

Houston  
**Breakthrough**

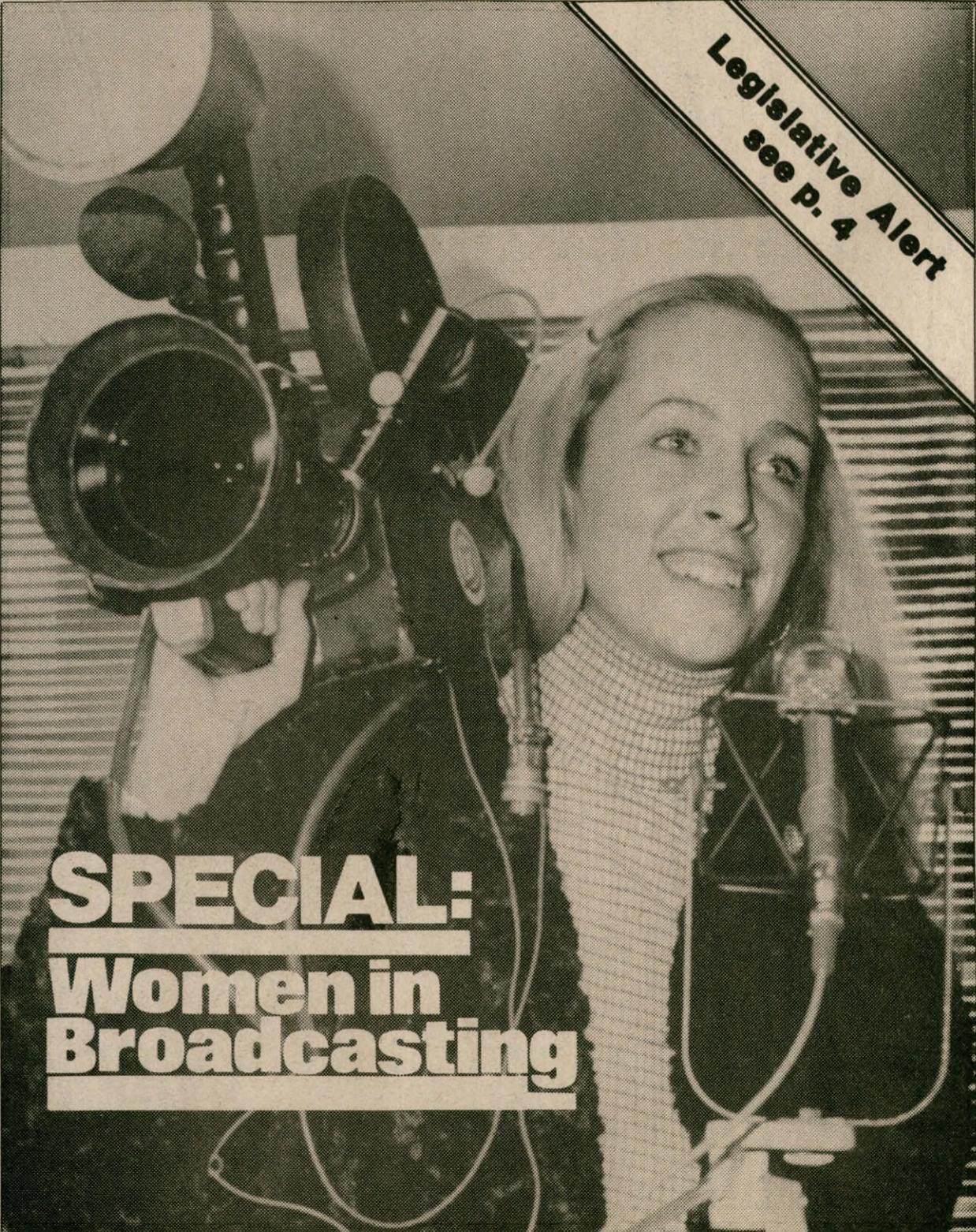
Where Women Are News

Vol. II, No. 5

May 1977

50 cents

**Legislative Alert**  
see p. 4



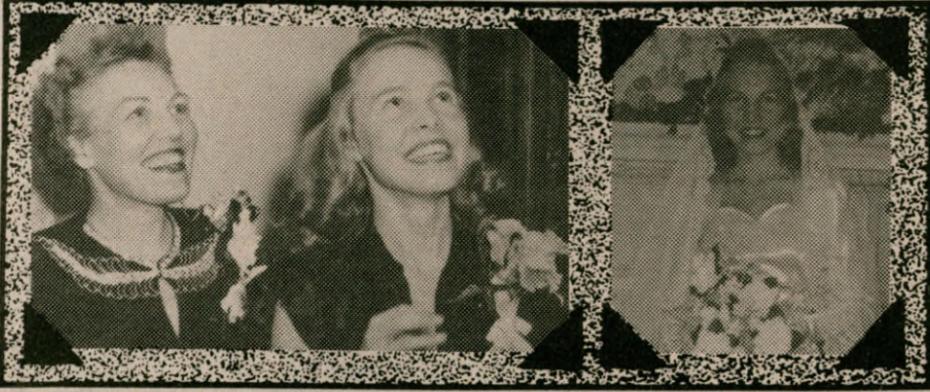
**SPECIAL:**  
**Women in**  
**Broadcasting**

# Mother's Day Diary

By Wendy Haskell Meyer

First, memories of my mother. Everyone adored her. Always smiling. A strong woman, when it was not fashionable to be strong. A caring woman. But with a lifetime of disappointments and tragedies. Her parents divorced. She married my father at 18 to escape a bizarre and unhappy family situation. Then she herself divorced when I was three. Kept house for her physician father in a big Commonwealth Avenue brownstone in Boston. Until he began acting strangely and was eventually committed to a mental hospital with neurosyphilis. One of a series of challenges she accepted with good humor. During them all, she taught me the most enduring lesson of my life: Laugh — at the world, at yourself, at your problems. Then you survive.

Memories of my mother. We have moved to the suburbs so I can go to good public schools. She runs a knitting shop in our house and has married again to a very sweet person who seems to love me too. His business does not go well and she goes to work selling printing to small businesses. It means walking all over Boston every day and she makes it sound funny and exciting.



But how embarrassed, enraged, sad, mortified I am when my mother frequently has too much to drink. I can tell her intake at a glance by the way she holds her mouth. "Mom," I tell her in my most scathing voice, "your teeth are loose again." And I cry in my bed at the top of the stairs one night when I hear her staggering and falling on her way to bed. And I shout so only I can hear: "I hate you when you're like that!"

Memories of my mother. I suppose she disciplined me but I never recall a really cross word. I wanted to please her and when I left her every summer to visit my grandparents in Maine, I had to run to the bathroom three times a day for the first week to cry with homesickness. And when she was dying of cancer, and I was by then 35 and living in Michigan, I felt myself torn apart, for I was 1000 miles away and had four daughters of my own. I flew back to Boston at least three times when her doctor said her death was imminent. She looked like a skeleton, her cheeks sunk in, her bones sticking out. She was 52. And still laughing. My husband would call me and say, "We need you. This could go on forever. You'd better come home." So the day she died, I wasn't even there. And I wondered then about loyalties — to your mother, to your daughters, to your husband and to yourself. Who comes first?

Memories of my daughters who are so beautiful. But then I'm prejudiced. Looking back to 1949, it was a marvelous atmosphere in which Jane and I had our rites of passage together — I into motherhood and she into life itself. It was at Grace New Haven Hospital in Connecticut. Natural childbirth was the local obstetrical religion and I was an enthusiastic communicant. I learned my lessons well. "Take a deep breath, now push hard, no, slow down now, take some short gasps," my obstetrician coached me. After I gave that last grunt and pushed her out, I was as euphoric, as high, as I guess I have ever been before or since. I wanted to sing and laugh and shout to everybody — Look what I did. Look at my baby. Look at us. And oh my God, was I thirsty for a glass of ginger ale.

Had I thought to choose motherhood? Of course not. It had never once occurred to me in my first 25 years that I would do anything but get married and have a family. That was what normal, desirable women did. Period. I remember the pall of pity which enshrouded my cousin Cynthia. She had not conceived in two years of marriage. This, in the Forties, was such a tragedy that we were all instructed not to bring up subjects related to pregnancy or children in her

presence. We all pitied Cynthia as a woman without a future.

I kept having babies. Each pregnancy was a diaphragm mistake but welcomed by my husband as another possible son and by me as something that happened. Another child to love. Unplanned, unquestioned.

I was rapidly finding a new role as *the mother of* — getting on the PTA board, running car pools, and, before long, interrogating dates who by this time were calling on my teenaged daughters. I was also becoming *the wife of* John, who worked long hours and was much sought after in medical and social circles and shared his life with me as much as he could. That was fascinating. It took me to the White House and to Europe several times.

Funny, with all that going for me, I began to slip into depression. I didn't feel comfortable in suburbia where the other women seemed prettier and chic-er and cleverer than I. Other people's kids conformed. Mine didn't and there just didn't seem to be anything I was good at. I ruled out suicide only because I didn't think my five girls could manage without me.

I started my secret journal that year. Sharing my agonies with it, pages of introspective misery and poetry. When my husband and I had a fight, which we began to have more often, instead of telling him what I was feeling, I told my journal. That's how I started writing — to survive. Like laughing, which I'd temporarily forgotten how to do (it comes back).

My worried husband sent me to a psychiatrist. I was expected to do most of the talking, between sniffs, but he did say that the reason my self esteem was so low must be that I'd felt rejected by my father when he and my mother divorced. I said I felt worthless because I was worthless: I'd never been anything but the daughter of, the wife of, the mother of. And I wasn't so hot at any of them. Wendy Meyer wasn't anyone just by herself.

About that time, I read *The Feminine Mystique*. OhmyGod, somebody else feels the same way. Hallelujah! Instant feminist. But a closet feminist for the first few years.

We moved to Houston in 1969. I started going to NOW meetings. I had some initial anxieties at them because it appeared I was the only feminist over 40, married and planning to stay married. When I tried to discuss feminism with other married women of my age, they said that either my head or my marriage was rocky, when, in fact, both were doing very well, thank you.

I brought at least one dinner party to a screaming halt by suggesting to my host, an airline pilot, that women be allowed to fly too.

I bided my time and made close friendships with young journalists in town, worked on *Houston Journalism Review*, began publishing fairly steadily in *Texas Monthly*, the *National Observer* and other markets — not the secret journals, but lifestyle and medical stories. Once over his initial concern that my interest in a writing career camouflaged a disinterest in our family, my husband became extremely supportive.

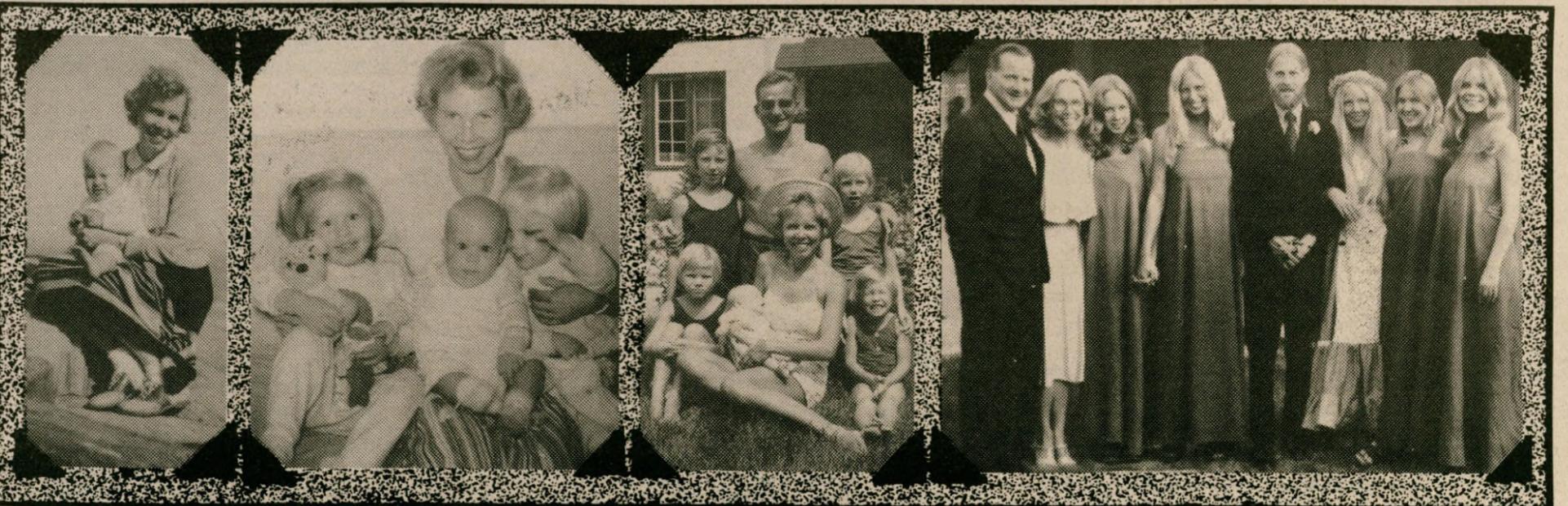
So here I am at 52, having recovered from that angry stage most middle-aged, newly baptized feminists experience. I'm no longer blaming society or my husband or my children or myself for keeping me down. In fact, the irony of my position is that I most cherish what came out of those years down under. I have something my feminist daughters will likely not have themselves: five daughters.

And a 30-year-old marriage held together with love through the usual deaths and rebirths of every marriage. Until all those shared joys and agonies have made it, if not impregnable, then certainly warm and comfortable. I suspect that our certainty since our twenties that our marriage was for a lifetime became a self-fulfilling prophecy. Who would make a dumb prediction like that today?

A household of women must be hard for a man to live in. A world of stockings and tampaxes and breasts and curlers and dresses and high heels. And in our family, at least, no car manuals. No baseballs. No lawnmowers. We kept our conventional sex roles. Now, when my girls and I, all six of us, are together (which rarely happens), we are so close, so full of inside jokes, of shared confidences and reminiscences, that it takes special care not to offend/exclude husbands and friends present.

I look back and wonder about that stranger, Wendy Meyer, in her twenties and thirties. If I'd known then what I know now, everything would have been different.

And I'm not so sure I'd like that at all.



# Editorials

## Forgotten women

The vacancy in the Houston City Comptroller's office had women, blacks and Chicanos vying for a foothold in city government. In no time at all, the situation became another test of strength among those groups which have never received adequate representation in either elective or appointive government positions.

As soon as the possibility of an appointment was manifest, each group sought the City Council's consideration. The response from Council seemed clear: if this political prize was to go to any of the "have-not" groups, it would go to the one which could promise the most in return.

So, once again, the people who share the onus of exclusion from the political system were unable to unify for their mutual benefit, but were thrust instead into fierce competition for the favor of City Hall. Small wonder that Council members found none of the names submitted to them acceptable and opted instead for the non-controversial appointment of the City Treasurer as caretaker for the Comptroller's office until November.

It would seem that no single political minority is strong enough acting alone to have a significant impact on the power structure. It is only when we pool our political resources that we can gain leverage in the system.

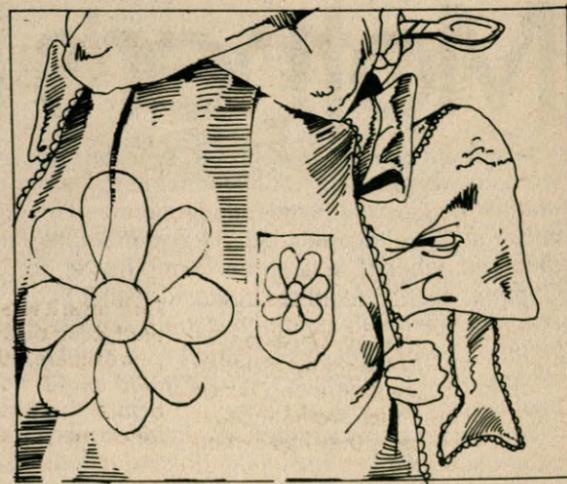
Why haven't effective coalitions among the "have-nots" been established? The idea is not a new one. The suggestion has been heard for years at political strategy meetings in all of the under-represented communities. But a sense of cooperation and trust has yet to be established.

It appears that women would have much to offer such a coalition effort. However, women candidates have been consistently expected to step aside in favor of minority males. The idea prevails that lack of representation in government is not as serious a problem for women as for the ethnic minorities.

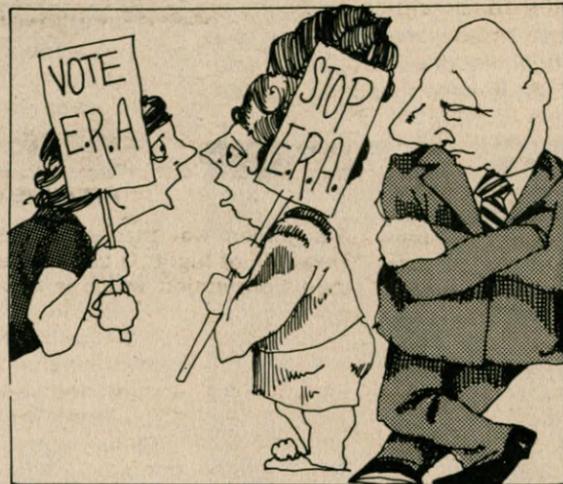
Women are ready to work in harmony with other groups to gain access to the political power structure, but only when their needs for access and representation are given the same priority as the needs of any other minority. A true coalition needs to happen soon.

Liz Carpenter, former press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson and current co-chair of ERAmerica (a force of 120 national organizations ranging from the American Bar Association to the Girl Scouts) testified for the ERA at committee hearings last month. The following is a transcript of some of her more memorable remarks:

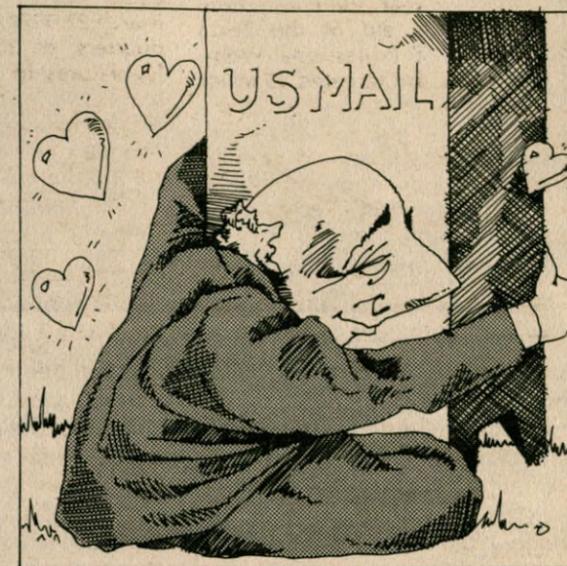
"I have been traveling in an effort to win support for ERA and I have met with many of the "no" votes in the state legislatures — the "fun and game" boys who would make the Equal Rights Amendment a political football. I've typed the kind of man who votes against it and while I am sure that none of these classifications would apply in Texas, I think you might like to hear who is voting "no" in other states.



**Representative Apron Strings:** He tells you, "Oh, I voted against it because my wife is against it." Now, there isn't one other issue where he would use this to justify a position on a vote. And often, he hasn't even asked her.



**Representative Consensus:** He doesn't want to take a stand until "you girls get together". We aren't going to get together any more than women were together on other issues — including the right to vote. Many who opposed the right to vote for women are using the same trite arguments: Why do we need it? Doesn't it open up unknown dangers? Doesn't it take away our femininity to go into a polling place?



**Representative Postoffice:** This is a member who doesn't lead, but is led, who takes the mail and weighs or counts which side can get the most letters in. He doesn't look at the quality of the argument or who generated the letter. And so he doesn't know that many of these letters come from the same people who got writer's cramp trying to impeach Earl Warren.

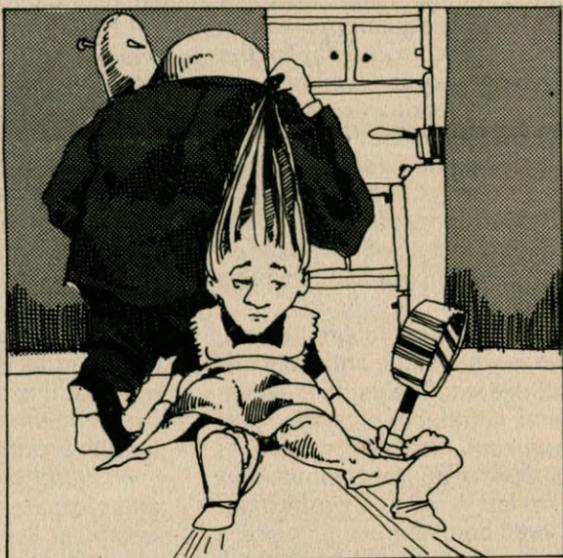
## AN ECONOMIC BOYCOTT

Thirty-five states have now ratified the ERA, but three more votes are necessary (for a total of 38, the required three-fourths of the states). The 15 states which have not yet ratified span the South, Midwest and West. Plan to vacation elsewhere this summer.

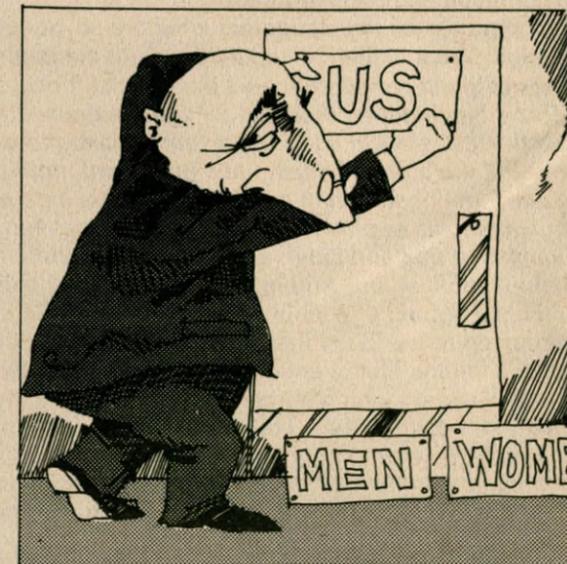
Alabama  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Louisiana  
Mississippi

Missouri  
Nevada  
North Carolina

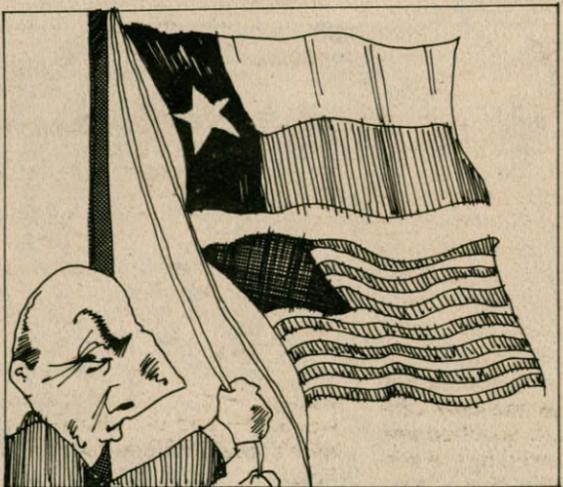
Oklahoma  
South Carolina  
Utah  
Virginia



**Representative Master of the Castle:** This is the man who never associates with women except in bed or the kitchen, and he wants to keep them there because of his own insecurity. He doesn't think marriage is a partnership. What he earns is his money. What property he buys is his property.



**Representative Macho:** Here's one for you — he is a dirty old man who grew up as a dirty little boy. He enjoys sensational gossip, fed to him by the fear and smear artist, that the ERA will lead to co-ed bathrooms, trench warfare, and homosexual marriages. "Play me that old pornograph again," he says as he rails against it. None of these phases exist except in the Representative's mind. Governors of five states, where ERA has not only been ratified but put into the state constitution, have stated that not one of these allegations has come true.



**Representative States' Rights:** This is a man who suffers apoplexy every time the word "federal" or "Congress" is mentioned. He looks at the second section of the amendment, exactly like the second section of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 23rd, and 24th amendments and thinks there should be something different about the Equal Rights Amendment.

These are the usual types found in the handful of "no" votes which are keeping 52% of the population out of the Constitution.

I hope we do not find them in Texas. I know a little bit about politics, and I assure you that the people who were against civil rights in the '60's, for the most part, are out of office. I firmly believe that those who are against equal rights will ultimately also be out of office.

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# ERA's Texas history

By Ann Kennedy

Twenty years ago, Dallas lawyer Hermine Tobolowsky appealed to the Texas Legislature to change the law so that women could control property they had owned before marriage.

In her encounter with the Legislature, several senators "spoke so disparagingly of women" that Tobolowsky determined to campaign for full legal rights for women.

The next year, she enlisted the support and aid of the Texas Business and Professional Women's Clubs and targeted 25 major areas in which Texas laws discriminated against women, including employment and working conditions, community property, homesteads, credit and checking accounts, and crime.

**Until 1972, Article 1220 of the Penal Code provided that it was justifiable homicide if a husband killed his wife's paramour when taking her in adultery. It was murder if the wife killed the husband's mistress under similar circumstances.**

A Vietnam serviceman's wife could not purchase a home because she could not use the family credit. Any Texas husband was permitted by law to prevent his wife from cashing checks on her own separate account by notifying the bank. Texas codes provided that the husband was the natural guardian of minor children and that the husband's executor could manage all community property, including the wife's half, to the exclusion of the surviving wife.

By the time the 56th Session of the Legislature convened in 1959, thousands of women were calling for an equal legal rights amendment to the Texas Constitution.

A proposed amendment to the State Constitution must be passed by the Legislature, then approved by the voters. The Equal Legal

Rights Amendment to the Texas State Constitution was introduced in six sessions of the Legislature. Each time it was defeated in either the House or the Senate.

In January, 1971, Sen. Don Kenard of Fort Worth introduced before the 62nd Session a resolution to place the Equal Legal Rights Amendment on the general election ballot in November, 1972. The Senate passed it 30-0 in February. The House passed it two months later by a vote of 199-25 after lengthy debate.

Congress passed the federal Equal Rights Amendment on March 22, 1972, leaving it to three-quarters, or 38, of the 50 state legislatures to ratify the amendment into law. The Texas Legislature, meeting in special session, hustled to be one of the first to ratify. Texas ratification, the eighth in the nation, took only three days.

Texas' ratification of the ERA is a classic example of how quickly a piece of legislation can move through the complex and ordinarily laborious process. Supporters of the state Equal Legal Rights Amendment had been touring the state for years, most intensively during the preceding year, to inform Texans about the inequities it addressed. Texans had been flooded with talk shows, press conferences, interviews, rallies, literature. As a result of that 13-year campaign, the merits of the amendment were no longer a controversial subject among the voters of Texas.

In November, Texas voters ratified both the state and the federal amendments. More than 20 Texas laws which discriminated against women were automatically repealed. The Equal Legal Rights



HERMINE TOBOLOWSKY

Amendment was attached to the Texas Bill of Rights, a part of the state Constitution which is inviolate.

But within months, the press reflected rumblings from various parts of the state about reexamining the Amendment, recalling it, and even rescinding it.

As legislators geared up for the 64th session in 1975, the single issue generating the most mail and phone calls was by far the ERA.

Republican Rep. Larry Vick of Houston led the fight for repeal. He was strongly supported by such groups as Women Who Want to be Women (WWW), Fascinating Womanhood, the Texas Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), the Church of Christ and Mary Kay Cosmetics. Many of these groups are still involved in efforts to rescind or to halt ratification in other states.

In February, the press reported that Vick had taken two out-of-state trips to work against adoption of the ERA in North Dakota and Illinois. Vick had excused himself from the Legislature "for important business."

"I wasn't lobbying against the ERA," Vick squirmed. "I was testifying in favor of resolutions to study the effect the ERA would have on the right of states to enact laws in such areas as family and probate law."

Rep. Bill Hilliard of Fort Worth introduced a resolution February 18 that the Legislature rescind ratification of the federal ERA. The resolution was referred to the Constitutional Revision Committee, chaired by Rep. Ray Hutchison of Dallas. Hutchison, pointing to his committee's heavy agenda, indicated that a hearing could not be scheduled for Hilliard's resolution until mid-April.

Shortly thereafter, Rep. George Preston of Paris introduced a bill calling for a nonbinding referendum on whether the Legislature should rescind its ratification. Preston contended that the voters who had approved the measure by a 4-1 margin three months earlier had since had a change of opinion. They were wary of interpretations of the amendment by the Congress and the courts, and were concerned about a "loss of traditional morality." His bill ended up in a subcommittee of the State Affairs Committee.

The House Constitutional Revision Committee set a hearing on Hilliard's resolution to rescind ratification of the ERA for April 14. At that point, legislators had received nearly 500,000 letters on the subject and had been inundated by waves of emotional lobbyists. ERA supporters wore red, white and blue sashes — opponents wore pink and brought cakes to the lawmakers.

More than 2,000 persons came to watch or testify. Some arrived the night before and kept vigil on the capitol grounds. Hundreds rallied beforehand.

The hearing lasted ten hours. House employees cleared and refilled the spectator galleries every hour and piped the sound out to those waiting in the hall.

Lawyers and professors pro-pounded conflicting theories on the legality of rescission. "What the Legislature giveth, it also can take away," a legislator visiting from Tennessee declared.

ERA opponents bemoaned the specters of ruined families, abandoned religion, mothers in combat, rampant abortion, homosexual marriage and unisex bathrooms.

And Hermine Tobolowsky testified that the ERA was necessary, pointing out that "the Texas Legislature showed no interest in repealing discriminatory laws until the ERA was in the state Constitution. And Congress showed no interest until it was apparent the federal ERA would pass."

In an expected anti-climax, Hutchison sent the bill to a subcommittee.

Three days later, three senators, including Houston Republican Walter "Mad Dog" Mengden, announced they would sponsor the resolution in the Senate if it passed the House.

One month after the hearing, the subcommittee reported to the full committee a recommendation that Texas recall rather than rescind ratification of the federal ERA for reexamination.

But by the time Rep. Ben Bynum made a motion that the Constitutional Revisions Committee approve the subcommittee report, a majority was no longer present. A majority is required to get a bill out of committee and onto the House floor.

Hutchison sent staff to search for the suddenly missing members, but the search was unsuccessful. After holding the vote open for half an hour, Hutchison adjourned. He did not bring up the resolution for consideration again.

Efforts to kill the ERA were dead — at least for the 64th session.

## Women back Whitmire

By Linda Niederhofer

By a strange coincidence, Leonel Castillo chose to announce his resignation at noon on Monday, March 2, at the same time that 12 representatives of area women's groups called a press conference to publicly announce their support of Kathryn Whitmire's candidacy for the comptroller's post.

They held the conference outside City Hall, on the steps, to symbolize the fact that women have been kept outside of city government.

The news of the support for Whitmire was overshadowed by the Castillo resignation and the word that Council was meeting in emergency session at 2 p.m. to appoint an interim comptroller.

Speakers and reporters went straight from the press conference to Council chambers to await the decision.

The list of people who wished to be considered for the position had grown to 12, although Council remained with the predicted choices — Councilman-architect Homer Ford and accountant Steve Jones. Later that afternoon, to end the deadlock, City Treasurer Henry Kriegel was named to the post. He said that he would not run for that position in November.

The speakers emphasized that Kathy Whitmire is the only candidate who is both qualified and has not been rejected by the voters for that position (Steve Jones lost to Castillo in a previous election). Whitmire is a Houston certified public accountant who has held senior auditing positions with prestigious firms here in the city. She currently teaches accounting at the University of Houston Downtown College.



PAM PITT, SHARON MACHA, HELEN CASSIDY  
KAREY BRESEHAN, BARBARA SHOOK, PAT LANE

Pamela Pitt, a member of the Women's Equity Action League, pointed out that no women have ever been elected to city government in Houston. She cited the reason that men in government often give for not appointing women — the lack of qualified women — and then listed Whitmire's qualifications for the office.

Texas Women's Political Caucus speaker Sharon Macha seriously questioned why such an important position should be decided by the "toss of a coin," as the *Houston Post* headlined it one morning. "Particularly," said Macha "when heads is an architect and

tails is a previously defeated candidate for the office," speaking of Homer Ford and Steve Jones respectively.

Pat Lane, from the 15th Democratic Senatorial District Women's Caucus, and Helen Cassidy, national board member of NOW, noted that women make up over half of the electorate and have been grossly overlooked in political appointments.

"No wonder men find it difficult to find qualified women when the only recommendations they seem to value come from other men," Lane told members of the press.

The speakers addressed themselves to the issue of patronage, which allows men who are already in power to pass on power to other men.

Dr. Susan A. MacManus, U.H. professor of political science, spoke of the concern that council appeared to be expressing about the political advantages of whom they choose rather than the professional advantages of their appointee. She asked, "Is being a political cohort enough training to handle disbursement and auditing of millions of taxpayers' dollars?"

Director of the Women's Commission for LULAC, Olga Soliz, summed up the feelings of the women present when she stated, "It is our hope that our elected city officials give top priority to the appointment of women in positions of importance, policy and leadership."

Kathy Whitmire plans to run in the November election. If you would like to work to help her and other qualified women run for office, contact Carolyn Nichols at 528-3919 or 627-0700, X2051.



## RECALL ATTEMPTED

By Karen Barrett

This session's bid to recall Texas' ERA ratification was brought before the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments by Dallas conservative Rep. Clay Smothers. Several busloads of ERA supporters and opponents converged on the Capitol for the hearings on April 13.

In the afternoon before the committee hearings were held, some 300 ERA opponents rallied on the steps of the Capitol, carrying pink helium balloons and sporting such mottoes as *Abort libbers, not babies!* and *Draft libbers, not ladies!* They sang *God Bless America* and *The Eyes of Texas Are Upon You* and an original composition whose lyrics went something like: *I've got a guy, he's a wonderful guy, please don't liberate me ... He buys me mink and pearls and diamond rings, please don't liberate me!*

The rally reached a peak of excitement when it was announced that the Florida Legislature had that very day defeated the ERA.

The halls of the Capitol buzzed with nothing but the ERA all day long as people waited for the full House to adjourn from its discussion of school budgets and teacher salaries. It was rumored that Anita Bryant was flying in to testify before the committee.

Blustered one State employee in an elevator: "You know what I'd like to see happen to those women out there on the steps? I'd like to see each and every one of them have her husband run over by a truck tomorrow and see how she feels when she can't buy a car or mortgage the house." "Take it easy," someone else cautioned. "Where can I get a button?" was a question frequently heard.

When the committee convened at 6:30 p.m., it heard 20-minute blocs of testimony, alternating pro and con, for more than four hours.

The usual arguments were heard. Longtime ERA campaigner Hermine Tobolowsky, speaking for Texas Business and Professional Women's Clubs, reviewed the case for the Equal Rights Amendment. She pointed out that the five years which had elapsed since Texas passed a state ERA had not brought unisex bathrooms, legalized rape, or abolished child support.

The suggestion had been made by ERA opponents that state and federal ERA passage in 1972 had been put over on a naive public who had not yet awakened to the sinister implications of such legislation. Committee chair Tim Von Dohlen (D-Goliad) asked Tobolowsky if there had not in fact been a high number of inexperienced first-term members in the 1972 session of the legislature. She answered firmly, "No!"

Audrey Rowe Colom, chair of the National Women's Political Caucus, reaffirmed the support of the Republican National Party for the ERA.

Meanwhile, those testifying in favor of Smothers' bill said ERA was unnecessary, it was evil, it meant that women would be drafted and homosexuals would marry and adopt other people's children. A minister from Pasadena said that it would lead to a genderless society by "destroying male ruggedness and female femininity."

Liz Carpenter, chair of ERAmerica, engaged everyone's attention with her colorful testimony (reprinted in part on page 2). She proposed that:

*Often the issue isn't ERA at all but a power play between power-mad legislators on other issues. That was true in North Carolina, where an arrogant lieutenant governor wanted to flex his muscles before the governor and the House of Representatives and, of course, it was women who were the victims — by two votes. The issue could have been anything — seat belts, conservation, schools.*

Smothers made a final plea to "let Texas make up for a bad, bad mistake" and urged the committee to let the full House vote on the bill. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Fort Worth), however, made a motion to refer it to subcommittee which passed 5-3.

The bill's supporters were despondent, assuming that it would die in subcommittee. They milled about in the rotunda, discussing strategies for 1979. Said the minister from Pasadena who had testified: "Just to show you what kind of people are for the ERA — they were laughing at the Scriptures I was quoting more than at my opinions!" "That's because God just doesn't have the kind of pull he used to," replied a sympathetic bystander.

## ✱ LEGISLATIVE ALERT ✱

*Complacency is our biggest enemy. People have forgotten how dearly won our rights were and they don't see that it's possible for someone to take them away. The other side — the ERA opponents and anti-abortionists — are very visible and vocal in Austin these days. We can't afford to sit home quiet just because bills like these were defeated last session; they could pass any day now!*

— Jody Richardson  
Women's Political Caucus lobbyist

The 65th Session of the Texas Legislature is drawing to a close. As we go to press, the two bills discussed on these two pages have suddenly emerged from their committees and are certain to be put to the vote in the House. Next step is the Senate.

Write to your legislators. Tell them how you feel about the following bills:

1) HB 35 is Clay Smothers' bill to recall the ERA. Recall, which has never been done before and may be illegal, means taking Texas' vote back and thinking it over (as opposed to rescission, which means changing our vote on ERA to no).

2) HB 1875, Tim Von Dohlen's bill to restrict abortion (see facing page) has his priority number on it, which means the House is obligated to vote on it. It has been reworded so as not to make Caesarean births illegal, but otherwise remains the same as when drafted. It will probably be voted on in the second week of May. This bill:

a) seeks to restrict abortion by making certain methods illegal, which comes to the same thing as making abortion illegal, which is unconstitutional. It forbids saline abortions and requires a positive pregnancy test before any kind of abortifacient procedure, effectively making IUDs and morning-after pills illegal.

b) contains provisions to allow the State Board of Health Resources the authority to redefine viability at its own discretion, without further legislation. They could redefine it at 12 weeks, for example.



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

House of Coleman

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# Abortion bill still viable

By Karen Barrett

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision of January, 1973, Texas has had no abortion statutes. The House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare tabled two bills sponsored by Rep. Tom Uher (R-Bay City) which included provisions to forbid abortions in public hospitals and to require a woman to obtain her husband's written permission for an abortion.

Committee hearings, which are scheduled after the full legislative bodies adjourn each day, often last long into the night. So it was that a drowsy HEW Committee began at 11:30 p.m. on April 12 to hear testimony on Tim Von Dohlen (D-Goliad)'s abortion bill, HB 1875.

This bill would legally define the viability of the fetus at 22 weeks gestation and restrict abortions after that time to those required to preserve the health of the mother.

It would also forbid saline abortions except when there is no safer alternative and would require a positive pregnancy test before any abortifacient procedure could be performed.

Compared to the other two bills' more drastic provisions, Von Dohlen's bill seemed to take a tone of moderation. "We ask simply that viability be established legally," pleaded Dr. Thomas Ballenger, a physician from Right to Life. "Surely this is a small request." His testimony was followed by that of Dr. Joseph Witherspoon, a professor of law at the University of Texas, who praised the bill's wording and defended its constitutionality.

In testifying last, the bill's opposition had the disadvantage. It was well after midnight and several committee members appeared to be asleep. The chair had a habit of snapping back to attention just in time to summon each new speaker.



SHEILA SHINEBERG

Physicians challenged the necessity and appropriateness of legislative interference in this one medical procedure singled out from all others. Lawyers questioned the constitutionality of the bill in the light of landmark cases.

Dr. Sheila Shineberg, a professor of sociology at the University of Houston, pleaded with the committee "not to disenfranchise poor and minority women." Those women who are ignorant of their bodies, unaware of their options or unable to scrape up the cash, very poor and very young women, would be most severely impacted by the legal deadline for abortions proposed by Von Dohlen.

As an Austin NOW representative pointed out, "this restrictive piece of legislation would do nothing to guarantee women better health care."

Houston attorney Helen Cassidy pointed to deficiencies in the bill's premises. Referring to the concept of a hard and fast rule based on a 22-week gestation, she said, "While I have no intention of being earthy on the House floor, I must point out that for anyone with a normal sex life, it is very hard to determine the exact time of conception so as to compute the gestation."



SARAH WEDDINGTON

Cassidy then brought out the fact that under the bill's loose definition of an abortifacient act — an act committed ... with intent to cause the death of an unborn child or the expulsion or removal of an unborn child from the womb of the woman other than for the principal purpose of removing a dead fetus — the Caesarean delivery of her son would have made her a felon and made him a ward of the state.

Poppy Northcutt, speaking for the Texas Women's Political Caucus, questioned the legislature's concern for unborn children in light of "the lack of importance placed by this legislature on adequate sex education" which might serve to reduce the rate of unwanted pregnancies.

Rep. Sarah Weddington (D-Austin) rounded out the testimony with a summary of medical and legal arguments against the bill. She praised "the responsible manner in which the physicians of Texas are handling the abortion situation," giving her vote of confidence to the medical profession's ability to voluntarily establish standards.

Weddington called Ballenger on his quotation of an AMA journal statement that saline abortions were extremely dangerous,

pointing out that the statement had appeared in a letter to the journal's editor rather than in a piece of published research.

Weddington challenged the interpretations of constitutional law put forth by Witherspoon, under whom she had studied at UT. Thus far, she said, the higher courts had decided in favor of the student

rather than the professor. Weddington, it must be remembered, was the attorney who argued the case for legalized abortion in *Roe v. Wade* before the U.S. Supreme Court four years ago.

Committee members questioned the speakers at some length. Chase Untermeyer (R-Houston) thought the bill lent itself to loopholes, questioning the precision of such wording as "best medical judgment" and "grave impairment of health," which occurred frequently. Wilhelmina Delco (D-Austin) wanted to know if other states had passed such legislation and if so, had it passed the test of constitutionality.

Ernestine Glossbrenner (D-Alice) took exception to the bill's proponents who refused to consider impaired mental health as a consideration for permitting an abortion after the 22nd week. She suggested that a woman who discovered she was carrying a fetus with Downes' syndrome, a genetic defect which is not detectable until after the fifth month, might suffer great damage to her mental health if compelled to bear the child.

Discussion dwindled and the bill was referred to subcommittee, where it seemed likely to remain.

Von Dohlen's bill resurfaced unexpectedly from committee (see *ALERT* on facing page). Those wishing to lobby against it will have to work fast.

## Coleman appointed

Anti-abortion backlash has been so strong of late that when Houston obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. John Coleman was appointed by the governor to the Board of Regents of Texas A & M University, the issue discussed at greatest length by the Senate Nominations Committee which reviewed qualifications was his partnership in the Cullen Women's Clinic, where abortions are performed. In questioning the appointee, Walter "Mad Dog" Mengden confined himself almost exclusively to such queries as "How many abortions do you perform a year?" and "Describe to us what a fetus aborted in the 12th week looks like."



JOHN COLEMAN

When asked if he thought the abortion objections were the real issue, Coleman said he felt that the objections were sincerely founded, although irrelevant to his qualifications. He said that there were other objections to his appointment initially: "At first, there were rumors of a political trade-out, that in return for the support of the Black Political Caucus for Calvin Guest as state Democratic Party chairman, Governor Briscoe agreed to name a black to either A & M or UT's board."

Coleman is the first black to be appointed to the board of either university. It is interesting to note that two years ago, on the occasion of his appointment to the board of TSU, a predominantly black school, the same committee questioned him only as to whether his profession afforded him the time to devote to an additional position.

About Mengden, Coleman said: "I feel just as strongly that women should have the option of

abortion as he feels they should not. He was so melodramatic with his talk of Nazi executions; the other senators who had objections were gentlemen."

"I was convinced all along that if I were judged by the same criteria as other nominees, I would be appointed," said Coleman. He was finally confirmed by a vote of 25 - 4.

Asked for an opinion on HB 1875, Coleman called it "unnecessary" but did not seem unduly concerned. "It says that saline abortions could be performed only when there was no safer method available. Well, I am confident, in my own hands at least, that there is no safer method available for second trimester abortion. All the evidence to date shows that it is safer by far than the prostaglandin method, which is being tried as an alternative." He reiterated the fact brought out in committee hearings on the bill, that saline abortion has a lower casualty rate than full-term delivery.

— K.B.

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# Media women air

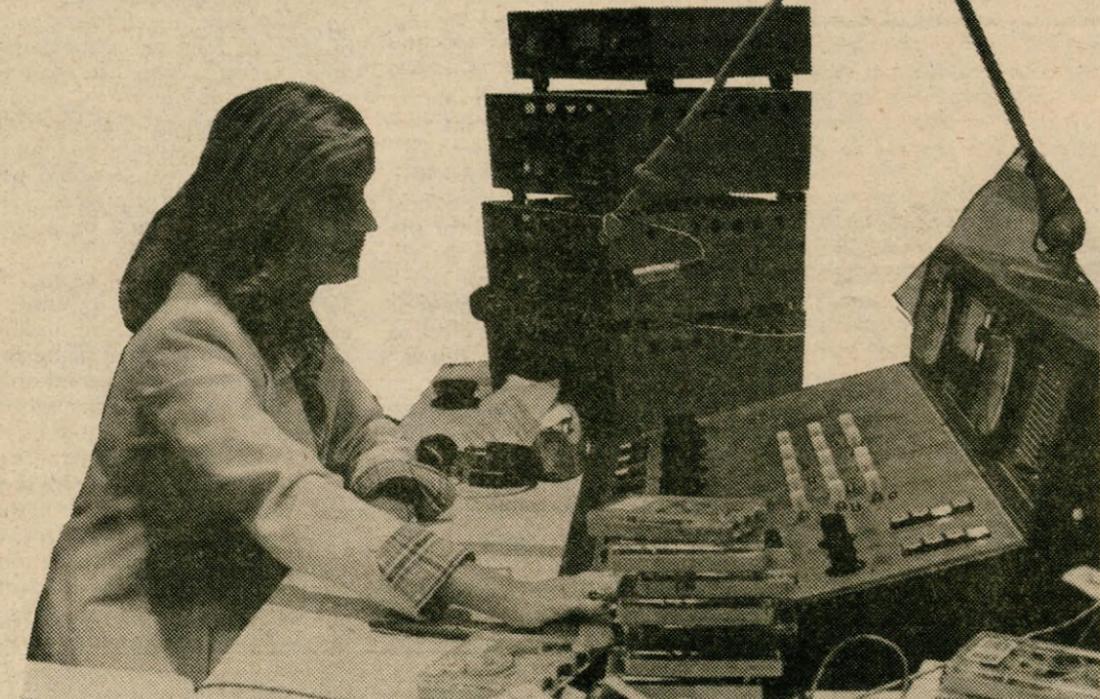
By Janice Blue



THELMA SCHOETTKE , KEYH



KAREN LUGAR , KDOG



SONDRA FELDMAN , KTRH

Television is in its mid-twenties. There were few women on the air from its infancy through its teens. Not many, in fact, until TV turned 21. That was in December 1971, when the FCC decided that television (and radio) must go co-ed.

At that time, Houston station managers publicly expressed fears that their ratings would drop if anything higher than a baritone delivered the news. One television executive conceded that if a woman were pretty enough, she might get away with a feminine voice on television, but on radio "never." Another asked, "How many women are interested in this kind of work, anyway?"

It is apparent that a number of women availed themselves of the opportunities which opened up in the Seventies. It is interesting in talking with Houston media women to note that when they make references to "in the beginning" and "back then," they are talking about the early Seventies.

All except for Vesta Brandt and Thelma Schoettker, veteran broadcasters from the days before the FCC directive.

Brandt worked as secretary to the general manager of KNUZ/KQUE for 18 years before she walked in one day and said, "I want to go into sales." She is now the station's local sales manager.

Schoettker is regarded as the dean of Houston women broadcasters. She was on the air in the early Sixties and remembers being the only woman at the station. She's pretty up-front about the fears she had whenever she saw another woman interviewed. "I just didn't think the station would have two of us."

"Today," the KEYH broadcaster says, "when I see women coming in and applying for a job, I want to stand up and cheer!"

Yet some media women question the "double standard" that exists in hiring practices for women in broadcasting.

As former Houston newswoman Jessica Savitch put it a few years ago: "I personally feel, given a devaluation in my cosmetic value, I wouldn't have gotten the chance I did. The first women who were given a chance were not the bright ones with journalistic ability but rather the ones who could photograph well and speak well."

Most of the women in the Houston market seem to be young (under 30) and attractive, raising yet another question: "Will these same women be allowed to age on the television screens or will broadcasting, like modeling, be a short term career for women?"

In addition to Brandt and Schoettker, several Houston media women talked about their experiences in the field and their observations on the changes of the last few years:

- Elma Barrera, news reporter, KTRK-TV
- Jan Carson, news anchor, KTRK-TV
- Sharon Blair, program director, KUHT-TV
- Leslie Davis, talk-show host, KPRC-AM
- Sondra Feldman, weekend news editor, KTRH-AM
- Mildred Gaddis, news reporter, KYOK-AM
- Sara Lowery, news anchor, KPRC-TV
- Karen Lugar, camera operator, KDOG-TV
- Jackie McCauley, program director, KLOL-FM
- Dana Millikin, news reporter and photographer, KTRK-TV
- Deborah Wrigley, consumer news reporter for former station KLYX-FM

## ENTRY

**Elma Barrera:** I answered the phone for three months during my training period. The other trainee was sent out on news assignments. I told the station I'd leave if they didn't put me on the air by the third month. They did. That was five years ago and I'm still here.

**Dana Millikin:** I flew in from Mexico City where I had been editor of a bilingual magazine and I went to Channel 2 for an interview. Someone there told me, "Well, you really have to know how to type. We really don't have women in news. We've had a couple of women associate producers but they had to know typing." At KAUM, I lost out on an internship to a guy who wrote for the *Rice Thresher*, but I was asked if I would work for nothing just to get experience. I ended up doing it.

**Jackie McCauley:** Most positive thing I ever did was not learn to type.

**Deborah Wrigley:** My typing was so slow at the Houston News Service that I got promoted to a news intern. Once an intern, I found myself doing tape work for a male reporter who had a little more experience than I did. I'd do the interview and he'd put his voice around it. It really made me mad.

**Vesta Brandt:** After working as a secretary for 18 years and with encouragement from the local sales manager and two other media women, I presented my case to the president of the company: I wanted to work in sales. I really understood the business and market — the bottom line — and told him so. He hired me back in 1970. I tell women all the time who want to go into sales to be the best at whatever they do. If you can't file, you can't keep good business and sales records.

## IMAGE

### Appearance

**Jan Carson:** Back at a station in Louisville (Ky) I was told "You've got the image that the station wants to project — tastefully dressed, well groomed, and attractive." That plays a large role in my being an anchor.

**Sara Lowery:** There is a double standard. But if I were a station manager, I wouldn't take the risk of putting someone on the air who wasn't attractive, because they're taking a risk putting women on anyway. Rightly or wrongly. It's really unfair because there are some ugly men on the air. In anchor positions like Jan's and mine, I don't think they would have had an unattractive woman.

**Thelma Schoettker:** Even now, I hear friends of mine whom I respect say "I like Jan Carson, she's so attractive." Or "That Sara Lowery is a doll." They are attractive, but that's irrelevant. There definitely is a double standard.

**Mildred Gaddis:** I am not cosmetically acceptable by Anglo standards. I am not tall, thin or fair-skinned, nor do I have long silky hair. If I had been pretty in the way America sees beauty, I could have gone a few places. Just look at the black women on the air. They're all fair. Yes, it's racist!

**Deborah Wrigley:** Good looks can be a drawback ... can be distracting. I've sometimes been told by older male reporters that I've gotten into interviews because of the way I look. Most of the women in this market are young and attractive, but there are no bombshells on TV. I was told a well-built woman would be offensive to other women and that because women control the dial, the stations wouldn't hire such a woman.

# views on careers

## Age

**Jan Carson:** Will women be allowed to grow old gracefully on the television screens? This will be the real test: ability or looks. Will it be the young thing? Will I be allowed to anchor after I'm 40? I sincerely doubt it.

**Dana Millikin:** They don't want to see wrinkles.

**Sondra Feldman:** I don't think we will be x'ed out of the market. We will be veteran news reporters by then.

**Thelma Schoettker:** Most of the youth craze is a local phenomenon. At the network level, women reporters are all in their 30's and 40's. It's still fairly new for a woman to be on the air here. They're not taking any chances. When I look at some of the male anchors, I think a woman couldn't get away with it.

## Voice

**Elma Barrera:** Management felt something was wrong with our voices for years, but the public accepted us as soon as they put us on the air.

**Deborah Wrigley:** Sometimes I did have to do real turkey jobs. A station I worked for sent me out on traffic reports, and I kept reminding them that I was hired as a reporter. One day I was doing live reports on President Ford's visit to Houston. In the middle of his speech, I was called on my two-way and told to file a traffic report in 60 seconds. So, I crawled under a table and reported that downtown streets were congested because of preparations for the motorcade. Soon after that a woman afternoon editor wrote the news director a letter on my behalf and they moved me out of traffic assignments to strictly news reporting.

**Sharon Blair:** While I was working as a reporter, there was a women's abortion march. I covered the story. I had film, interviews, and went on the air live. I was attempting to do a very serious story. Later the news director said, "That was a real cute story."

**Sondra Feldman:** I was lucky. KTRH has a lot of women on its staff, so we were able to do stories

**Elma Barrera:** So many women are doing hard news. Many stories would go unreported if news-women did not recommend their coverage so the very presence of women in the newsroom directly affects the news. Although there has been no basic change in broadcast management, Phyllis Deter is now the assignments editor at Channel 13. That's a good training spot for a news director someday.

**Karen Lugar:** I grew up with four brothers and played football and did a lot of athletic things. I also work on my own car. On remote, I take apart cameras and move all the film equipment. Some of the men on the crew are stronger than I am, but I help out the ones who have trouble moving those 10-foot risers.

**Thelma Schoettker:** My presence made some of the male reporters able to recognize women's issues, and to be sensitive to issues, and to be sensitive to language. Like calling women "girls." I'm very optimistic. A new generation of men coming out of college will be in the media. I think you can tell a man's age by his attitudes.



JACKIE MCCAULEY , KLOI

## I want women to be powerful...

*We've got a lot of women in the media now. To get there, you had to do it like the guys. You had to be one of the guys. You had to shoot by their standards. You had to write by their standards. You had to report by their standards.*

*We've got the troops now, so to speak. We don't have them in as high positions as we'd like and we won't get there without educating ourselves and supporting each other.*

*We women in the newsrooms have got to get it together so that we're not just sending down household hints and news of demonstrations on the wire services — right now, puff or protest stories are all they have about women. We in the media have got to scream and fight and yell for those serious stories that are slowly creeping in on the network scene, like those on women's health.*

*Jan Carson and I worked on a series on breast cancer. We learned so much. It was a very important story, but we couldn't get them to put it high in the cast. They didn't consider it as important as traffic accidents. Just wait till there's an epidemic of prostate cancer. It'll be the lead story.*

*I want women to be powerful. I want us to pull the sisters together and have some kind of camaraderie. That's our next hurdle.*

— Dana Millikin (see cover)

**Deborah Wrigley:** I've always heard things like "A woman's voice sounds more apologetic and doesn't carry as much credibility as a man's." There aren't a lot of women DJs and it is almost a rule that they don't put a woman on morning (6 - 10 a.m.) or afternoon (3 - 7 p.m.) drive time.

**Mildred Gaddis:** I've got a heavy voice. I was hired over the phone by a news director who liked my voice, but they all say, "Let that Southern tongue go" or "Leave the drawl in Mississippi."

**Jackie McCauley:** I've had no criticism because I've got a lot of bottom in my voice. A lot of bass and no regional accent since I've lived all over the world.

## JOB

**Leslie Davis:** "Why don't you cover Julie Nixon Eisenhower and get the female point of view?" they asked me one time.

on subjects before they turned into hot copy, such as child abuse and battered wives. I've worked on fluff stories other places but I've had good assignments here.

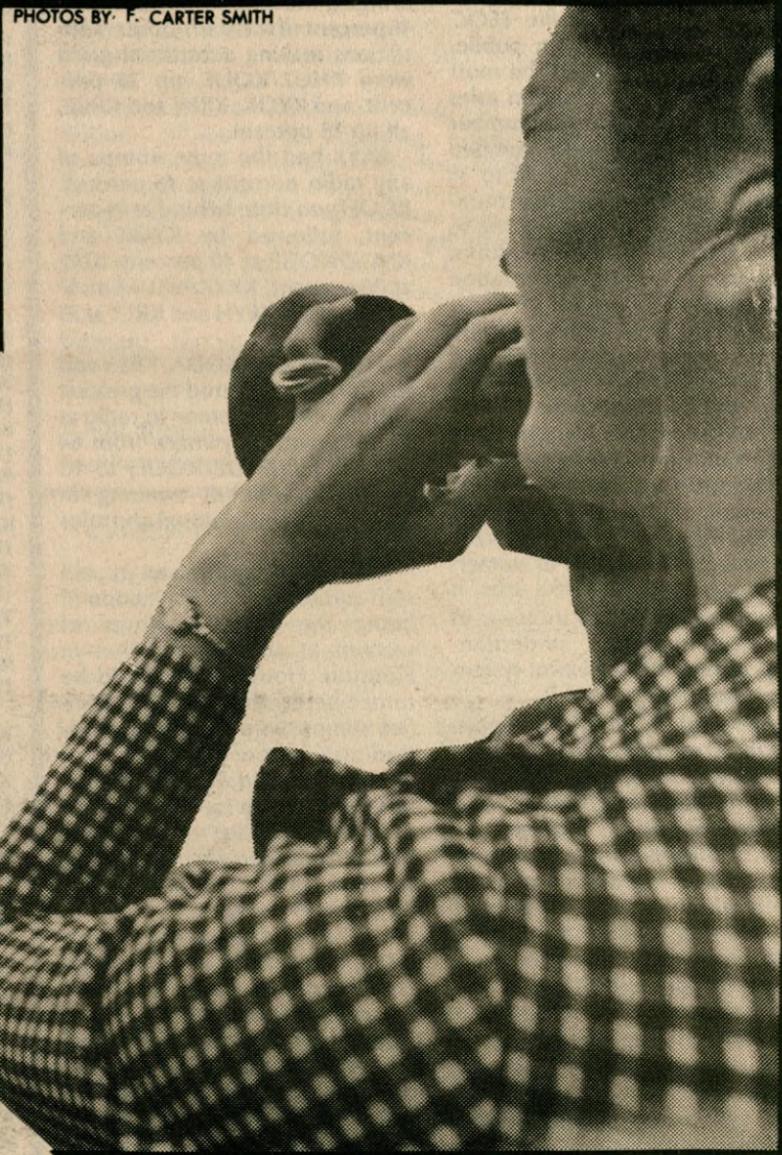
**Mildred Gaddis:** A story came up recently that Craig Washington asked to witness the first capital punishment execution. A guy in the newsroom told me, "Mildred, I'm so glad we've got you here to handle these kinds of things."

## PROGRESS

**Jackie McCauley:** I see all the record promotion people. They are all male. Initially, when they walk in for the first time, they expect to see a man: Jack or Jackie. The thought processes start. She's attractive or whatever, but they talk to you and you can quickly convince them about how much you know about your work. They're testing to see what this title "program director" means. Once they find out, they take you seriously.



PHOTOS BY: F. CARTER SMITH



JAN CARSON and PHYLLIS DETER , KTRK

# Still a man's world

## Statistically speaking

By Carole Kneeland

Women today are more visible on the air, but almost all of the management or decision-making positions in Houston broadcasting are held by males. Statistically speaking, women have hardly liberated the airwaves, as we see in this report on the five-year progress of women in Houston broadcasting by Carole Kneeland, former KPRC-TV reporter, now a feature writer for the Corpus Christi Caller Times.

The broadcast business in Houston is still largely a man's world, but women are slowly making inroads.

Due to strong pressure from the National NOW Media Reform Task Force, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a ruling in December 1971, adding women to the list of groups that stations must actively recruit for employment. From that time, stations were required to file annual reports showing male/female employment in five major categories: Officials and Managers, Professionals (on-air and production), Technical, Sales, and Clerical.

A look at the most recent Equal Employment Opportunity Commission statistics filed in 1976 by 17 radio stations and five television stations shows that women hold 30 percent of the jobs in Houston's broadcast media. That's eight percent more than they held five years ago, the first time the FCC required the radio and television stations to file EEOC reports and make them public.

Women have gained the most over the past five years in sales departments, where the number of women employees jumped from nine percent in 1972 to 35 percent in 1976. That's encouraging if women are ever going to move into the managerial ranks, because many of the male station managers and program directors got their start selling commercials.

Right now women hold very few of the high-paying managerial jobs. The statistics show 23 percent of the officials and managers at the radio and television stations in 1976 were women. That was up 14 percent from five years ago. But instead of showing a significant increase in the number of women in high-paying, powerful jobs, it apparently shows an increase in the male managers' understanding of how the statistical system works and how to pad it.

Whereas in the 1972 reports, head secretaries were listed under the "clerical" category, in the 1976 reports, they often were called "office managers" and listed under "officials and managers."

In fact, of the 44 women in the "officials and managers" category in 1976, at least 37 were office managers, traffic directors, bookkeepers, community relations directors, public service directors or promotions directors. Those are jobs that are lower in pay and status than most of the jobs the men in that category held. Most of the men were station managers, program directors, sales managers and news directors.

Women gained 11 percent in the professional job category, moving from 10 percent to 21 percent over the last five years. That is the category that includes the on-the-air jobs, but there is no breakdown on how many of those women were on the air and how many were not.

Five years ago, there was only one woman in a technical job. That represented less than one percent of the technical jobs available then. In 1976, there were 13 female technicians, all of them at television stations. That represented six percent of the available technical jobs.

Women also had a bigger hold on the low-paying clerical and janitorial jobs in 1976 than they did five years ago. Ninety percent of those jobs were held by women in 1976, compared to 86 percent five years ago. That meant about half of the women employed by Houston's broadcast media were in clerical jobs. Women represented 100 percent of the clerical staff at 14 out of 23 stations.

Radio stations boasted a better overall record than television stations, although some of the radio stations with the highest audience ratings had the worst female hiring records. Employment of women at radio stations increased from 21 percent in 1972 to 32 percent in 1976. Meanwhile, at the television stations, the number of female employees went up from 22 percent to 26 percent over those five years.

KLYX\* radio made the biggest jump of any station, 40 percent, bringing the number of females to 46 percent of the staff. Other radio stations making substantial gains were KNUZ/KQUE, up 20 percent, and KYOK, KRLY and KRBE, all up 18 percent.

KLYX had the most women of any radio percent at 46 percent. KCOH was close behind at 44 percent, followed by KYOK and KNUZ/KQUE at 40 percent, KLEF at 38 percent, KXYZ/KAUM at 37 percent, and KEYH and KRLY at 35 percent.

KLYX, KCOH, KODA, KRLY and KNUZ/KQUE offered the greatest opportunity to women in radio as of 1976, with anywhere from 64 percent (at KNUZ/KQUE) to 85 percent (at KLYX) working in managerial, professional and sales jobs.

KPFT had no women on its paid staff and so won the distinction of being the worst employer of women at any radio station in Houston. However, it should be remembered that KPFT is a Pacific station with a mostly volunteer staff whose composition is not reflected in EEOC statistics. KFMK was next at 17 percent; then KPRC-TV at 22 percent; KODA at 23 percent; KLVL at 25 percent; and KILT and KULF/KYND at 26 percent.

The only radio station registering a decline in its percentage employment of women over the five-year period was KLVL, which dropped four percent. KFMK and KULF/KYND registered the lowest gain at three percent, followed by KILT at four percent and KPRC at seven percent.

As for the television stations, Channel 13 (KTRK) and Channel 8

(KUHT) registered the greatest change, increasing 11 percent each since 1972, so that each of them employed 33 percent women in 1976, the highest of any Houston television station.

However, Channel 13 had 63 percent of its female employees in clerical jobs. Channel 8, on the other hand, has given 84 percent of its female employees jobs as managers, professionals or technicians.

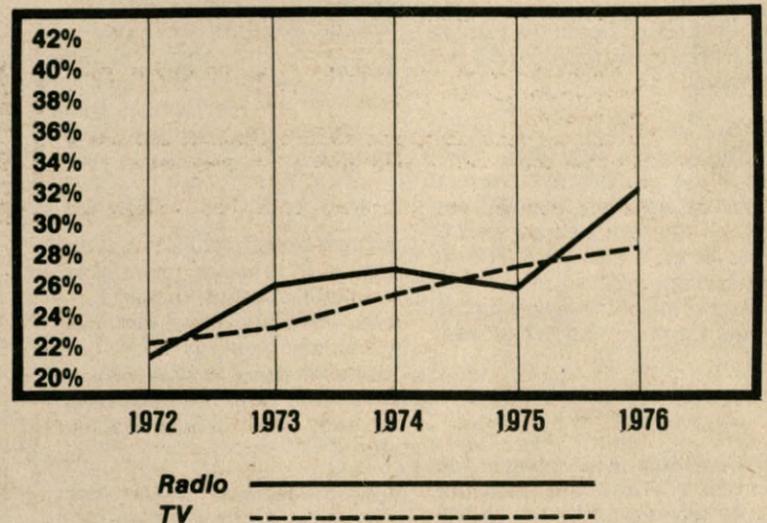
Channel 2 (KPRC) had the worst record of any television station, with 22 percent of its 1976 employees being women. Channel 2 also showed the smallest gain over the five-year period — up only two percent.

\*KLYX changed format during 1977, from all-news to rock. Most of the women and men it had employed lost their jobs in the change-over.

Note: most stations cooperated in the survey and forwarded 1972 — 1976 EEOC records. KIKK and KENR would not forward the forms. KDOG said they had no reports on file for 1976.



GRAPH OF OVERALL EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN BY RADIO AND TV STATIONS



	Officials and Managers		Professionals		Technicians		Salesworkers		Clerical and Janitorial		Total Percent Women, 1976	Percent Change Since 1972
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
KCOH (1430 AM)	6	1	3	2	0	0	1	3	0	2	44%	+14%
KENR (1080 AM)	figures unavailable since 1974											
KEYH (850 AM)	6	3	13	3	3	0	3	0	4	0	35%	not on air in 1972
KFMK (97.9 FM)	2	0	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	17%	+3%
KIKK, KIKK-FM (850 AM, 95.7 FM)	figures unavailable since 1975											
KILT, KILT-FM (610 AM, 100.3 FM)	5	2	23	3	5	0	8	2	2	8	26%	+4%
KLEF (94.5 FM)	2	0	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	3	38%	+9%
KLVL (1480 AM)	0	0	12	0	0	0	2	0	1	5	25%	-4%
KLYX (102.1 FM)	3	3	10	5	0	0	2	3	0	2	46%	+40%
KNUZ, KQUE-FM (1230 AM, 102.9 FM)	8	4	10	2	1	0	2	3	0	5	40%	+20%
KODA (1010 AM, 99.1 FM)	3	0	4	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	23%	+10%
KPFT (90.0 FM)	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	Figures Unavailable
KPRC (950 AM)	5	1	14	2	2	0	2	0	0	4	23%	+7%
KRBE (104.1 FM)	6	2	7	1	0	0	2	1	0	3	32%	+18%
KRLY (93.7 FM)	7	2	9	1	0	0	1	3	0	3	35%	+18%
KTRH, KLOL-FM (740 AM, 101.1 FM)	15	6	29	8	7	0	7	1	1	11	31%	+12%
KULF, KYND-FM (790 AM, 92.5 FM)	8	1	20	1	2	0	5	2	0	8	26%	+3%
KXYZ, KAUM-FM (1320 AM, 96.5 FM)	10	4	20	3	4	0	5	6	0	10	37%	+8%
KYOK (1590 AM)	6	1	7	4	0	0	4	1	1	6	40%	+18%
KDOG-TV (Channel 26)	figures unavailable since 1975											
KHOU-TV (Channel 11)	11	2	24	9	36	1	5	1	1	16	27%	+5%
KHTV-TV (Channel 39)	10	1	16	6	28	6	4	0	0	12	30%	+5%
KPRC-TV (Channel 2)	15	6	34	7	67	2	3	2	5	18	22%	+2%
KTRK-TV (Channel 13)	10	2	24	8	38	3	5	2	4	25	33%	+11%
KUHT-TV (Channel 8)	4	3	10	12	22	1	0	0	2	3	33%	+11%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Percent women 1976</b>	<b>23%</b>		<b>21%</b>		<b>6%</b>		<b>35%</b>		<b>90%</b>		<b>30%</b>	
<b>Percent change since 1972</b>	<b>+14%</b>		<b>+11%</b>		<b>+5.7%</b>		<b>+26%</b>		<b>+4%</b>		<b>+22%</b>	

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Roberta K. Tillinghast, President



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"I have been pleasantly surprised that we've gotten as many dedicated and professional women as we have," says Jack Harris, KPRC-TV general manager. Below are excerpts from the transcript of the first negotiating meeting held December, 1973, between the Houston Area NOW Media Reform Task Force and Harris. The station hired Carole Kneeland as their only female hard news reporter shortly after the second such meeting in January, 1974. Another woman reporter, Kathryn Culvert, was hired soon after and in April, Sara Lowrey became daily co-anchor and weekend anchor person. In June, 1974, KPRC-TV signed an agreement with NOW to increase coverage of women's news and to hire women and minorities in proportion to their representation in the local population.

Harris denies acceding to NOW's demands in the hiring of women: "I don't think there was ever any block on their going in. I just think it was a natural evolution," he says today.

**NOW:** Your employment of women is inadequate in that you don't have enough women employed, particularly in management, professional and technical positions. In fact, it has decreased two percent in the past year.

**Harris:** We don't keep up with that. Frankly, we don't go on quotas for women or minorities. We're not required to go on quotas, dear.

**NOW:** I know you're not required.

**Harris:** And we don't.

**NOW:** But you are required to give equal opportunity and you're supposed to have some sort of affirmative action plan, aren't you?

**Harris:** No!

**NOW:** The FCC requires you to actively recruit both women and minorities.

**Harris:** The FCC hasn't really addressed itself to women ... we certainly have not in any way discriminated against women in employment. We're for equal opportunity, dear, but we're not going on quotas if that's what you're talking about ... What kind of program would you have us have for women?

**NOW:** As an example, you had an opening in the on-the-air spot after Steve Smith left for Pittsburgh, and you hired Ron Stone in his place. Did you interview any women?

**Harris:** We didn't interview anybody for it, dear. Let me explain something to you about television. I had to go through this with the blacks. When you're talking about an on-the-air person, you're talking about an anchor person. We don't care what sex they are or what color they are. The public decides the person. I've got 37 or 38 people in the news department. Some of them are women. Some are black. Some are Chicano. Now we didn't select any of those to be the anchor person because we didn't think they were ready for it, which made several of our people unhappy. We have just finished a \$24,000 study of all our people and all the people in town. Those books over there are studies by research organizations that have to do with personality and what the people think of on-the-air people. We are not able to force the public into who or what they're going to watch. They've got that channel to switch.

**NOW:** But they have to have a choice to reject women at least.

**Harris:** Dear, let me tell you, your voice would never go on-the-air.

**NOW:** I'm not applying for on-the-air.

**Harris:** I know, but you have a feminine voice. The public — I've been in this business for so many years, I know some of these things. I put the first woman on radio — *A Woman Looks at the News* — at WMS in Nashville. She did a fine job. This was a special show aimed at a woman audience, you see. We're not discriminating against women. We're gonna make our own choices, and I told this to the blacks and I'm going to tell it to you.

**NOW:** We're not saying that we want to make the choices for you. But you have gotten into an issue right there. Do you automatically assume that women's voices ...

**Harris:** Yes, yes, I assume from thirty something years of experience.

**NOW:** You say the public chooses. If the public never had a chance ...

**Harris:** They have had a chance.

**NOW:** But the point still is that if women are not given an opportunity to become anchor persons, to become visible, the audiences can't even have the chance to reject them. In Europe it has been very common for years and years to have anchorwomen.

**Harris:** Well, the audience in Europe and the audiences in this country ... We get the polls. We get surveys all the time. This is not making an arbitrary decision on the thing. We've been through this any number of times. There are over a thousand television stations in this country, and not a one of them uses a woman as an anchor. I understand 11 is thinking about one. That's their prerogative if they want to. We are not going to decide who is going to be an anchor on their color or their sex.

**NOW:** But you are, by saying that it cannot be a woman.

**Harris:** I didn't say there couldn't be one. I've never seen one, and we didn't audition to select it, you see.

**NOW:** But you said just a minute ago that a woman's voice automatically just excludes her.

**Harris:** That is my opinion. That is my opinion.

**NOW:** Well, then, doesn't your opinion matter in who is hired?

**Harris:** Yes, and it is controlling.

**NOW:** All right, then, you are automatically excluding women on the grounds of sex.

**Harris:** I said that is my opinion now. I didn't say never.

**NOW:** But what we are saying is that you may not be interpreting correctly and there is this automatic assumption that women's voices are objectionable. What do you base it on? You say you have some polls. Do you have some specific polls that show this?

**Harris:** We haven't made a study on that particular thing, dear, but don't try to put your judgment on television in this as against mine. I have been in this business for very many years. I have had very many occasions to judge on these things.

**NOW:** At least interview women.

**Harris:** We didn't interview anybody, dear. We go for somebody who is experienced.

**NOW:** Then you will always be perpetuating men because women will never have the opportunity unless you take somebody from your reporters.

**Harris:** In my opinion, none of them that I know are ready for it. I have never seen a woman come in here that I think would be a good anchorperson. Now when I say a good one, I mean the best we can get.

# Pats and Pans

Gabrielle Cosgriff, Editor

Pie **PAN**. **Phyllis Schlafly**, crusty ERA opponent, was hit in the face with an apple pie recently at a Women's National Republican Club luncheon. Aron Kay, formerly of Pie Kill Unlimited, said he threw the pie, but departed from his usual cream pies because "it was in the tradition of motherhood and apple pie." He said he cooked up the idea because of Schlafly's opposition to ERA. He was not paid for the fruits of his labor, but said that several women's groups who support ERA backed his action.

\*

**All That Glitters** doesn't. Norman Lear's latest video offering, about a world where sex-roles are reversed, has an outstanding cast, but that's about it. The premise is amusing and provocative at first, but one soon tires of cliches and stereotypes, whether traditional or reversed. Arthur Unger (Christian Science Monitor) phrased it well when he said, "In its own peculiar way, *All That Glitters* turns out to be more sexist than the sexist society it satirizes — especially since there is a strong implication that, given the opportunity, women would be even worse than men with roles reversed." A good idea for a special, maybe, but as a series it's just a flash in the **PAN**.

\*

St. George has a new dragon. The head of the Naval Surface Force, **Vice Adm. William St. George**, says he hopes women will not be allowed on fighting ships "in my time." He says the thought of men and women sharing watches and coffee on the bridge "wakes me up nights." A suit to change the Navy policy limiting sea duty to men is pending in San Diego federal court. **PAN** the admiral for thinking that Navy ships are not she-worthy.

\*

Charter a **PAT** to **Pat Lane**, 15th Senatorial District, who organized a busload of people to go to Austin last month to lobby against **Rep. Clay Smothers'** attempt to recall Texas' ratification of the ERA (see story p.4). The feat of Clay was smothered by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, whose motion to send the resolution to a subcommittee passed 5-3. When Lane approached him after the vote to voice her disappointment that he, as a black, would not support other minorities, his response was "Some of those women need their ass kicked in." Smothers grosses a **PAN**.

\*

**KXYZ Radio** seems to be starting a **PAT**tern of editorial support for the women's movement. While the controversy was going on, they alone, of all the local media, published an editorial strongly supporting Dr. Nikki Van Hightower. This month they did it again, deploring the fact that some council members have threatened to hold up the mayor's budget because he rehired Nikki. The editorial says that the mayor can hire anyone he wants to and that he is not responsible to the council, but to the voters. "Our council would be best advised to tend to its legislative duties and to see to it that badly needed services are improved. Then the people will decide who is right in November."

All of Houston society was in a tizzy last week when **King Hussein** of Jordan made his first visit here. Among other festivities, **Joanne King Herring** and husband Bob gave a small, select party for him. According to Shelby Hodge of the Houston Post, Joanne invited "as many attractive ladies" as she could, since there were no women in the King's official party. "I think ladies are part of the decoration," she said, adding that she wanted all of them to sparkle. Hussein was also scheduled to meet prominent Houstonians at a luncheon at the Junior League Tea Room. **Carol Maupin**, Junior League manager, had promised to assemble about 50 of the League's "prettiest, loveliest, most genteel girls who still know how to wait table" to serve the guests. A king-sized **PAN** to Maupin and King (domestic variety).

\*

**Norman Wells**, owner of the My-O-My Club and the Zipper Lounge, also owns Medical Slenderizing Clinics and is responsible for their always-offensive ads. Remember "I want your body and I want it now"? His latest form of **PAN**dering to poor taste is a picture of a scantily-clad young woman (what else?) with the caption, "Fat is beautiful — on your husband's secretary! If it's on you, you need help! You're not the only one."

\*

She's proud to be Enoki. Kimiko Kichi, a leading Japanese feminist, (who prefers to be known as **Misako Enoki**, the name she was born with) has borrowed over \$56,000 from her husband to help finance 10 candidates of the Japan Women's Party to run in the July elections. She has promised to repay the loan by July. If she fails, she has agreed to his ultimatum that she will either give up her feminist activities or divorce him. Enoki is the founder and leader of Chupiren, a feminist organization that wears pink helmets to demonstrate for equal rights. Her husband, Natsuo Kiuchi, says he has kept quiet about her activities long enough and that he's deadly serious about the terms he set. But Enoki is standing **PAT** on her feminist principles. "He's a wonderful man," she says, "I don't want to divorce him, but I don't want to quit the Chupiren movement, either. I'll make the utmost effort to repay the money."

\*

**Jessie Sappington** wrote a letter to the Post's *Sound-Off* recently about news coverage in which she said that she had been misquoted by reporters at the Southern Baptist Convention in 1973. "I blanched when I read that I believe the Scriptures prohibit women from being leaders in the church. While I was able to correct my views to some individual reporters, the presses had rolled and my personhood was disfigured beyond rectification." *Sound-Off's* reply: "The Rev. Lester Kinsolving ... hardly disfigured your personhood beyond rectification ... he said, 'Then, as if by Divine Intervention, along came Mrs. Richard Sappington. The honey-blond wife of the pastor of Cloverleaf Baptist Church in Houston, Mrs. Sappington quite nicely implements Texas' glorious reputation for producing pulchritudinous women.' — Editor." A poison-**PAN** letter to *Sound-Off* for its insulting refusal to recognize the meaning of personhood to a woman as anything other than physical.

Front page headline in the **Houston Post** (Sat. April 30): **Wife or Widow?** (Mrs. Vernon McManus waits, worries)! Can you imagine them printing a headline "Husband or Widower?" **PAN** the Post headline writers (again).

\*

Camera **PAN** to **Frank Ambrose**, a Channel 13 photographer, for his behavior at City Council the day they shafted Dr. Nikki Van Hightower. Outside Council chambers, after the ouster, reporters were crowding around her and Ambrose was trying to move in. He kept yelling, "Down in front, radio reporters, down!" Then to Lori Rodriguez, Houston Chronicle, who was busy taking notes, he shouted "If you're just taking notes, honey, get out of the way!" Nikki quietly remarked, "Some of them never learn, do they? Obnoxious, obnoxious." The same kind of behavior was exhibited by some of Nikki's opponents, who were shouting and pushing to get on camera. **Suzanne Thomas**, **PAN**ting to be interviewed by anyone, approached a cameraman and asked to be interviewed. He said, "Lady, I'm just the cameraman," whereupon she cornered Nancy Holland, Channel 2 reporter, and asked "Jan Carson, wouldn't you like to talk to someone from the other side?" For some reason, Nancy politely declined.

\*

*Tempus fugit*, except in Uvalde. Governor **Dolph Briscoe** has just reappointed Dr. Maynard S. Hart of El Paso to another three-year term on the State Health Advisory Committee. The governor personally makes all such appointments to state agencies and committees. The only problem is, Dr. Hart died in 1975. A times**PAN** to the governor.

\*

**Deborah Wrigley**, a news reporter on KLYX Radio until its untimely demise last February, recently hosted a documentary on pornography for Channel 8 TV's Friday Local. Wrigley interviewed a variety of people, including an adult-theater owner, a vice-squad officer, a professor of cinema, an ACLU attorney and Geneva Kirk Brooks (Citizens Against Pornography). Brooks, a porn-against Christian, quoted how she had explained to Mayor Hofheinz, at a city council meeting, the difference between art and pornography. "If you were to stand up there in the nude before us, that would be art. But if you started copulating and having oral sex with the city council and charging admission, that is pornographic." Wrigley presented a good balance of opinions, which made for a very interesting show. (All shooting was done on location.) **PAT** Wrigley's gumption in her handling of the program. And, sticking to the subject of Friday Local, a pair of **PATs** to the two women producers **Sandy Scott** and **Andy Schachtel**. This is local public TV at its best.

\*

Broadcast a **PAT** to **KTRH-AM** Radio and station manager **Hal Kemp** for their new Friday afternoon show where, from 3 to 4 p.m., Dr. Nikki Van Hightower hosts an interview and call-in program on women's issues. The name of the program? *The KTRH Women's Advocate*.

# Two women judge nominees known for love of the law

If the Senate of Texas approves, two women soon will become judges of district courts here. They will be the first to serve Harris County on that judicial level. Ruby Kless Sondock and Nettie Joe Kegans were nominated by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Chronicle Staff Writer Zarko Franks presents this special report on the nominees with contrasting lifestyles but with common love for and knowledge of the law.

Ruby Kless Sondock, even with snuffles, no makeup and a red nose, has an appealing little girl look.

She's 50, five three, 103 lbs., size 6, a grandmother, and yes, the little girl look is very much there.

That's when you see her at home; she's fighting a cold, and she's semi-relaxed.

Ruby Kless Sondock, on a district court bench, in a black robe, is another ball game.

Young lawyers have been known to stammer and tense up before her. Justifiably so.

One lawyer recalled the other day she made him



Photo by Othello O. Owensby, Jr., Chronicle Staff

Ruby Sondock

rewrite a judgment five times before it met her approval.

After four years on a domestic relations court bench, she has been appointed to a recently-created civil district judgeship.

Her appointment by the governor is subject to Senate confirmation.

If the impression is left that there are, in reality, two Ruby Sondocks, the impression is accurate.

There's Sondock, the judge, the public servant, nine to five on the bench, logical, coldly competent. There's Sondock, the housewife, the very private person, the doting grandmother, the gracious hostess, the summertime trout fisherman with her husband, Melvin, in a boat around the Galveston jetties.

As for Ruby Sondock's qualifications for the bench, perhaps the best evaluation came from veteran trial lawyer Fred Parks, for whom she worked for seven years after she got her law degree from Bates College of Law, University of Houston, in the early sixties.

"I've had a number of lawyers work for me over the years," said Parks, "and she was head and shoulders above all of them."

Her mind works, said Parks, like the mind of a good lawyer. "She thinks like a man. I took a brilliant woman and gave her an opportunity."

Her long suit, said Parks, is her ability to reason logically, "not to let emotions interfere with facts; some men I know can't do that."

Parks, as his colleagues know, isn't one to blow smoke or puff another lawyer.

But back to Ruby Sondock. Why, relatively late in life did she turn to law?

"I asked myself one day what would happen to me if anything happened to Soupy," her nickname for her husband, president of Brook Mays Co. here.

"I really wasn't equipped to make a living," she recalled. "And I never had to work. You see, I was brought up like most girls in my time. Go to college, get married, have children, go to the seashore and live happily ever after."

So she enrolled at the University of Houston law school, led her class academically, and passed her state bar exam before she graduated with the class of '62.

She was born here, on 21 Reisner St., in the Washington Avenue area, one of three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Kless. Her father was a master machinist and a tool designer. She attended Dow Elementary, Marshall Junior High, and Jeff Davis before graduating from San Jacinto High.

She attended Cottey College, in Nevada, Mo., on a scholarship.

After four years on a domestic relations court bench, hearing endless stories of broken hearts and broken homes, she distills the requisite of a good judge in two words: good judgment.

A highlight in her role as a lawyer, she said, was when a lawyer called to thank her.

"His wife had come to me for a divorce," recalls Sondock. "And I talked her out of filing."

She likes to work, she likes to cook, she's knowledgeable on good wines.

You get a glimpse of the little girl in her again as she lovingly fondles a bottle of Lafitte Rothschild, vintage 1960.

"Isn't it beautiful," she addresses the ruby red wine, "But my favorite is really Montrachet."

"You know when we get a gift bottle of wine, we always like to have the person who gave us the wine over for dinner to enjoy it."

Therein lies a glimpse into the two lives of Ruby Sondock. In her private life, the suspicion lingers, her three grandchildren, her two daughters' tots, enjoy high priority.

They are Josh, 3, son of Michael and Marcia Cohen of Boston; and Jason, 3, and David, 1, sons of Howard and Sandy Marcus, of Houston.



Photo by Curtis McGee, Chronicle Staff

Nettie Joe Kegans



Send your ideas for Pats, Pans and Dead Pans to Gabrielle Cosgriff, Houston Breakthrough, P.O. Box 88072, Houston 77004.

# Dead Pans

She was on a diet, she said, not to preserve her beauty and charm, but out of respect for her pocketbook. Tailoring or a new wardrobe, she said, can cost a ton. And the Lord knows, there are too many calories in Cutty Sark.

Earlier that day, the governor's office had called to confirm a release that he had appointed her to one of the new criminal court benches here.

So now, Nettie Joe Kegans, red hair aflame, a jumbo emerald ring on one finger, a matching uncut emerald pendant around her neck, was a judge, subject to Senate confirmation.

As her colleagues came by to wish their best, you could see she was turned on. This was her day. She beamed, yes radiated, not unlike a queen reviewing her subjects.

"So we can't call you a redheaded broad, anymore," said Anthony Friloux in mock awe, but still choosing his words with care.

This was heady stuff for any mortal.

And Joe (named for her late father, a Waco printer), suddenly said she reckoned she'd had her fill of orange juice.

She switched to Scotch and nibbled it slowly, savoring it and the conversation around her.

She was with people she was comfortable with. Friloux and Jack Stovall and Vince Rehmet, and a young girl named Caroline Garcia, an intern in Kegans' law office, 305 Houston Bar Center Building.

The intern, a hot-eyed sorceress' apprentice, made no effort to hide her delight that Kegans had got a judgeship.

"Wow, what a dynamite lady," said the intern.

Caroline Garcia should have seen Nettie Joe Kegans 20 years ago around the courthouse. Lordy, lordy, what a baby dumpling.

Fresh out of the South Texas College of Law, class of '57. Even then, before she got street wise through representing purse snatchers, rapists, killers and thieves, her voice was sort of raspy and gravelly.

That's before other lawyers began referring to her, out of respect for her toughness in the courtroom, as Ma Barker or Black Maria.

A number of her colleagues in the criminal field, the bread and butter regulars like Jimmy James, Ralph Chambers, Charles Melder, Bob Hunt, agree on one point: she's one helluva lawyer.

Which, strangely enough, fits Joe Kegans' opinion of Joe Kegans: "I'm a good lawyer and I make the best corn bread in town."

She's 49; her husband, Conda Perry Kegans, an engineer, died of cancer about two years ago. Their two children, son Perry Kegans III, 26, Houston, and daughter, Mrs. (Betty) George W. Ricks of Nederland, have been gone from home several years now.

She lives alone except for an unfriendly Dobermann named J. Frank Dobie in a two-story home in the southwest.

As most lawyers, she can easily recall the details of her first case. Her client, Willie Lee Anderson, was charged with the ice pick killing of Anderson's paramour, Judge Michael, Sr., during a lovers quarrel.

Kegans and another lawyer named Al Taylor were appointed by Judge Ed Duggan to represent Anderson.

The defense was self-defense.

The prosecution was headed up by Frank Briscoe, then the chief capital prosecutor, and a young man named John Hughes.

They were then, as they are today, courtroom heavyweights.

Kegans, the freshman lawyer, listened in awe as Hughes described to the jury the meaning of malice as it was deemed applicable in the state's case: "Malice, a heart regardless of social duty and fatefully bent on mischief, the existence of which is shown by acts done and words spoken."

Unbeknownst to Kegans, Hughes was reading straight from the court's charge to the jury.

"What a command of the language Hughes has," Kegans marveled.

"You goose," a friend told her, "Hughes was simply reading the charge."

As Kegans tells it today, "That's how dumb I was in those days."

Anyway, Willie Lee Anderson, wasn't convicted of murder with malice. She was convicted of murder without malice and given five years in a state prison.

It's safe to predict there will be little pomposity in her courtroom. Propriety yes, and informality at propitious times, but never stuffiness.

Because that's the redheaded lady's style. And whether you like it or not, that's the way she'll run her courtroom.

Appeared in the Houston Chronicle Sunday, March, 6, 1977. Submitted separately by Jessica Plowman, Elizabeth Randall, Salli Jeffrey, John Marshall

Is rape a justification for murder?  
 Can an alleged rape victim get a fair trial in a judicial system dominated by men?  
 Can minorities get a fair shake from the criminal justice system of the United States?  
 What is the legal definition of "self defense"?

# The Pride of Inez

By Maria Del Drago

Inez Garcia has become a public figure, yet to most people, she remains an enigma. Beautiful and flamboyantly dressed, with a toughness born of the *barrio*, she still behaved like an innocent; a child-woman who at first could explain her rape only in the sanctity of the confessional.

An illiterate, unable even to tell time when her trial began, she nonetheless tried to control and

around them, and they are treated by it with the same misunderstanding and prejudice. My vision blurs as I force myself to remember what it is like to grow up Latina in an Anglo world.

We look different, yes. But there is a greater difference than our brown nipples, the shapes of our faces, and our Indian eyes. From the moment of our birth, we are thrust into an extraordinary patchwork quilt of contradictions.

We combine witchcraft comfortably with blind obedience to

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When I was born, my grandmother expressed her disapproval by going into deep mourning for a month: as a first-born child, I should have been a *macho*. Then she arranged to have masses celebrated each week to ensure the future birth of a male heir. To make doubly sure, she also called in the local *bruja* to bless my mother and remove the evil spirit that had given her a female child.

Our position within the family circle is learned early. At the table, the men and boys are served first,

"I believe that no man or no person has the right to take over a woman's body because they feel like it. I believe if a woman wants to be with a man, she'll be with that man."

— Inez Garcia

affect the politics of her trial and the kaleidoscopic realities around it. A minority woman with an instinctive fear of authority, especially of police and the courts, she ended up defying both — not only on her own behalf, but, quite consciously, on behalf of all women.

This contradiction, this enigma of passivity and defiance, may survive the possible appeal of her case. It may remain the public's view of her — unless she is understood as a Latina. I know, for I am one, too.

There is pain and anger between these lines — as I try to explain Inez for what she is, I am also trying to explain myself. We are not exactly the same: I grew up in Brazil and now live in California, where Chicanos are the main Spanish speaking group; Inez was born to Cuban and Puerto Rican parents in New York, married to a Cuban, and has also spent her recent years among Chicanos in California. But the varieties of Latin culture share far more basic values with each other than they do with the Anglo world

the Catholic church, going to mass each Sunday, yet calling a *bruja* (witch) to our house to remove the "bad eye" an enemy has put on us.

We are bilingual in a world where most children imperfectly master one language only, yet Anglo cultural standards may judge us illiterate or backward. Our own cultural behavior, casting our eyes down when talking to authorities as a sign of respect, for instance, may cause us to be judged shifty, dishonest.

If we are women, we are taught to be gentle, quiet, and shy, yet men do great violence in defense of our "honor" — our virginity as girls, our fidelity as wives — and we ourselves are taught to resist such "dishonor" to the death.

get the best cuts of meat (or the only meat), the freshest fruits, the strongest coffee. Sacrifices are made for a boy's education, but rarely for a girl's. We wear a small silver medal of the Blessed Virgin and often make do with hand-me-down dresses, but a true *macho* has at least one suit of spotless white and wears a bright religious medal on a gold chain.

Girls become more and more subject to church dictates as puberty approaches; the very time when a *macho's* growing male prowess begins to replace his dependence on religious authority. Latinas are taught to observe all the sacraments, beginning with confession.

In the poorly lit bowels of our parish church, we kneel uncom-



These are vital questions posed by the explosive rape and murder trial of Inez Garcia, which will be presented as a 90-minute courtroom drama on Channel 8, Wednesday, May 25, at 9 p.m. and Saturday, May 28 at 9 p.m. The program, titled *The People vs. Inez Garcia*, was produced by San Francisco's public TV station, KQED.

## Brecht Drama at Main Street Theater

# THE MOTHER

By Kathy Clifford

As a Marxist, Bertolt Brecht recognized women as a vital part of any revolution. As a playwright, he wrote several plays emphasizing women and women's roles, one of which — *The Mother* — is on stage at Main Street Theater May 5-7 and May 12-14.

Written in 1930, based on Gorki's novel of the same name, *The Mother* is about one woman, Pelagea Vlassova, and the Russian revolution.

As the play opens, Vlassova sees herself simply as "the mother of a worker and the widow of a worker." She complains bitterly about

poor living conditions and her son's low wages, but feels that she is powerless to effect change.

She is drawn into the revolution, reluctantly at first, and finds herself rapidly politicized. Gorki killed his heroine, but Brecht preferred to have Pelagea Vlassova survive, to transcend physical abuse and the loss of her son, to carry the workers' flag.

This play is a prime example of Brechtian epic theatre, the so-called "theatre of alienation." Titles and captions, slides and minimal sets keep one intensely aware that this is a play and not reality. Brecht did not want his audience to sit back and get caught up in a plot, only to forget the play as soon as they left the theatre; he wanted them to listen and re-

member a message. And although it is sometimes disquieting, this is precisely what happens.

The ambience of the Main Street production is not necessarily Marxist, but definitely revolutionary, an allegory of the struggle of the politically oppressed everywhere.

Actors, technicians, designers and musicians at Main Street have actively collaborated in artistic decisions, addressing both the complexity of the play and the challenge of a provocative theatrical experience.

Directed by John Houchin; original score by Michael Skupin; Main Street Theater at Autry House, 6265 South Main, 524-3168; \$2.50 general, \$1.50 student.

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# Garcia

fortably at a wooden confessional box to pour out our every thought, action, and desire as we remember them from the previous week, and as they emerge under the prodding of the faceless inquisitor on the other side of the metal grate. If we lie to him, it is a mortal sin: few Catholics brought up like Inez would doubt the truth of the rape she first confessed to her priest.

And few Latinas could fail to believe Inez Garcia's inability to describe the experience of rape to the policemen who arrested her. We are painfully shy about our bodies and about sex. When she later complained of pains "down there" to a woman prison attendant, she was taken to a doctor who reportedly implied that Inez was upset, imagining things, and didn't examine her.

As a Latina with a *barrio*

experience of racism, I believe that a white woman in the same situation would have been properly questioned by the police and examined for sexual attack by a doctor. If the men involved were Chicanos, as in this case, a white woman might even have been released with little or no bail; acquitted or given a suspended sentence by a jury of her peers. We Latinas are not encouraged to be articulate about any part of our experience, much less about abuse. Our teachers are nuns who encourage our silence as an exercise in self-sacrifice.

The Anglo "experts" who administered IQ tests to Inez found her to be mentally inadequate, yet her discussion of her own political situation was sophisticated enough to make many Anglo journalists suppose that she had been brainwashed by her white

feminist supporters during the trial.

Most of all, Inez expressed the fierce pride that is the strongest force in the life of a Latina. She was raped, dishonored by the men who, she says, continued to taunt her, and to promise future humiliations. She answered with the violence she had been taught was a just response; the only way to prevent a woman's humiliation in a macho culture. In fact, Inez's failure to resist the rape while it was going on, even if it had been at the cost of her own life, remains shameful to her.

So in the courtroom, hearing her humiliation treated as irrelevant and her own word disbelieved or denied, this Latina pride burst forth. She could not listen passively to witnesses challenging the honor of her word. She shouted back. She would not say she was sorry. She stormed out of the courtroom and no Latina will ever question that this was her statement of innocence: her pride.

Anglo observers were stunned by this all-or-nothing fierceness,

whether out of shock at her self-destructive behavior, or a racist assumption that she could not possibly be making her own decisions. Shana Alexander in *Newsweek* and other less famous journalists wrote about her as if she were a helpless victim, a Galatea who had been transformed into an angry self-destructive heroine by the radical women of her own Defense Committee.

In fact, many women have had to face a dilemma in the case of Inez Garcia. We want her free, out of prison; yet we also want to respect her own chosen course of action. In the courtroom, she decided to defy the twin *macho* assumptions of Latin culture that a woman belongs to a man; and that a woman dishonored by belonging to more than one man is herself at fault, as sinful as Eve. She defied the shameful silence with which women, especially Latinas, are supposed to treat their own sexual enslavement. I am grateful to her.

Like Inez Garcia, I was raped. Like Inez, I was too shamed and afraid to report it to the police. But

unlike Inez, I did not strike back. I lived out the female, passive part of the Latin code of honor by trying to kill myself. And I never spoke of what happened — not until Inez freed me with her defiance, her shouted insistence on her own right to self-defense. She freed me, and untold numbers of other women, to speak of our own past without shame, and to finally put to rest the nightmare ghosts of our own memories.

I believe the justice in that California courtroom was both racist and sexist. But if justice were a woman and truly fair, she might be a Latina.

And then she would understand what it is to be Inez Garcia.

*Maria Del Drago is Coordinator of Continuing Education Programs for Women, University Extension, California at Berkeley. She is also a Regional Coordinator of California Women in Higher Education, a member of its Third World Council; a member of San Francisco's Concilio Mujeres and of the Inez Garcia Defense Committee.*

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## "I'll have less fear of raping a woman than I did before."

After Inez Garcia was convicted of second-degree murder in her first trial, Nan Blitman interviewed one of the jurors, Samuel Rhone, a 60-year-old black factory worker:

**Blitman:** Could a woman ever get off on the ground of self-defense if she killed a man during the attack?

**Rhone:** No, because the guy's not trying to kill her. He's just trying to give here a good time. To get off, the guy will have to do her bodily harm and giving a girl a screw isn't doing her bodily harm ...

**Blitman:** What part did rape play in your deliberations?

**Rhone:** Well, some brought up the rape, but then someone threw up their hands and said, "You heard what the judge said — it's a murder trial, not a rape trial!"

**Blitman:** Was the rape discussed a lot?

**Rhone:** No.

**Blitman:** Did you say anything about it?

**Rhone:** When I was discussing, I was mostly fighting the women. I asked them about the heat of passion, and they said they'd have cooled off. I told the women that when I leave here, I'll have less fear of raping a woman than I did before. At least I know that if I get shot, she won't get away.

**Blitman:** What did the women say?

**Rhone:** They thought I was kidding. They said, "You don't mean that."

**Blitman:** Did you mean it?

**Rhone:** I wasn't joking. They took it for a joke. I didn't. I was thinking of all the men out there reading it. I told them that."

© Nan Blitman, 1974

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### CHRONOLOGY OF THE INEZ GARCIA CASE

On March 19, 1974 in Soledad, California, Inez Garcia killed Miguel Jimenez, one of two men who had just raped her. She failed in her attempt to kill the other, Luis Castillo.

Inez Garcia was convicted of second degree murder (the original charge had been first degree) in September, 1974 in Monterey, California. She was sentenced to five years to life in the California Institution for Women at Frontera.

During her incarceration, she fired Charles Garry and hired Susan Jordan. Garry had begun work on her appeal, but Jordan filed it. Her appeal was successful. The State Court of Appeals found the judge's instructions to the jury on "reasonable doubt" were incorrect.

A new trial was ordered. Garcia was released on \$5,000 bond in December, 1975, after serving 15 months in jail.

In February, 1976, Susan Jordan was dismissed from the case. Garcia hired and fired two other lawyers before her new trial began in December, 1976 in Monterey County, California. She was assigned a public defender and the same prosecutor as before was assigned.

In January, 1977, Garcia dismissed her public defender and rehired Susan Jordan. The jury was selected and presentation of evidence began on February 14, 1977.

On March 4, 1977, in a landmark decision, Inez Garcia was found innocent of murder. Her legal defense had been changed from "impaired consciousness" to "self defense" in light of her rape and the threats on her life.

# Hazel Bracken: Time and an open mind

Hazel Bracken was elected to the Houston School Board in 1973 and immediately startled many people by stating that if an equally qualified man and woman applied for the same job, she would vote for the man, since "women should be subservient to men." Feeling ran strong; there was a call for her resignation.

Time — and an open mind — change many things. Recently, Hazel Bracken was strong and articulate in her support of Betty Minzenmayer, the superintendent's candidate for principal of Scarborough Jr. - Sr. High School. There was only one woman serving as principal of a senior high school in HISD and there was great resistance to Minzenmayer — solely because she is a woman.

What has caused this change in attitude on Bracken's part? Gertrude Barnstone, herself a member of the HISD Board from 1964-69, explores this question and others with Hazel Bracken.

By Gertrude Barnstone

Then there was the matter of being passed over for the presidency when she was in line for it.

**HB:** First I was assistant secretary, then secretary, then vice president. I let it be known in writing that I wanted to be president, but I sensed something was amiss when there were no consultations or indications that I would become president. I felt every bit as qualified as the president and when I was not chosen, I was miffed.

It's very definitely an "old boys" club!

I've learned from that last experience that if you sit around and wait for the men to ask you, you'll wait until the earth looks level. So I jumped out ahead of the men and have already announced that I am running for reelection. They are on their own!

**GB:** You and Barbara Jordan are the only women in elected office from this city. What would you tell a woman who was thinking of running for political office?

**HB:** Just go like mad! It's the most fun thing I ever did. And I've learned so much! I never would have taken sex discrimination seriously — it took this experience.

**HB:** What changed my attitude? Serving on the Board with those strong, strong men! It was an attitudinal thing, a putdown. They are very courteous people but there were many times when I had to fight to be heard — and then I had to say, "But I'm not through!"

"The Houston School Board is definitely an 'old boys' club."

There were things I wanted to be very vocal about and if there were matters I wanted to emotionally ventilate about, I felt I had every right to!

I sensed a feeling of tolerance: 'We love you as a friend, we admire you as a woman, but you really don't count too much. We're us and you're you and we had to have you for our token woman. You're a good sport and if we had to have a woman, we're glad it's you!'

Betty Minzenmayer had come through two screenings and was so far ahead of the nearest runner-up, who was a black man. I wanted to say "Would you like to have the second runner-up?" because they would have screamed as loudly about having a black male principal. That's just the kind of people they are. They had a white male principal picked out, by the way!

My horizons have been pushed back 29 miles on either side relative to many things.

**GB:** Are you interested in getting into any other political office?

**HB:** I've investigated getting into state politics. Basically, I'm a Republican. I am fascinated with government and fascinated to find that I actually am as capable — if not more so — as most of the people I've met.

When you're growing up, you think that everything is going to be all right because they're going to take care of it. Then when you go up to Austin and Washington to the legislature, Congress and Senate and see who all those people are, they're not any brighter than you are!

So, I'm real interested in just exploring state office, but until 1980, when Nancy Palm feels the Democrats will probably redistrict, there's nothing for me.

**GB:** How can young women get the spirit of "I can do anything" which you seem to have?

**HB:** I don't know. I was so downtrodden when I was growing up. I didn't think I could do anything. I was 25 years old and had never made a decision of any significance. I'd bring a dress home and Mother would say, "I don't like it." Daddy would say, "You can't do this or that." I had no identity.

I'd graduated from college, been voted most popular, beauty, best dressed and none of it meant anything to me. I just didn't know who I was.

At the age of 25, I decided to get away from my parents. If I didn't make it, so I didn't make it. That's when I came to Houston.

Years ago I identified with the feelings of a famous journalist who committed suicide and left a note saying he was tired of trying to fill up the 24 hours. I had been so satisfied with meaningless female activities — garden club on Tuesday — what's your new recipe? Beauty parlor on Thursday. Life has to be more than this!

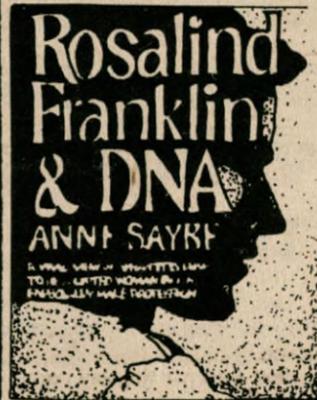
I was very depressed. Now I realize the depression was looking for something significant in the scheme of things and not finding it.

I do have what I feel is a very real relationship with the Lord and I believe what he says to be. He says, "I've come that ye might



HAZEL BRACKEN

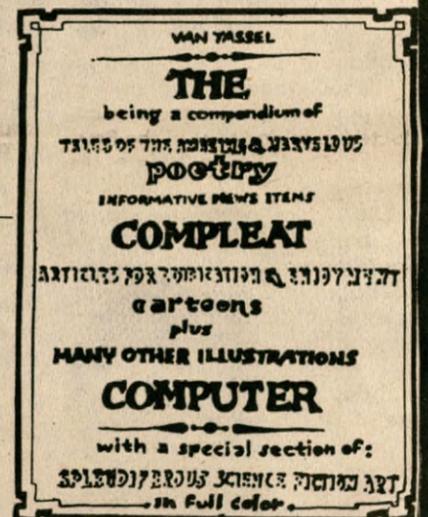
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# White House meeting



**GAY DELEGATION AT WHITE HOUSE**  
POKEY ANDERSON, far left, MIDGE COSTANZA, center

PHOTO COURTESY WHITE HOUSE

Pokey Anderson of Houston attended an historic White House meeting on March 26, 1977. Her report follows:

In 1965, Frank Kameny was in the first group of people to demonstrate for gay rights outside the White House gates.

Twelve years later, on March 26, 1977, Frank Kameny was inside those gates, along with 13 other gay activists from around the country.

The delegation met with one of President Carter's top seven aides, Margaret Costanza, who offered a special welcome to Frank: "It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm sorry that it has taken so long to come into a house that belongs to you as much as it belongs to anyone in this country."

Costanza and other White officials set a tone of openness and genuine concern, and even conducted a guided tour of the President's Oval Office before the meeting began.

The unprecedented meeting was arranged by Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force and covered three hours of well-documented testimony on issues ranging from less-than-honorable discharges for homosexuals to job and housing discrimination to abuse of gays in prison.

Costanza promised to make the documentation available to Carter and other appropriate White House officials, and agreed to arrange meetings with heads of the appropriate federal agencies: Civil Rights Commission, Civil Service Commission, HUD, Justice Department, HEW, EEOC, State Department and Defense Department. Referring to the Defense Department, she warned women in the group, "Bring your bullet-proof bras."

Costanza noted she had received quite a bit of mail about the meeting, "including some letters from people who thought that perhaps on the way to the White House I fell on my head." She remarked that the 10 to 15 negative letters all quoted the same passage from the Bible, one from Romans.

"This White House and this government belong to all the people. Whether someone comes here to speak does not depend on their issue, or whether the President agrees with their viewpoint. What today has brought is an involvement of people, people who have a right to participate in their government. . . The nation thanks you for asking for this meeting."

She noted that even straight people suffer from anti-gay discrimination — individuals may lose the friendship of gay people out of fear of associating with them; governments lose the abilities of gay people by refusing to hire them.

The meeting received national coverage; in one interview, Costanza expressed her shock at the extent of the discrimination from which gay people suffer, and said "there weren't too many dry eyes in that room" when the mother of a lesbian spoke of the many difficulties she had personally encountered.

The next step for the gay community will be to prepare additional documentation for meetings with federal agencies. Costanza promised another meeting with gays in six months, to review their progress. If stubborn problems remain that demand the President's personal attention, she will ask him to meet with the gay delegation. In discussing further Presidential appointments to various federal posts, she reiterated the Administration's commitment to minority concerns.

The delegation included seven men and seven women from around the country, including Boston, New York, Washington, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and Houston.

As Massachusetts State Representative Elaine Noble said, it was nice to see the inside of the White House under such friendly circumstances: "Some of us have been demonstrating outside the gates for so long, we wondered if there even was an inside."

Certainly, one meeting will not win gay rights in a day. But, as Jean O'Leary beamed afterward, "The meeting was a happy milestone on the road to full equality under the law for gay women and men."

## THE MADISON CONFERENCE

Over the past year, women have suffered legal setbacks in the areas of pregnancy compensation, ERA ratification, abortion rights, equal employment, sexual privacy and equal education. Recent national and local conferences on women and the law came just in time to provide encouragement and expertise for those who are concerned about the way the legal system in this country is treating women.

Women from all over the country met in Madison, Wisconsin recently for the Eighth Annual Conference on Women and the Law.

The conference examined a diverse range of topics: constitutional law; sex discrimination in schools and universities; labor organizing; Title VII strategies; law school recruitment and admissions; domestic relations; the effects of tax, insurance and social security laws and regulations on women and the rights of elderly and poor women.

The conference has changed a lot since it was started in 1969 by a group of women in law school at N.Y.U. who were irate over the discrimination they had encountered both in the classroom and in interviewing for jobs. The goals of the first national conference were to establish a communications network among women law students and to devise strategies for bringing more women into the legal field. Fewer than 100 women attended the first conference.

In later conferences, as attendance increased, the emphasis shifted to the exchange of cases, strategies and information pertaining to the legal rights of women. This year, more than 3,000 persons registered for the eighth national conference in Madison. The growth of the conference has in turn led to an expansion of the conference's goals to include recognition of the problems faced by women doubly oppressed by our legal system — lesbians and Third World women.

The lesbian program began an entire day before the conference workshops on Saturday, but almost everyone was able to arrive early for this new section. Experi-

enced panelists in each workshop covered problems of gay women married to men, lesbian mothers' rights and discrimination in the military.

The Third World women program explored the compounded discrimination faced by Asian-American, Black, Chicana and Native American women who have even more difficulty than other women in finding role models in the legal profession. The workshops, moderated by minority attorneys active in community organizing, focused on welfare advocacy and discrimination law.

There was more time this year to discuss theoretical questions like: why are women losing ground in the courts, and what part does a less-than-booming economy play in these defeats? The extra day gave everyone time to examine substantive law issues, to hear directly from women involved in litigation, to speculate on what the future will hold for women and what part the newly developing specialty known as "feminist law" will play in that future.

◆◆

# Law conferences held



JUDGE JOE KEGANS (L) SPEAKS TO LAW STUDENTS

## THE HOUSTON CONFERENCE

In many respects, the Second Conference on Women and the Law held last month at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law closely resembled the early national conferences; it emphasized the recruitment of women into the legal field.

As more and more women enter the profession each year, the national conference has shifted its focus to offer training and substantive law analysis as well as encouragement and role models for women considering law as a career. Minority women, however, have special problems before, during and after they enter law school, and the number of minority women entering law school has not increased as dramatically as the number of white women going into law. With this in mind, the Women's Law Caucus at Thurgood Marshall sponsored their Second Annual Recruitment program, designed to acquaint participants with opportunities in the legal profession.

The two-day conference was free to any woman interested in learning about the field, in meeting other minority attorneys, law students, legal workers and administrators. It sought to attract women from a wide variety of lifestyles, at different levels of education — older women presently enrolled in college, women with college degrees but no jobs, and high school seniors. The turnout was excellent.

Mary Daffin, a law clerk for Chief Judge John R. Brown of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals spoke about the problems experienced by minority women in getting jobs once they have completed school and gave practical suggestions to job seekers.

In her capacity as Administrator of the City of Houston's Fair Housing Division, Joan Edwards has worked to ensure that minorities in Houston are protected by the law, and that these laws are enforced. She emphasized in her discussions the effect women in law can have on existing administrative institutions.

Representing the private bar, Ella Brown, a Houston attorney, addressed her remarks to the "joys and sorrows" she has experienced as a minority woman engaged in non-governmental law. Panelists Constance Fain and Thelma Garcia discussed the relationship between the law school and the community.

In addition to the panel discussions, workshops were held on such topics as financial aid for law students, the Law School Admissions Test, and how the law school admission process functions.

The conference ended on Saturday with the staging of a mock rape trial, presided over by Joe Kegans, a woman who was recently appointed criminal court judge.

The recent conferences on women and the law held in Houston and Madison have helped make the motto "Women helping women through law" a reality.

Patricia O'Kane

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# Alice Stallnecht murals on exhibit

By Florence Dwek

Spring has arrived in Houston, and with it, two not entirely unrelated firsts for women: the Rev. Helen M. Havens was ordained as the first female Episcopal priest in the city's history; and the religious murals of Alice Stallnecht will be displayed at the Museum of Fine Arts (beginning May 5) in the first major showing of its kind outside the artist's hometown of Chatham, Cape Cod.

The very existence of a female priest lends a new credence in and respect for a woman's capacity to lead and guide her community. Her newly-gained status effectively undercuts the cliquish arrogance of an all-male clergy.

Stallnecht's true-to-life depiction of Christ, as the recognizable portrait of a man from her own village, restores a touch of humanism lacking in traditionally idealized religious painting. Separated by time and space (Stallnecht died in 1973), each of these women is thus concerned with furthering the universality and accessibility of religious communication.

Stallnecht spent her life in the small New England village of Chatham, and it is the Chatham villagers that she so faithfully incorporates into her religious allegories. Although Stallnecht had studied art early in life, her productive



DETAIL FROM A STALLKNECHT MURAL

painting years did not come about until her early fifties. Family responsibilities and the hardships imposed by the mental breakdown of her husband completely destroyed any earlier creative opportunities for her.

Stallnecht created two murals, done in oil on canvas, specifically for her local Congregational church. The first of these, *Christ Preaching to the Multitude*, is a

triptych done in 1931. Christ is shown in the central panel standing in a rowboat with outstretched hands, flanked by the men, women and children of Chatham in the side panels. Each face is meant to be a true portrait of an actual Chatham resident.

The second mural, *The Circle Supper* (1935-1943), consists of 18 separate panels of figure groups at a traditional Wednesday night

church supper. The presence of Christ is again the central motif, showing him in the act of blessing the bread for communion, surrounded by the members of the congregation.

In both murals, the artist couples the commonplace with the mystical, and the present with the past, to reflect the complete permeation of religious faith in Chatham society.

In 1945 Stallnecht carried out another mural, more secular in nature, entitled *Everyman to His Trade*. Of considerable size, it consists of 30 separate panels that depict the working people of Chatham at their respective trades, all posed against the consistent backdrop of the sea. The proud and honest faces of these working men and women are treated with an almost Whitmanesque reverence.

The 150 figures to be found in all three murals display a straightforward, rigid intensity of character that embodies the essence of puritan ethics. Although each figure is meant to be seen as an individual, all are tied together by the unifying forces of church and community. As Lloyd Goodrich, Director of the Whitney Museum of Art, explains in the catalogue exhibition, "With all its uncompromising realism, her art is fundamentally religious, filled with the conviction of faith as a unifying force, an essential element in daily life, a unifying spirit."

Whatever our personal religious beliefs, we may still share with Alice Stallnecht the strong faith she has so eloquently expressed in the cooperative efforts of hardworking men and women in communities like our own.

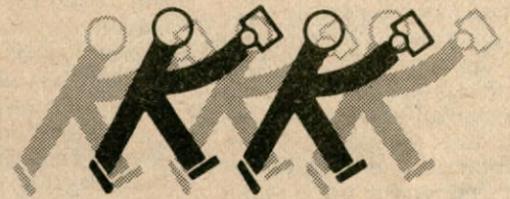
*A New England Town: A Portrait By Alice Stallnecht (1880-1973)* will be on display at the Museum of Fine Art's Upper Brown Gallery May 5-June 5. From there the exhibition will go on to Cape Cod and Washington, D.C. The accompanying catalogue is available in the museum bookstore.

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# EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL PLAY

By Susan A. McManus

Probably one of the most important controversies affecting women's tennis of late has been the push for equal pay at Wimbledon. While all the top women players signed the petition for greater pay, their reasons for doing so were as varied as their professional experience and national origins.

At the recent WTT Mixed Doubles Classic, sponsored by Vitalis and Clairol, April 22-24 at the Woodlands Inn and Country Club, international women tennis stars discussed this and other aspects of a professional career.

Billie Jean King, often cited as the individual most responsible for the petition, stated rather surprisingly: "I didn't feel that the women deserved equal prize money last year. Everyone thinks that I was the leader behind it which is not the way it was. I feel that until we have a 128-draw and until women's tennis can get a little heavier at the bottom end and thereby increase its entertainment value, that we should not get equal pay." But, she added, "This is only five years away."

King restated the case: "The real issue at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open is that the women's association and the men's association should be working together. We should be getting 40% of the gross like other athletes do in other sports and right now at Wimbledon, we get 10%. All the players, men and women, are getting a raw deal. Until the men and women want to communicate, get together as entertainers and professional athletes, Wimbledon can continue to keep us down around 10%. I just hope and pray that in the near future, men and women will start working together."

Rosie Casals attacked the oft-stated "fact" that the quality of men's tennis is superior to that of women's: "As far as this particular tournament (WTT Mixed Doubles at Woodlands), the women have helped the team a lot more than the men. It is a fact that there are more men tennis players and they have more depth. The men have always had more opportunities available to them than the women. But," she predicted, "we are only about five years behind. We started with barely eight women here in Houston seven years ago and now we're carrying about 400 on our tour."

Olga Morozova, from the Soviet Union, endorsed the move for equal pay. "I'm proud of the women for doing it," she said. "We are professional tennis players. We play tennis all year long. It is our job. If we devote all this time to playing tennis, and we play well, and the public likes women's tennis, why should we get less than the men?"

Francoise Durr, who grew up in Algeria, agreed with Morozova on the fairness of the move for equal pay based on the entertainment value. "If women draw the same amount of people, or if there is the same amount of interest in women's tennis as in men's, then women should get equal pay. Since Wimbledon is the main championship of the world and draws equally large numbers of men and women spectators, I think women should get equal pay."

Durr, a member of the pro tour for 13 years, has observed dramatic changes in women's sports. "It's more acceptable now to be a female professional athlete. Plus, if you're in a sport like tennis or

golf, you can make a good living at it."

Durr has not done badly herself in making a living. In addition to being one of the top prize money winners (and the winner, with Fred McMillan, of the Woodlands tournament), she has her own tennis equipment company with the logo, *Ego*. She laughingly said, "With a stroke like mine, you need an ego."

Several of the stars were pessimistic that the Europeans would not understand such a move for equal pay. Betty Stove, of the Netherlands, and the current president of the Women's Tennis Association, stated: "The push for equal money can be done much easier in America than in Europe."

Wendy Turnbull, a pro from Australia, on the circuit since 1972, also questioned the readiness of Europe for such a move. "England is still so far behind the times. I think we are pushing for it too early because they are not ready for it. It sort of made the female players look bad as far as the English public goes. They still don't think that women are very good athletes. They still think that men play more interesting tennis than women."

While Stove was somewhat pessimistic about European acceptance of moves for equal or increased pay, she was quite optimistic about the future of women's tennis. "Ten years ago, especially in the U.S., college women played tennis but they did not have any professional goals. Professionalism has now become part of the game. Girls are aiming to be professional athletes at a much younger age. They start training much younger and consequently are much better athletes."



"My hope for the next few years is to play the best tennis that I've ever played in my life and to show people that motivation is much more important than age. I want to prove to people that once you're over 30, you can be a great athlete."

— Billie Jean King

The career of one of the younger stars on the tour, Ann Kiyomura of the U.S., reflects the impact of such opportunities. When asked why she decided to go pro, she said: "I was lucky because just as I was coming out of high school, the Virginia Slims circuit was nearly stabilized. I thought since I'd done well as a junior player that I'd give pro tennis a try."

When asked who were the individuals most responsible for the changes in women's tennis, the players consistently mentioned Gladys Heldman, Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals and the entire Virginia Slims circuit. South African Greer Stevens, one of the youngest players on the circuit at 20, said "As a young girl, I saw Billie Jean King play and told my mother that I wanted to play like her. I have both Gladys Heldman and Billie Jean to thank for my career today."

So what does Billie Jean King, billed in the tournament as the greatest female athlete in history and the person most responsible for the start of tennis boom in America, now attempting a comeback after a serious knee operation, see for her future and the future of women's tennis?

"I am tired of the politics of tennis," she began. "My hope for the next few years is to play the best tennis that I've ever played in my life and to show people that motivation is much more important than age. At 33, I don't feel that I've started to live in many ways. I want to prove to people that once you're over 30, you can be a great athlete!"

One of her new goals is that of physical fitness. "I have made a commitment to myself that I will stay physically fit for the rest of my life, and will always watch my diet." She feels that sports medicine is an area which has been

seriously neglected in female athletic training but one which definitely needs to be stressed. "Nobody ever helped me. When I was 160 pounds, nobody ever told me I was too fat. They just said, 'Oh, you'll run it off tomorrow. Eat another sandwich, dear.'"

To a young woman contemplating a professional athletic career, Billie Jean would emphasize the importance of setting personal goals and not becoming discouraged. "Whatever a young woman wants to do, she should dream about doing. She should not feel that everyone is against her. I think a lot of women, especially feminists, think the world owes them something. You have to be realistic and work within the system. If you want to change it, the only way you can change it is by being pragmatic and doing your job well. If a guy's a male chauvinist pig, accept him for that, deal with it, understand it, don't automatically get turned off by that person. We are all what we are; we are still products of our environment."

Thanks to the Billie Jean Kings, young women can now realistically consider a career in professional tennis. There is now a solid future where before there was only a faint glimmer of hope.



KEVIN MAZEKA

Gymnastics is the sport and women are the stars. Uneven bars, balance beam, vaulting and floor exercises are the events in which over 160 girls, age 12 - 14, will compete for the United States Jr. Women's National Gymnastics Championship. The winners will be the material for the 1980 Olympic gymnastics team. The competition will be held on May 13 - 14, at the Astroarena. Two entrants are from Houston.

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# To and from



The Women's Health Collective will meet on **May 12** at 7:30 p.m. Call 523-6994 for more information.

## Workshops

Come and learn about campaign techniques and become politically effective. The Harris County Women's Political Caucus and the Advocates for the Women's Advocate invite you to a workshop on **May 18** at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, from 7-10 p.m. The special guest speakers will be Dr. Nikki Van Hightower and Dr. Richard Murray.

Those interested in women's health can attend a class covering such topics as menstruation, birth control, self-examination, patients' rights and others. All day **Saturday, June 4**. Call 523-6994.

The Greater Houston Chapter of Federally Employed Women will host a workshop to explain the preparation of federal job applications, resumes and techniques for job interviews. The workshop will be held **May 14** at the Houston Oaks. Registration for members is \$10, non-members \$15. For additional information, call Sally Parker at 226-5166 or 862-5307 or Sarah Garrett at 226-5715 or 734-1052.

Explore the employment problems of low-income women and suggest recommendations for legislative or administrative action to ease the problems. The Women's Bureau of the U.S. Dept. of Labor will hold the Southwest Regional Consultation on the subject in Houston at the Sheraton Hotel, 777 Polk St., **Saturday, May 14, 12 noon**. The consultation will bring together low-income women and representatives of community groups to assist them. For more information, contact Mary Allen at 526-3495 (O) or 666-0271 (H) or Yolanda Navarro at 224-7808 (evenings).

"Math Anxiety" will be the topic of a Southwest NOW workshop beginning on **Wednesday, June 1** and continuing every subsequent **Wednesday**, at the Mainland Savings building, 3401 Allen Pkwy, at 7 p.m.

## Scholarly Research Relating to Women

"Current Studies in Sex Stratification," *SSQ* 55, 4 (Mar., 1976)

"Masculine Blinders in the Social Sciences," *SSQ* 55, 3 (Dec., 1974)

Social Science Quarterly  
WCH 310A  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78712



Single issues available at \$4.00

## Announcements

Come on out and bring your kids. Women and Kids Picnic on **Sunday, May 22**, at Memorial Park from 1 p.m. on. Look for the red and orange kite in the shape of a pyramid near the soccer field. Bring your own food and drinks and be prepared to enjoy softball, volleyball and fun with the kids.

Women in Austin are trying to create a landtrust of 100 to 150 acres in Texas, to be called **Wombsan Land**. It will be available for the exclusive and non-exploitative use of wombsan of all ages. They welcome any other wombsan who wish to pledge their knowledge/energies/money to the trust. For more information, send a self-addressed envelope to P.O. Box 6063, Austin, Texas 78762.

160 young women from around the country will be gathering at the Astrodome, **May 12-14**, for the U.S. Jr. Women's National Gymnastics Championships. Among others, 13-year-old Kelly McCoy, the 1976 U.S. Jr. All-Around Champion, will be there to defend her title. Half-price discount coupons are available at Burger King.

**FEMINIST NON-SMOKER** to share roomy Montrose house: Privacy, fence, carpet, AC, lots of windows. Available **June 1**. Rent based on percentage of income. Call for appointment: 529-5308.

If you'd be willing to help rape victims, the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition is looking for you. They will be training new volunteers for 5 Saturdays, **May 7-June 4**, from 12:30 to 5:30, at St. Phillips Church, corner of Loop 610 and San Felipe (4807 San Felipe). For more information, call 228-1505 (Crisis Hotline).

The odd-job woman found a partner. We do house painting, interior and exterior, will scrape. Call Anna 523-3935, Rose Ann 523-3987. Still no answering service.

Learn about organic farming. An organic women's farm, in central Texas hill country, needs several interns this summer. One-, two-, or three-week stays. Transportation costs could be subsidized if you are a poor student. Beginner classes in organic methods of gardening and living, truckdriving and music will be mixed with whatever you can teach us. Write for more information. Abigail or Carla, Rt. 2, Box 100-C, Bertram, Tx. 78605.

The Women's Center at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City is now officially affiliated with the university under the Counseling Center. They are still registering people for the Women's Studies Concentration. Call 488-9270. They will also be offering a Reentry Seminar for women coming back to school in late July and August.

"Songs of Women Composers," a recital by Sharon Sanford, soprano and Mary Schoettle on piano, featuring solo songs by women composers of the 16th thru 20th centuries. If you thought there weren't any, hearing is believing. At the University of St. Thomas, Jones Hall, Sul Ross at Yoakum, **Wednesday, May 11, 8:15 p.m.**

Conference on Women in Management at U.H. on **June 16**. See June issue for schedule of local and national participants.

I am an author with a contract to do a first-person documentary book on incest. I am looking for others with actual or near actual incest experience. The aim of the book is to make the subject accessible and to have the most open forum possible on the subject. Contact Louise Armstrong, 19 Bethune St., New York City, 10014 or call 212-255-2865.



JACKSON 6-2691

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## Body Awareness

Good vibrations at Eve's Garden. *Liberating Masturbation* by Betty Dodson, \$4. This is the book that is rippling through the women's movement and overflowing everywhere. Artist, writer and sexual revolutionary, Betty Dodson once and for all destroys the myths surrounding masturbation and reinstates it to its rightful place as a primary source of pleasure for us all. Free catalogue of all the good vibrations at Eve's Garden is included with all orders. If you would like just a catalogue, please send 25¢ to Eve's Garden, P.O. Box 4028, Austin, Tx 78765.

## Courses/Schools

The Junior School of Art, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, will be presenting 12 scholarships to school children aged 10 thru 12 for a special Saturday class. Competition for the scholarships will be **Saturday, May 14**, in the sculpture park across the street from the museum at 10 a.m. The Museum will also be offering a number of scholarships for adult and junior students, some specifically for minority

students, for the 1977-78 school year. Applicants should submit portfolios by **May 20**, with three letters of recommendation. Applications and additional information may be obtained from the School of Art, 529-7659.

The Houston YWCA will be holding a number of special courses on a variety of subjects, including "Sexual Value Systems," **May 19** and "Wise and Healthy Eating," **May 10**. Call the YWCA for information about course fees and times.

## DAYBREAK

### hair cut parlor



2437 1/2  
University Blvd.  
522-2350 for app'l.

Art Gallery & Crafts

## Media

Gemini Productions presents: women-made films: **May 13**, *Chris and Bernie*, *Sandy and Madeline's Family* and *Nana, Mom and Me*, at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, 7:15 p.m. \$2.50 donation. There will be a chance for discussion after the films.



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## Employment

KPFT is seeking a manager. KPFT is a Pacifica Radio Station, non-commercial and FM, with an educational license (90.1 FM). It is largely supported by listeners' subscriptions. The manager will not become rich but can experience a most challenging, creative growth period in her/his life. Understanding of finances, statements, cash flow, etc., is essential, as is experience in or around radio. Should have the ability to keep more balls in the air than the person on either side of you and to work with a core staff and an unlimited number of volunteers, who hopefully do all the essential jobs to keep the station running. Maybe you're the one. Write: Manager Search Committee, att'n: Thelma Meltzer, 419 Lovett, Houston 77006 or call 771-3314.

The ACLU is looking for an attorney willing to do civil rights and constitutional litigation cases and aid in organization. Please inquire and send resume immediately to: Joan Glantz, ACLU Office, 905 Richmond, Houston 77006. 524-5925.

The Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union is still looking for an Office Manager, part-time. Call Merryl at 523-2521 or the Credit Union office at 527-9108.

## Meetings

"Women as Real Estate Purchasers" will be the topic of a talk by Mr. Joseph Funches of Coleman Realty Co. to the Greater Houston Chapter of Federally Employed Women, Inc., at their regular Monday night meeting on **May 16** at 6:00 p.m. at Timmy Chan's Restaurant, 2606 Fannin. The group meets every third Monday.

The West University chapter of NOW will be meeting on **May 24**, to hear about personal safety, domestic violence and careers for women in law enforcement from Officer Crump of the West University police force. They will consider "How Do We Stand on Title IX?" and hear reports on textbooks and sports at their **June 28** meeting.

If you are interested in the status of Title IX or a content analysis of textbooks, attend the meeting of Southwest NOW on **May 17** at the Jungman Branch Library from 7-9 p.m. Margo Bishop, an HISD guidance counselor, will be the speaker.

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# What Kind of Person Reads Breakthrough?



**RENEE HALL**

**Resides in**

Houston

**Profession**

Coordinator of Federal Women's Program at TCF Ellington Air Force Base and Secretary to the EAFB Engineering Division.

**Interests and Activities**

Member, Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union and Abigail Adams Chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW), FEW Dallas regional representative; collect turquoise jewelry.

**Person Most Admired**

Eleanor Roosevelt

**Fantasies**

Meet my Peace Corps son in Ghana



**PAT CEARCY**

**Resides in**

Northside Houston

**Profession**

Warehouse person and shop steward for Teamsters Union

**Interests and Activities**

Vice President, Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and member, CLUW National Executive Board. Interested in recruiting women in CLUW and the women's movement, lyric and song writing, dancing.

**Persons Most Admired**

Joan Tobin, Barbara Jordan, Clara Day, Nikki Van Hightower

**Fantasies**

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