a void to fill, and I was filling it.

"I like craftspeople. That's why I do this. I buy things I enjoy having in the house. I don't have any formal art background, although I plan to do some catching up in art history I look at a lot of things, and stay in touch through journals and personal contact."

M.E.'s began three years ago as a small jewelry shop in the old Gypsy Market near Rice University. Now it fills half the house on Michigan and jewelry is only a small part of the collection.

"I met some people who made jewelry and they introduced me to African crafts, which is what I sold at the Gypsy Market. Through the same people I joined Houston Designer Craftsmen, and eventually became president of it. It's a group of craftspeople in the Houston area, but not confined to this area. Anyone can join. There's a monthly newsletter, and an exhibit every year or two. They'll have one this August, in fact."

M.E. routinely seeks to show artists from other parts of the country in an effort to expose Houston craftspeople and their patrons to fine work otherwise unavailable. She's just acquired the works of the members of Nine Fine Artisans, as they divest themselves of their gallery. Included is a collection of wry soft sculp-



Julie Helfetz

MARY ELLEN WHITWORTH of M.E.'s GALLERY

ture by a woman who lives in the Hill Country, and whom the gallery owner looks forward to meeting.

Somebody's holding on the phone so we go inside for M.E. to take the call.

Past the bedroom, among the framed drawings on the hallway wall, M.E. points out one pencil sketch of an enormous flower, the only work of hers on display in the house.

"I like the simplicity of just the pencil and paper. Every now and then I do a sketch."

We pass through the office alcove, the phone call is completed, and we peek into the kitchen to say hello to Tom and to Oso, an enormous black German Shepherd who apparently knows how to act in a house full of breakables. Then we're in the sunny gallery, wrapping up the talk.

"It's tough for craftspeople, because you've got to stay with it for 10 years to make a good living, and your stuff has to be exceptional. If it's just okay, you'll never make it," says M.E.

Is M.E. one of those people of whom artists ask, "Should I continue this

career?"

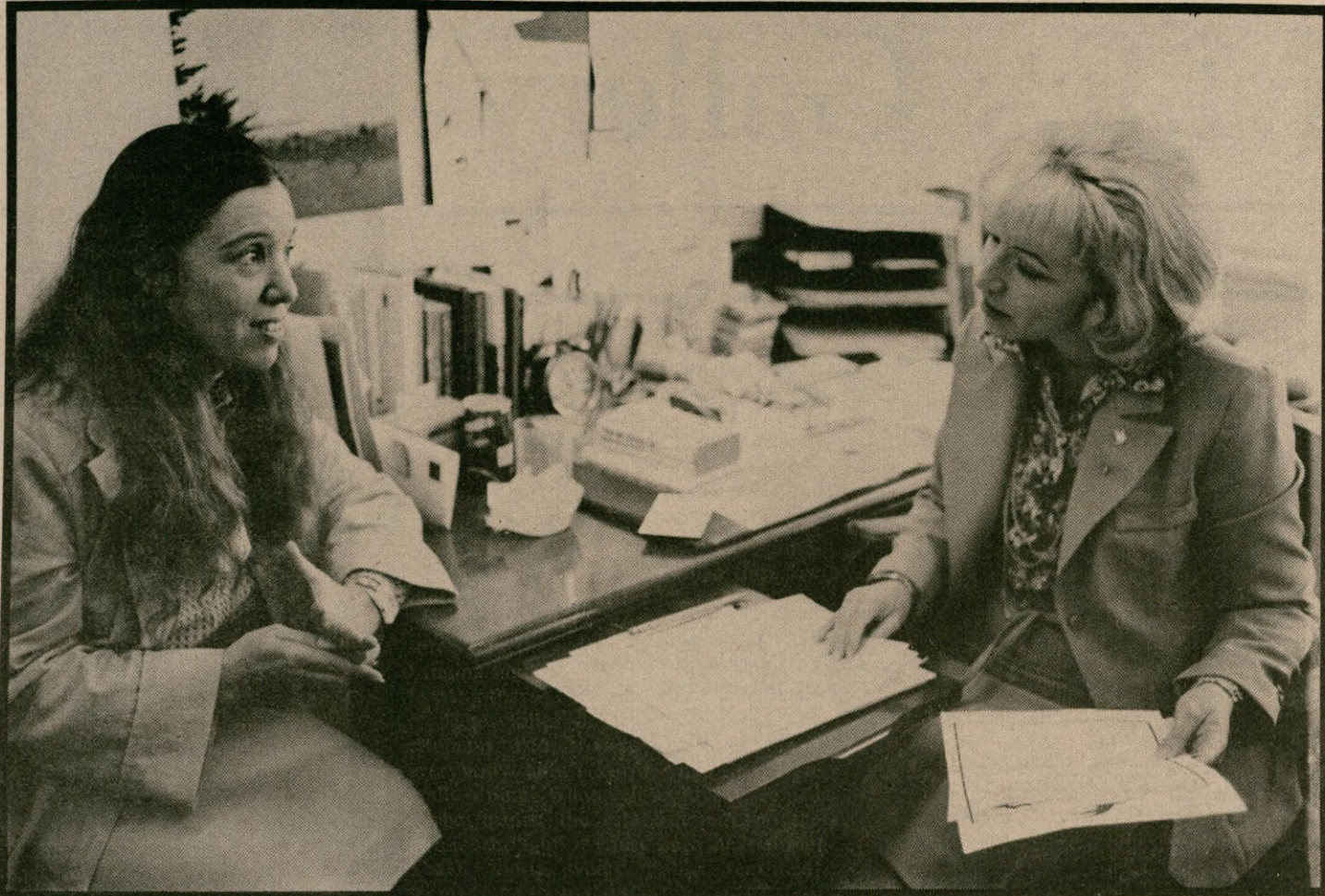
She laughs. "I hope nobody would put that big a responsibility on me. But (and here the laugh is gone) there are plenty of people who ask me, and I try to be honest without just devastating someone. Because I think you can do a craft without being outstanding and, though you won't make much money, get a lot of fulfillment and enjoyment out of it.

"Now and then I get calls from people wanting to show me their Aunt Fanny's needlepoint, or something, and those usually turn out not to be things I want for the gallery. But I enjoy talking to the people.

"I keep an eye on other crafts galleries and work with them, send them people who want what I don't have, let them know what I've got. I don't consider it competition at all. The more crafts places there are, the better off everybody is."

G G Yellen is a news reporter at KLOL Radio.

Displaced Homemakers



Julie Helfetz

Counselor Eileen Elfant (l) and Carroll Creswell, project coordinator, work with the Houston Center for Displaced Homemakers. The program was funded by a one year grant from the Texas Education Agency.

by Hildegard Warner

June is the month of brides and weddings. In the middle class dream a woman marries and directs all her energies into her family. She maintains a well-kept home and children, and supports and encourages her husband's career. In return she reaps the rewards of a comfortable lifestyle and never wants for anything.

But for millions of women each year, the dream has been shattered, the rules have been changed. Either through widowhood or divorce, they are left holding the bag. Homemaker skills are not honored in the market place. The responsibility of finding a job and caring for children and household alone is a tremendous new burden. Women in this situation are displaced homemakers.

In recent years their numbers have increased and their problems become more acute. No-fault divorce has provided an easy way out of marriages, some of long standing, for both men and women. Changes in communities and lifestyles have left women alone without extended families or community roots which have in the past protected them. Indeed, the women's movement has called for women to become independent and no longer clinging to their families for physical support or protection. Society has changed the rules.

The experiences and problems displaced homemakers have faced have been brought to the attention of society and its lawmakers by women's groups including the Alliance for Displaced Homemakers. Due to their efforts, the Texas legislature has funded two displaced homemaker centers, in Arlington and Victoria, for a third year of operation.

A third center in Houston was financed in 1978 by a one-year, \$49,943 grant from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Houston Central Campus.

These centers are designed to help displaced homemakers (women ages 35-64, married 15 years or longer) prepare themselves for the job market. They offer personal counseling and hold workshops. They give employment assistance by helping women assess their strengths, prepare a resume, learn interview skills, and they also provide job placement assistance. All of these services are free.

"At first calls came in for jobs wanting slave labor. They thought that was all these women could do. Now we are getting a higher quality of job orders from companies who value the mature women."

The Houston center opened in July, 1978, and its two counselors have conducted 10 four-week workshops on the campus, plus several miniworkshops at other locations in the Houston area. The first year has been mainly one of building the program, letting the community know the center was open to them, and getting other agencies and support services to participate in the workshops and offer jobs to the women, according to Eileen Elfant, one of the counselors.

"We need an enormous amount of

publicity and the news media aren't broad enough to bring enough people in," Elfant said. "A lot of women who really need our help don't know about the program."

Although the center's guidelines allow up to 20 women in a workshop, usually only half that number participate. Elfant says more television exposure would be very helpful. "After Phil Donahue had a discussion of displaced homemakers on his program several months ago, we got a number of calls," she said.

During its first year the center has also established a number of community linkages to bring eligible women into the program. Women are referred to the

how they found out about the center, many say they have had an article lying around the house for two months," Elfant said. "It takes them a long time to activate themselves to call and ask. So, how many women are still sitting at home looking at an article?"

"They tend to ignore it until they have to admit to the change and accept the title of displaced homemaker," she said. "They feel antagonistic and fight with the title."

"Calling the center and deciding to participate in the program is making a commitment. These women have led lives which were void of time commitments outside of their personal sphere. In the past, it was easy for them to break appointments with others and with themselves for immediate gratification without thinking it through, because they didn't have goals."

"We work a lot on long and short term goals in the program and emphasize to these women that they have a choice of what they want to do," Carroll S. Creswell, project coordinator, added. "Some of them have never had to make choices before."

Although most displaced homemakers' programs are written for women who have no means of support, who "fall between the cracks" in the welfare or social security system, Elfant said most of the women who come into the center have some kind of income, social security or alimony. "We know there is a big group who don't have any income," Elfant said, "but they are not coming here."

The four-week workshops are designed to give them skills and information to help them make proper choices and set goals. "The two biggest problems these

women face are a lack of self-confidence and a lack of knowledge about the job market," Creswell said.

"We are getting super speakers from the community—the business world, academic world, banking and finance and legal—to participate in our program," Elfant explained. "In the past we've had counselors from the Texas Employment Commission, Houston Community College, temporary employment services and personnel representatives from various companies.

"It is important to have community support. The people in the community who have helped us with the workshops have been really excited about their contributions and want to see the program continued."

One of the results of the community involvement has been an increase and an upgrade in the quality of job orders coming in for women in the program, Elfant said. "It is a two-way street. Personnel from companies have gotten to see the type of people who are participating in the program and now they are calling us.

"It takes this much time to become established. At first calls came in for jobs wanting slave labor with little benefits. They thought that was all these women could do. Now we are getting a higher quality of job orders—from banks which have teller training programs, the county auditor's office, department stores, corporations and groups who value the mature woman."

While the center does not offer an actual job placement service, it does refer women to the companies which have called in with job orders and provides one-to-one job counseling for those who desire it. "We help them with their initial job search and filling out application forms," Elfant said. "We are encouraging this kind of activity from the women and it has been on the increase."

Women with special needs or problems are referred to other supportive agencies in the community for assistance. The center also publishes a newsletter after each workshop keeping past participants up-to-date on activities and information and inviting them to a "graduation party" for the current group. "This helps strengthen our network," Elfant explained.

The center has also begun a follow-up program. "After six months we telephone past workshop participants to find out if they are working, what their perceptions are about the program, if it worked for them, if they have moved and how they are doing generally," Creswell said.

"We need to wait six months before we do this because this gives the women time to examine and process the information they have received in the workshops," Elfant explained. "They have had time to think about their skills and interests, what direction they want to go, if they need extra education or training.

"This is a very intense program. Some of the women have been so isolated and have never been exposed to the work world before and all the information we supply. It is brand new to them. They cannot take it all in in four weeks. We encourage them to go to as many other career-oriented workshops as possible so they get repetition of the material, to have it reinforced, until it become part of them.

"We also encourage the women to join other groups, church organizations or singles clubs, to get out of isolation and learn social skills and how to be with other people."

At the present time Creswell is busy studying TEA and CETA regulations to apply for funding so the center can operate for another year and the counselors are thinking of ways to improve the workshops and expand the program.

During the past year the counselors had a one-week period between the work-

shop to plan and implement new ideas. Elfant said two weeks between workshops would be ideal so that the counselors could conduct more mini-workshops at other locations and have recruitment weeks.

The center had one recruitment week this past year which was very successful, according to Elfant. "We invited personnel representatives from various companies to come in and talk about job opportunities with their firms and set up interviews," she explained. "We would like to do this several times a year."

In addition to the center workshops, counselors have conducted several mini-workshops at the Downtown YWCA, Blue Triangle YWCA and Gulf Coast Community Services in Galena Park. "At these workshops we concentrate on job readiness, the job market, job placement and obtaining credit," Elfant said. "They have been very successful. Once the network got out, other groups have called us to conduct workshops." Elfant hopes to do more mini-workshops next year if the extra time will be available.

Creswell added that she would like the center to conduct more workshops in the black and Mexican-American communities to serve the special needs of these women. "We have had very few minorities in our workshops," she said. "We need to get out closer to where they are. The idea of coming to the university may seem overwhelming to some and they do not come in here. These women have less means and different things are frightening to them."

Going out into the community would require additional staff members, as would other programs Creswell would like to implement and expand if she could fulfill all her dreams. "We would like to have a full-time placement counselor to help women find jobs. We need someone to schedule programs, and a public relations person to get out publicity, so the counselors can work full-time with the women," Creswell said.

"We need a psychologist to help those women who have really serious problems. We would like more graduate students from the school of social work to do intern work and research. The center could be a learning center for people in the academic community. There is very little research in this area right now and we need more data to see what areas of our progress need to be changed, retained and strengthened, to help these women."

Although the Houston Center for Displaced Homemakers is still so new and in the process of tightening its goals and getting feedback from past workshop participants, the counselors have seen progress during the past year. A network has been formed, better job orders are coming in, their services are in demand, and they can see personal growth in the women during the course of the four week workshops.

"We see positive changes in the way some of the women feel about themselves from the first day they come in. At first they may not feel part of the group or have fear and anxiety," Elfant said. "One woman practically sat outside the door of the room at first. Now she is calling speakers and organizing activities. It is very gratifying to see these changes."

The Houston Center for Displaced Homemakers is located in the Jeppeson Annex on the University of Houston Central Campus. Interested women may contact the center at 749-3755 or 749-7253.

Hildegard Warner is a UH journalism student and a former student intern at Breakthrough.



Who Remembers Mama?

Who Remembers Mama?, an award winning documentary examining the problems faced by displaced homemakers, will be telecast over Channel 8, Tuesday, July 3, at 10:30 p.m. The film portrays the emotional and financial devastation experienced by these women when they lose their roles as homemakers through divorce.

One east coast reviewer called *Who Remembers Mama?* a disturbing film. He gave it a poor review because the subject matter offended him and he did not know how to deal with it—much like many parents who find films portraying nude bodies or containing four-letter words offensive.

Who Remembers Mama? is a disturbing film, because it throws out alarming divorce statistics, the number of displaced homemakers affected by these dissolved marriages, the salary differentials between working men and women and the high percentage of ex-husbands who fall behind in their child support payments.

Who Remembers Mama? deals with emotions—hurts, angers, guilts, feelings of inadequacy, frustrations—of real people. The only actors in the film portray Bob and Bernice Marlowe in a divorce courtroom. The lawyers, the judge, the psychologist, the congressman, the nightclub comic, the displaced homemakers are real, not actors.

The courtroom scenes depict the actualities of our adversary system of justice as a game in which one person wins and one loses. The one who gets custody of the children is the one who gets "better packaging as a parent." "The lawyer did a better selling job to the judge," admitted one attorney interviewed.

The struggles and emotions of the displaced homemakers themselves tell the story. "I have no hope. I don't know where to go."

"I was taught to put my children first, my husband second, and myself third. I was cheated."

"I have been thrown on the scrap heap."

"I had four children. I loved him very much. I failed as a woman."

"When the judge said the children would go to their father, I felt I would die. In the eyes of the law in this country, I am not those children's mother."

"My food stamp card is in my purse next to my Junior League card."

"I was turned down for 34 straight jobs." "My psychiatrist said 'If you live through this...'"

"I told the children if they came to live with me, I would not take any child support. We would go it alone."

"At least not having the children frees me from that time each month when I had to ask 'Is it (the child support check) coming today?' will it be here tomorrow, next week, or not at all?"

Every woman of high school age and above should sit down and watch *Who Remembers Mama?* on July 3. Then dialogue about it—to their best friend, their husband or lover, their sister or mother, their church women's group, their co-workers, their neighbors. That is what the film makers intended to happen. Their purpose in making the film was to provoke discussions of current marital laws and customs, divorce and property settlements, child custody and support, ageism, employment discrimination and sexism.

This award-winning documentary was written and co-produced by Cynthia Salzman Mondell and Allen Mondell through KERA-TV in Dallas/Fort Worth, with support from the Dallas chapter of Women in Communications, Inc. (WICI). It was aired nationally over public television stations in April. *Who Remembers Mama?* was awarded the 1978 Silver Gavel Award by the American Bar Association, was a finalist at the American Film Festival and received an honorable mention in the WICI Clarion Awards competition. Major funding was provided through a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Houston showing July 3 is produced by Southwest Alternate Media Project as part of their "Territory" series on Channel 8. - H.W.



New Caney Elementary School Principal Joe Williamson (foreground) faced a TEA hearing prompted by charges he severely beat a four-year-old blind student.

Violence In School

by Melanie Mayeaux

In 1976, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating 1979 the Year of the Child.

In the U.S. one of these rights, "the right to be brought up in a spirit of peace," is endangered because of a child-rearing philosophy which condones the use of physical force to discipline a child.

"It's difficult to go into a private home and tell people not to use physical violence on their children when society, including the schools, says it is all right," commented Judy Hay, Community Relations Director of the Texas Department of Human Resources (TDHR). "In a system based on physical force as a means of discipline, abuse is inevitable."

American public schools are major perpetrators of this system, especially in Texas. Most school districts in Texas adhere to a policy of corporal punishment, despite little evidence that physical punishment is effective.

David Gottlieb, Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Houston, recently served on a committee to investigate violence, disruptive behavior and student discipline for the Houston Independent School District (HISD). Gottlieb has long been an opponent of corporal punishment.

"Corporal punishment teaches children to handle problems with force. It is very selective. Younger children are more subject to being paddled. It is very discriminatory—usually males are paddled. It puts the entire burden of proof on the child," said Gottlieb.

Another serious problem with corporal punishment is "invitation of abuse." The following story is an example.

It was unusually quiet in the special education classroom. Almost all the children were asleep.

Only one remained awake, sitting quietly on his cot, rocking back and forth to a rhythm of his own.

The door opened. He stopped his movement at the sound. He did not look up when the woman approached. When she spoke, his face burst into a smile. His hands moved quickly, gently against the woman's face. "Momma!" he said.

Ramon Couture's perception of the world is limited. He was blinded at 20 months when he was beaten senseless by his natural parents.

He became a ward of the state and lived in three different foster homes. In January, 1979, Ramon was adopted by Barbara Couture.

Couture was not unfamiliar with the foster child program. She had housed eight children over the last couple of years. When adoption laws were changed making single-parent adoption possible, she applied for a child. In January, 1979, she legally became Ramon's parent.

"When I first got Ramon," explained Couture, "he was virtually non-verbal. Except for his blindness, he is physically normal. Ramon is approximately one year behind in the 'normal' learning process."

Couture enrolled Ramon in the special education program at New Caney Elementary School. She was aware the school adhered to a policy of corporal punishment.

"I explained his background and requested—both verbally and in writing—that Ramon not be spanked. I felt that any type of physical force used against him would be detrimental," said Couture.

Yet on February 6, 1979, Ramon once again was a victim of physical violence. This time it was not an outraged parent. It was school principal Joe Williamson.

That particular morning Ramon did not want to leave the school bus. Seeing the driver trying to coax the child, Williamson came onto the bus, slapped the child, brought him into his office, and paddled him.

"When I picked up Ramon that afternoon, I knew something had happened. He would not let me touch him and was

Melanie Mayeaux

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non-verbal," said Couture. "He was crying to himself as if in pain. I examined him, and discovered that his buttocks were red and swollen. There were also red marks on the back of his legs down to the knees, on his right arm, and face. After a lengthy question and answer period, I knew something had happened at school involving a man and a bus.

"I learned what happened through witnesses," continued Couture. "I called Williamson that night but was unable to reach him until the next morning. He did not deny spanking Ramon. He said the reason for Ramon's misbehavior was the lack of a strong male influence.

"That same morning I reported the incident to Cecil Willis, superintendent of the New Caney Independent School District (NCISD). Willis appointed Cecil Wilburn to investigate my complaint. Wilburn called me a few days later and told me I had overreacted.

"For four days after the incident, Ramon did not eat or sleep. Any progress he had made since January was virtually wiped out. I took Ramon to his physician when he continued having insomnia. The doctor prescribed phenobarbital and told me to remain very close to him.

"I know Ramon's only hope for a normal life is through education. Incidents of this kind only set him back. If there was ever a chance of this happening again, I would have to remove him from school. To avoid this, I continue my fight," Couture said.

Getting no relief from the investigation, Couture wrote a letter to Willis demanding parents of special education students have the right to deny corporal punishment. She requested that Williamson have no further contact with Ramon, and that Williamson be dismissed as principal.

According to Couture, there is a previous lawsuit pending against Williamson for allegedly breaking a child's arm.

"This is why I added the third demand, though the first two were the most important," she said.

The New Caney ISD School Board met on April 24 to hear Couture's charges and voted to deny all her demands.



Melanie Mayeaux

Special ed teacher JEAN STOCKTON (l) works with four year old RAMON (r) while his mother BARBARA COUTURE observes his progress.

"The school and administrative officials portrayed me as a hysterical female out to 'get' the school and district. My only goal was to protect the rights of my child and other children like him," said Couture.

Couture's case was heard before the Texas Education Authority (TEA) May 24, 1979.

Richard Sedgeley, attorney for the school district, claimed that no excessive force had been used on the child.

"The child is receiving every special education benefit the law allows," he said. "He is receiving the best education possible, and has been in a very strict environment."

Sedgeley seemed more interested in Couture's lifestyle than in the damage done to Ramon. She was asked "Do you and Ramon live alone?" "Who cares for Ramon while you work?" and "What time do you get home?"

The only question asked by Sedgeley

that pertained to the beating was "Has Ramon sustained any permanent physical or mental injury from the paddling?"

The only witness called, other than Couture, was Ramon's teacher, Jean Stockton. Stockton serves on a committee investigating policy changes in the corporal punishment guidelines regarding special education students.

"Our preliminary recommendations are that no child be paddled without parental permission, no child under six be paddled, and corporal punishment be used only as a last resort," she said.

"I have been a special education teacher for 11 years, and have never used corporal punishment," she added.

"It is the recommendation of this court," stated presiding judge Michael H. Driscoll, "that the corporal punishment policy be changed in reference to special education students. I will hold this court open until September, 1979. If at that time

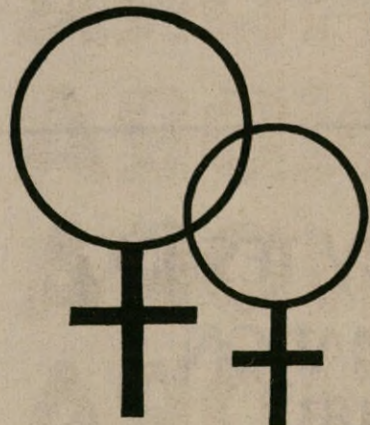
no change has been implemented, this court will reconvene.

"It is also the opinion of this court that Williamson did not violate any existing policy. Therefore, I recommend that the issue concerning his dismissal be dropped," he said.

"I am happy with the decision," said Couture. "My major concern was the existing policy. It is unfortunate that children outside of the special education program will not have the same protection.

"I suggest that parents in New Caney request speech therapy for their children. This will put them in the special education program, and will protect them from physical violence."

Melanie Mayeaux was a journalism student at College of the Mainland and will attend Texas Tech in the fall.



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My Sister Charlotte

by Virginia Myers



Graduate CHARLOTTE SOLNOK...

As I pushed through the Oklahoma State commencement crowd trying to find my sister, Charlotte, one thought kept going through my mind. When I finally spotted her among the 3000 graduates, my thought came closer to a shout: *the battle of Stillwater is over, and my sister Charlotte won!*

Hardly any of the residents of Stillwater, home of OSU, were even aware of the four year battle waged in their midst. Some thought it could have been avoided if Charlotte had simply decided to put her husband Vince through school instead, or at least first.

But not my sister Charlotte. She was absolutely adamant: "I am going to be responsible for my education, Vince, and you be responsible for yours." That was the agreement. "After all," she said, "I am just as important."

So Charlotte took on Stillwater. Wife and husband began their respective scramble for grants, loans, scholarships and part-time jobs.

There were sacrifices. An apartment replaced a house. It was small but with enough space to study, for rarely were they both there at the same time.

Bicycles replaced the car, and Charlotte pedaled from class to her desk job in the alumni office, or from there to her night job as a waitress.

Mother worried about rapists in the shrubs in front of the apartment. "Charlotte," she would say, "it's just not safe to come home at 2:00 in the morning on your bicycle. Anybody could be waiting there. Can't you find another job? Or cut down those shrubs?"

Dad would look at the sheer will on her face and wonder what he could possibly have done to put that into a girl. Somehow it just didn't seem right to him.

Some family members kept saying, "She's got to slow down." Other relatives worried, "She's sure looking thin." Me? I saw the glow in her determination and found it most becoming.

She never surrendered. Months became semesters and semesters became years. Finally, in May, my sister Charlotte won the battle. Never has a general marched to a greater victory than did Charlotte at the commencement ceremony.

"I'm so proud of Charlotte," I told her friend Marilyn sitting next to me on the graduation bleachers.

"I'm so proud of all of us," she replied.

Virginia Myers is a member of the publication staff at NL Baroid.



photos by Virginia Myers

... with husband VINCE.

BIG FAT F continued from page 11

language in some amendments and riders of various pieces of legislation. Through lobbying and assistance from Representative Lance Lalor we managed to keep all that stuff off.

"So basically, we stayed where we were. We successfully trod water. It could have gotten worse.

"It is still a class C misdemeanor to commit a homosexual act in Texas. We hope one day that will be off the books.

"As consumers we really took a beating. Overall, we didn't do too hot, for the same old reasons—the speaker of the house, the rules, and the whole way it is run.

"From a gay standpoint, we don't have real high hopes. But we have kept from going backwards."

Madeline Bass Framson, Board Member, Texas Natural Resources Committee

The record for this session was pretty sorry.

"There were a large number of environmental issues under consideration. In the latter stages of the session, I was working on the bills that pertained to the nuclear issue.

"There was a very good bill, H. B. 644, that would have given the legislature the authority to make decisions on high waste repositories in the state.

"We worked very hard on the members of the House Natural Resources Committee. There were some pro-nuclear people, which surprised us, because pro-

nuclear is a position considered unpopular for a Senator or Representative to take.

"Despite all the work, the bill got deliberately locked up in committee and died there.

"We did manage to succeed in getting H. B. 910 stopped. This bill would have given federal government almost complete authority over nuclear energy in Texas. We really had to work hard. It is interesting to note that mostly women

make up my telephone committee. The people called are certainly not all women, but women are doing the grassroots, the hard work.

"The killing of 910 was wonderful. It

was marvelous! Still, I am sorry the legislature did not take a position on nuclear waste.

"The citizens of this state should have the right to say what they want for the state without the federal government imposing such a hazardous environment on us. This is a question of state's rights.

"As citizens, we should be very alert to natural resources legislation presented to the legislator. We've still got some problems to solve!"

"As time went by, though, and things got stripped away, I began to agree with the criminal justice people who said the bill stole all of their impact.

"I was very glad it did not pass in its final form."

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Network

Editor, Hildegard Warner

A workshop, *Ethical Issues in Human Reproductive Technology: Analysis by Women*, supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and sponsored by the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women will be held June 24 - 29 at Hampshire College in Massachusetts. Houstonian Barbara Tilley will present a paper on *The Risks Associated with DES Exposure* as part of the *DES: An Interdisciplinary Subgroup*. Barbara Tilley is a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston, and formerly coordinated a research project on the effects of DES.

Sarah Weddington, special assistant to President Jimmy Carter and the nation's top governmental representative for women's issues will be the guest speaker at the 24th annual western area conference of Links, a national women's organization which emphasizes educational, intercultural, and civic programs. Weddington will address the convention on Saturday, July 7 at 12:30 p.m. in the Galleria Plaza Hotel ballroom. Tickets are \$15 payable to Houston Links. For reservations call 522-0009 or 748-5548.

A new four-week series of activities will begin at the Downtown YWCA July 16. Classes for children include gymnastics, sewing and cooking, while women may learn dance of all types, yoga, tennis, Spanish, drawing and painting, guitar or bridge. Swimming classes for all ages will begin July 9. These are just a sample of the summer classes, in addition to regular on-going activities at the YWCA. For more information about schedules, costs, and registration, call the registrar at 523-6881 before July 9 for swimming classes and before July 11 for all others.



A Canton Lady, 1861-1864 is one of a series of photographs of Imperial China, 1850-1912, now on exhibit at The Museum of Fine Arts. The exhibit is the work of photographers who ventured into China to record historic events, the landscape and the activities of the people in the last years of the Manchu Dynasty, the period in which China was opening up to foreign commercial and political interests. The exhibition has been organized by the Asia House Gallery and the American Federation of Arts, and will be on view in Houston until July 22.

Other exhibits currently at the Museum include *Patrick Henry Bruce: American Modernist* and *Patrick Henry Bruce and His Times: Related Painting, 1916-1936*, in the Upper Brown Gallery through July 19; *Wood in Art*, an educational exhibition of wood used as an art medium, through September 23; and *Sprouts: Conceptual Architectural Sketches*, a collection of conceptual architectural drawings by local architects, through July 19.

An E.R.A. Support Committee has been organized to promote the economic boycott of unratified states. The group supplements N.O.W.'s economic boycott and encourages people in Houston to vacation only in ratified states and to let tourism officials in unratified states understand exactly how much money they are losing. The Gay Political Caucus, the Chicana Caucus of G.P.C., Houston Area N.O.W., Harris County Women's Political Caucus, and Lesberadas have joined the group in passing resolutions in support of the economic boycott. Between 900 and 1000 letters were collected at the Texas N.O.W. Conference and sent to tourism offices and legislators in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Florida. More help is needed in this effort. Interested persons may call Renee Rabb at 524-0982.

Celebration of Houston Gay Pride Week '79 will officially begin Friday evening, June 22 at MARY'S LOUNGE, 1022 Westheimer. The opening ceremonies are scheduled for 10 p.m. and will be followed by a production of *Gayplay*, a series of theatrical sketches directed by Roger Gorton.

Saturday June 30 is WOMEN'S DAY of Gay Pride Week, and the Gay Resource Services at the University of Houston has organized a Lesbian Workshop, to be held at the University Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The schedule of topics on the workshop agenda are: 9 a.m.: *Women in Small Business Administration*; *Women in Non-traditional Roles*. 10:45 a.m.: *Blue Collar Lesbians*; *Lesbians in Mental Health*. 1:30 p.m.: *Lesbians in Literature*; *Lesbian Mothers and Lesbian Rights*. 3:15 p.m.: *Consciousness-raising session*.

On Saturday evening there will be a Lee McCormick concert at MARION'S TOO, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 1 is the final day of Gay Pride Week, and the celebration will culminate this day with a Gay Pride Parade down Westheimer, from Shepherd to Bagby. The parade will begin at 3 p.m. sharp. Persons interested in participating in the parade must file an application with Larry Bagneris, Parade Coordinator.

At 6:30 p.m. the festivities will continue in Spots Park (corner of Waugh & Memorial Drives) where *An Expression of Freedom* will take place. Entertainment of various sorts will begin at 7:30 p.m. At 9 p.m., there will be a political rally featuring former Presidential Aide Midge Costanza, Congressman Mickey Leland, Jean O'Leary, who recently resigned from an executive position with the National Gay Task Force and Harry Britt, who succeeded the late San Francisco supervisor, Harvey Milk.

The National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) will conduct a nationwide conference for professionals and other individuals concerned with sexual assault, from August 24-26, at George Williams College, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Conference fee is \$45, covering registration and accommodations. Bus service is available from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, 80 miles away. Purposes of the conference are to develop a network for members of the rape crisis movement, establish a political power base, share expertise, experience and knowledge, and provide mutual strength and support to professionals working with victims of sexual assault. A business meeting will be conducted to further develop the organization. To receive information and registration forms, write Sandy Lambert, NCASA, P.O. Box 585, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108.

Path Seekers, a non-profit organization which acts as a support system for recently released female convicts, has recently acquired a residential facility in Houston to house 17 women. Residents will receive job training and placement assistance, counseling, and educational opportunities at the facility in addition to a home atmosphere with meals, decorated rooms and comfortable furniture. Donations of furniture, kitchen and pantry supplies, linens, books and money are needed to establish the facility. Checks may be mailed or materials taken to Path Seekers, Inc., 3530 Timmons Lane, No. 393, Houston, Tx. 77027. For more information call 649-4877.

Crisis Hotline, the 24-hour crisis intervention service, needs more volunteers to handle the more than 5,000 phone calls it receives each month. Especially needed are bilingual speakers (English and Spanish) and volunteers who can work after midnight. A four-week training session for new volunteers will begin on Saturdays during August from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Training sessions will teach volunteers how to handle phone calls about family conflicts, loneliness, depression, battered women, rape victims, abused children and suicide. Volunteers work one four-hour shift each week. For more information and an application form, call Crisis Hotline, 228-1505, or Carol Maxwell, Coordinator of Training and Public Relations, 527-9864, weekdays.

Another training course, "Dealing with Crisis," is being offered by the University of Houston Sundry School for persons who wish to learn about community problems and ways of dealing with them, but do not wish to become Crisis Hotline volunteers. The course is based on crisis intervention skills used by Hotline volunteers but will be flexible to cover special interests of participants. It will be held Wednesday evenings, June 20 through August 8, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., and registration must be made at UH Sundry School. Contact Carol Maxwell at 527-9864 weekdays for more information.

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With the goal of making the powerful tools of computer technology available to more women, the Feminist Computer Technology Project was launched at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in Lawrence, Kansas, May 30 - June 3.

The project was convened by Elizabeth Reinhardt of Los Angeles, a linguist and computer consultant who has been concerned for some years with furthering the utilization of computer technology by women. Prior to the conference, Reinhardt had contacted Dana Densmore of Boston, a feminist theoretician and computer consultant who had written an article published in the May 1979 issue of *Ms.* magazine exploring different possibilities for feminist computer technology. Densmore agreed to be a co-convenor for the project.

A group of some fifteen women met with the convenors over the course of the NWSA conference and formally constituted itself as Feminist Computer Technology Project. Helen Eisen-Rotkopf agreed to be the initial Communications Facilitator and to mail out the first newsletter in July.

Additional action items undertaken at the initial meetings include: Preparing a questionnaire to be distributed through selected women's computer technology resources and the potential constituency of the project; and obtaining funding from various private sources for a first experimental computing center to be set up in 1980.

All women sharing the goals of the project are invited to join by sending a short description of their backgrounds and interest along with \$2 to cover initial mailing costs to: Helen Eisen-Rotkopf, 4407-C Normandy Trace Drive, St. Louis MO 63121.

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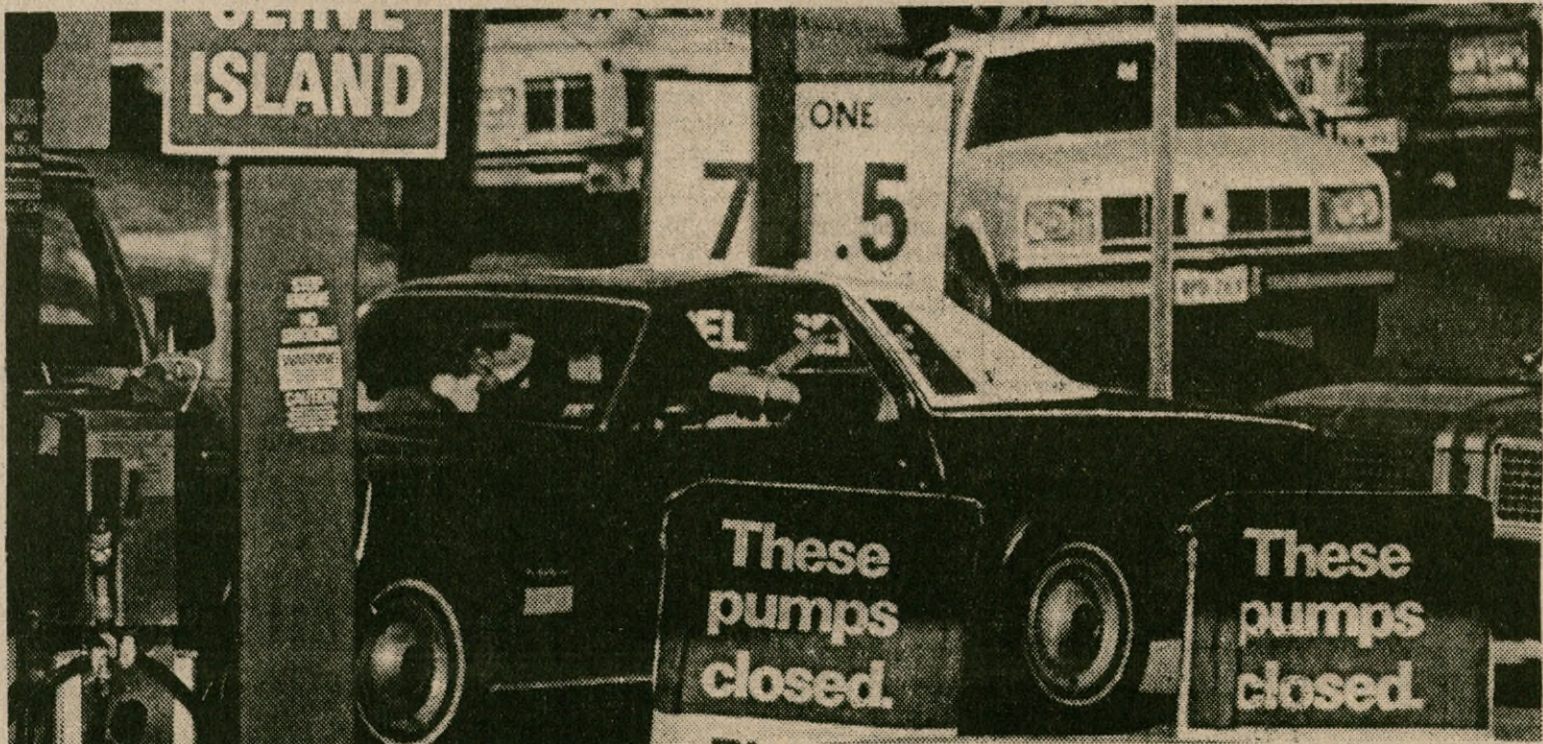
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So how about it? "Put your money where your mouth is," join the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, and save regularly.

Ps. Share-draft transfers from your regular bank to your HAFFCU account are available. Due to a staffing shortage, the office temporarily will be open irregular hours. Please bear with us. HAFFCU, 4600 Main Street, Rm. 217, 522-1702.

The Lambda Club of First Unitarian Church is sponsoring a four-week Gay Film Festival opening Friday, July 6. The series will feature both short and full-length films, several of special interest to women. The series includes: July 6—short film, *Lot in Sodom* and feature *Maedchen in Uniform*, a 1932 film taking place in a girls' boarding school; July 13—*Victim*, a 1961 English film featuring Dirk Bogarde; July 27

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—*The Bitter Tears of Petra Von Kant*, made by German filmmaker Fassbinder, August 3—three short films, *Silvèrpoint*, by Barbara Linkevitch, *Patricia Nixon's Wedding* and *I'm not from Here*. The series will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Channing Hall, First Unitarian Church, Fannin & Southmore. Series tickets are available in advance for \$6.50 from the church office or at Wilde 'n Stein Book Store, 819 Richmond. Any remaining tickets will be offered for \$2 each evening at the door. For further information call First Unitarian Church, 526-1571.

Legislative Alert! Several amendments to ban or limit abortion funding will reach the U.S. House and Senate floor this summer. Write your congressional legislators. They're being swamped by anti-abortion forces. Don't take the right to choose for granted. Write today!

Information for *Network* should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the page and sent to Houston Breakthrough, P.O. Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004. We regret we cannot take information over the phone. Announcements of events that are free and open to the public are published free of charge. Be sure to send information early. For the July-August summer issue, include events taking place 15-Sept. 1. Deadline: July 5.

letters

Share your views with other readers in the *Network*. We welcome letters for publication. Letters must be signed and marked with a return address. Mail to Letters, Houston Breakthrough, P.O. Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004.

communicate - to have a sympathetic or meaningful relationship

We must be careful not to forget how to talk with one another. I mean simply the imparting of new ideas, the sharing of old clichés—not attempts at impressing each other with meaningless words, name droppings, and “consciousness-raising” terminology.

Unfortunately, this latter lack of communication marked the “spontaneous dialogue” sponsored by the Houston Women's Art Caucus in the backyard of radio station KPFT on Saturday evening, May 26, 1979, between Jill Johnston, a radical feminist author, and Deborah Hay, a dancer. There actually was little or no dialogue, causing this purported free and natural event to be at first confusing, then boring, and finally insulting.

In the initial confusion, to help guide this spontaneity, a member of the audience asked Deborah Hay when she would dance for the group. Hay assured us, with her carefully composed and blank demeanor, that she was at that very moment dancing for us. It only appeared that she was sitting cross-legged on a folded chair in a semi-trance.

Again, in an effort to spark some dialogue, my friend, who had brought her two young daughters with the promise they would hear concerned women sharing their feelings on various subjects, addressed Johnston with the question, “Can you tell my daughters where they are going?” This seemed a valid and meaningful question at a feminist gathering, but Johnston chose only to snicker at it with a lame and very unfunny, “You want me to tell them where they can go?”

The evening proceeded with Johnston fending questions like “Where are you now?”, with brilliant repartee such as “I'm in a backyard in Houston now.” When asked about the composition of the audiences attending her various talks, Johnston replied that they were made up of “nice people.” This kind of spontaneous dialogue seems best carried on at a sophomore beer bust.

The write-up in the “Network” section of the May issue of *Houston Breakthrough* described the Johnston/Hay events in Austin as a discussion of “. . . their new books, the influence of the political forces of the 60's and 70's on their lives and work, reflections on dance, literature and art criticism.” I imagine many people came to this “spontaneous dialogue” expecting some discussion along those lines. There were people who wanted particularly to see Deborah Hay dance—apart from her sitting cross-legged in a chair—and were disappointed in that aspect.

One moment which could have redeemed the evening occurred when Johnston read from an article she had written in *Village Voice* concerning the death of her mother. It was about the difficulties she and her mother had with their relationship and how she had not been with her mother when she died. These were feelings everyone in the audience could relate to and identify with, but Johnston mugged her way through the otherwise meaningful article as if she had never seen it before. She went as far as to stop reading to point out a typographical error she hadn't caught earlier.

After suffering an hour and a half with this inanity, and after several concerned attempts to make some sense of the evening, my friend and I were treated to some “spontaneous dialogue” from Johnston about how she just knew Gertrude Stein was the “femme” figure in the Stein/Toklas relationship, and that Alice was the “butch.” Anticipating from this a flow of Jew jokes, Polish jokes, and Southern Baptist stereotypes, my friend and her two daughters and I left this totally unpleasant, unsympathetic and non-supportive “spontaneous dialogue.”

Marian G. Ganter

Editor's note: Thank you for your honest reactions. We were intrigued by your letter and contacted Gertrude Barnstone, a member of the Women's Art Caucus and one of the organizers of the event for her comments. Barnstone, too, felt frustrated and confused during much of the evening which she described as “very strange.” After a good portion of the audience left, she said the remaining 20 or so began to discuss their hostility toward both participants. Two topics predominated: one, the expectations audiences have (*Are they fair to artists?*), and two, the desire on the part of the audience to be passively entertained. In the course of these discussions, a member of the audience, Traylene Vassilopoulos, told Hay she wanted to see her dance. “I'll dance if you will,” Hay responded. Vassilopoulos eventually got up and touched Hay who responded by moving slightly. There followed a “dance” of movements, countermovements and responses for almost 10 minutes which Barnstone described as “very beautiful.” While the hostility toward Hay melted in the warmth of the dance, that toward Johnston did not. According to Barnstone, Hay was quite upset by the evening, and could not account for the marked difference between the audience response that night in Houston and the previous night in Austin.

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Sirani Avedis has designed a four-color poster that not only tells people about *Paid My Dues* but also expresses the spirit and struggle of women in music. The poster measures 17½" by 22½" and is colored in tones of brown, gold, blue and lavender. The cost is \$4.50 per poster plus \$1 to cover postage and handling. Please make check payable to Calliope Publishing and send to PMD, P. O. Box 6517, Chicago, IL 60680.

Women's Music—Discover the Difference. . . Music for making love, revolutions, or just merry. Written, engineered and distributed by women for women. Available in Houston at The Bookstore, Wilde 'N' Stein, Cactus Records, and B.D. & Daughter. Take an album home for a test spin from the new Women's Music Rental Library at B.D. & Daughter (1623 Westheimer, 529-3609).

Christine Delmas, B.S.N., M.P.H., J.D. and Larry Delmas, B.A., J.D. announce the opening of the law office of Delmas & Delmas, general practice of law. Evenings/Saturdays by appointment. 19206 Eastex Freeway No. 109, Humble, Texas. Phone: 446-8148.

Wanted: Painters, carpenters, handywomen for newly formed home repair company. Call 522-6894.

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A comprehensive, national, interdisciplinary *Guide to Women's Art Organizations* has been published by Midmarch Associates in cooperation with Women Artists News. The 84-page guide contains individual chapters on visual arts, architecture, design, film and video, dance, music, theater and writing. Each chapter includes information on organizations, performance groups, archives, registries, concerts, festivals, and resources (legal, funding, etc.). The 5" x 8½" soft-cover volume also contains an extensive bibliography. Copies are available for \$4.50 for individuals and \$5.00 for institutions. Send a check to Midmarch Assoc./Women Artists News, Box 3304, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

“For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf,” is currently playing at the Equinox Theatre, 3617 Washington at Heights Blvd., through June 30. Performances are at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. “For Colored Girls,” by Ntozake Shange, is a choreo-poem using verse, music and dance to examine black women's sensibilities, frustrations, loves, hopes and dreams. Tickets are \$5 general admission and may be reserved by calling 868-5829.



January Taylor

Breakthrough on the Air

Breakthrough On The Air is a new weekly radio program which continues our newspaper tradition *where women are news*.

Breakthrough On The Air will present stories reported in the newspaper, featuring interviews with reporters and newsmakers so that listeners have an opportunity to find out how news assignments and decisions are made.

Breakthrough On The Air asks you to participate in this conversation. Your feedback is invaluable. Join host Nancy Lane Fleming with *Breakthrough* reporters and newsmakers on KPFT FM 90 each Friday evening from seven to eight o'clock.

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