

Houston
Breakthrough®

Where Women Are News
March 1979

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**Should women
attorneys defend
accused rapists?**



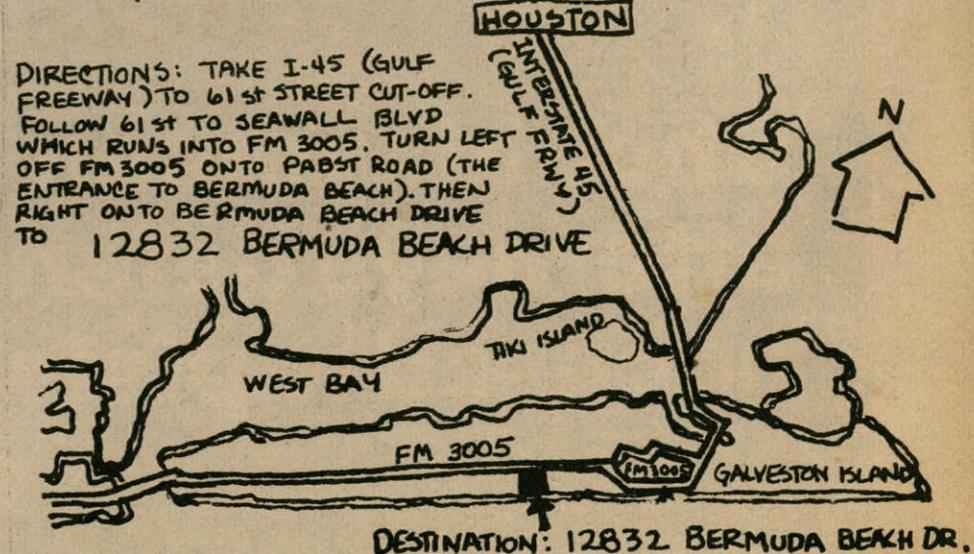
A Celebration of Women

OURSELVES, OUR ARTS, OUR CULTURE

Join us as we weave and spin new beginnings and womanspirit with creativeness. In observance of the vernal equinox, when night and day are equal over the world, we will honor our connectedness with nature. This will be a FREE FESTIVAL for women and children beginning at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 17th, and ending at 6 p.m., Sunday, March 18th. The womanspirit ritual program will begin at 7 p.m., Saturday evening. It will be located at a blackhouse on Bermuda Beach, Galveston. Music, art, dance, games, rituals and the house will be provided. Bring your own food, drink, eating utensils, cooler, sleeping bag and musical instruments. Our celebration is sponsored by the WOMEN'S GROUP of the First Unitarian Church and WOMEN and POWER.

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Janice Rubin

writers & stories

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Bill Narum

COMMENTARIES

by Nikki Van Hightower

Liz Taylor: Revolutionary

I don't know how many articles I have read criticizing Elizabeth Taylor's appearance. I know they have been numerous and I read newspapers and news magazines almost exclusively. I can just imagine the volume that must be in the movie and personality-oriented magazines.

I've read that she is too fat, that she wears too much makeup and that her hairstyle is old-fashioned. My latest exposure to the Elizabeth Taylor body mania was a story printed in the *Houston Post* last February 25.

This time the top experts on female development and reconstruction were all assembled to make their theoretical proposals for overhauling Elizabeth Taylor. The article was entitled: *Experts play Pygmalion* and subtitled: *We're (theoretically) going to make Liz beautiful again, because she owes it to us as her fans.* (I shall return to the subject of this subtitle.)

These makeup/hairstyle/fashion designers eagerly dissected poor Elizabeth and came up with their recommendations for turning back the clock. These recommendations ranged all the way from surgery to a wardrobe change.

All aging beauties have their share of mourners and critics, but Elizabeth Taylor has come under extreme and excessive scrutiny.

First, she has been considered one of the most beautiful women in the world, so her demise in that regard is rather like the fall of a monarch to the beauty-worshippers. However, I believe there is another, very important reason for the compulsive interest in Ms. Taylor's looks, which is revealed in the subtitle of the wire service story: *We're (theoretically) going to make Liz beautiful again, because she owes it to us as her fans.* What seems to be grating on the public's nerves is that Elizabeth Taylor herself is expressing little concern over the loss of her youthful looks and her slimness. She says that she likes to eat, and if it makes her fat, so what? So what? What is she trying to do? Upset our entire value system? And who does she think she is anyway? Worst of all, she is not even sharing in the grief for this loss. On behalf of her fans, I must protest this affront. It is hard enough to forgive her for aging, but to do so without putting up a fight or at the very least, suffering, is just too much.

The implications of the Liz Taylor aging phenomenon are truly revolutionary. If she would willingly turn her back on what we have always thought was the most important attribute in the world for a woman—physical beauty—other women might follow in her footsteps. This could result in massive unemployment among plastic surgeons, hairdressers, cosmetologists and clothes designers. And that would just be the beginning.

Who ever would have thought of Elizabeth Taylor as a revolutionary?

WASP Nest in Austin

Seven key aides to Governor Clements have been appointed, and I suppose it comes as no surprise to anyone that they are all male, all white, all conservative and most are middle-aged. They either make \$40,000 a year or are volunteering their time to Clements. The "Good Old Boy" system is solidly in place. So what else is new?

"All of us are peers . . . We all get along well," said Dallas banker Allen Clark who runs Clements' office operations.

The top female staff member is Linda Howell of Houston, a one-time Nixon aide and the regional coordinator for the Clements campaign. Her salary is \$36,000 and she is responsible for supervising the governor's personnel division and providing the paper work staff support for the governor's appointments. Of course, Governor Clements has a female secretary, Janey Harris, and his scheduling director is female, Sheila Wilkes. So far, for women, the Clements administration is a wasteland.

Things are no better for blacks and Mexican-Americans. There are no minorities among the top staffers. Just as we might expect, however, a black male was selected to head the office of equal employment opportunity and small-business promotion programs. Joe W. Kirven earns a yearly salary of \$35,000.

What's the message here? Well, to tell you the truth I'm not sure it's a great deal different than it has been in the past—maybe just a little louder and a little clearer. Women's issues are low priority. It is unnecessary to have the input of women in the top decision-making arena. Men can look after their interests perfectly well. Government is a man's job. Women fit in best in clerical and support positions for male decision makers. The show must at least go on for blacks. They are cast best in affirmative action positions where they can do the least harm. And what about Mexican-Americans? Who are they?

Clements is indeed a man for the times. The people of Texas have demanded an end to wasteful and unnecessary spending—certainly a legitimate demand. Governor Clements has said that he will do this. The problem arises in the interpretation of wasteful and unnecessary spending. The typical conservative interpretation is to put the squeeze on individuals and to open the doors to big, rich, powerful and well-organized special interests. One doesn't have to be much of an historian to know that promises to cut spending have always been made, but that spending has always gone on and at an ever-increasing rate. The only change seems to be in the beneficiaries of the spending.

I hope I haven't been too quick to judge, but the indicators don't look good. It appears that the "voice of the people" for the next four years is going to be coming from white, middle-aged, conservative businessmen.

Inroads into Social Security

Ah Progress! After almost 10 years of steady pressure and consciousness raising by the women's movement, the Social Security Administration is finally acknowledging that women are also paid workers, support their families, and finally, that they are being discriminated against under the present policy setup. I don't mean to sound ungrateful. I'm truly not. It is more a matter of being a little amused by the pomp and flair with which a government agency confirms what we have known now for many years. A 323-page report to Congress by the Social Security Administration entitled *Social Security and the Changing Roles of Men and Women* is the confirmation.

The present Social Security program was constructed over 40 years ago and was designed to support the model, one-earner, male-headed household and the homemaker wife. That model was a distorted reflection of reality then and is even more so today when over half of the married women under age 60 are in the labor force.

Biases in the present system include the following: A wife can become entitled to social security benefits whether or not she is in the paid labor force. Nevertheless, wives in the paid labor force must contribute to protection that they would already have as dependents based on their husband's earnings. In other words, they are wasting their money.

Another example of bias toward the two-earner family is that a couple composed of two retired workers may receive lower total benefits than a couple acquiring the same average lifetime earnings credits earned by only one spouse. In addition a surviving spouse's benefits can be lower for two-earner couples than for one-earner couples with the same average lifetime earnings credits.

The treatment of homemakers is also far from adequate. Homemakers have no social security in their own right. Women divorced after fewer than 10 years of marriage cannot qualify for benefits based on former spouse's earnings. Disabled homemakers and survivors of deceased homemakers are not entitled to any benefits even though the services previously performed are lost.

At last we may see some of these inequities corrected. Proposals being drawn up by HEW would equalize benefits between one- and two-earner families and would give homemakers Social Security benefits in their own right.

One proposed option would require a married couple to split all their social security credits and benefits evenly regardless of who earned what. The other proposed option would set up a two-tier system which would guarantee every retiree a minimum social security benefit of \$122 a month, plus whatever benefits she or he earned as a paid worker.

Either plan is far more equitable than the present social security system.

Marvin v. Marvin

It's hard to imagine a script typecasting an uglier side of sexual relations than the nationally-publicized Marvin vs. Marvin divorce case. Michelle Triola Marvin and Lee Marvin are stars in this real life soap whose plot rivals the best of daytime TV. The cast is as follows:

Michelle Triola Marvin (*written and played by Michelle Triola Marvin*): passive; submissive; self-destructive; doing without contraception because Lee found it unsatisfying; submitting to abortions because Lee did not wish to have children and ultimately suffering the pain of sterilization; giving all she had to her man and asking nothing in return, not even the security of a marriage contract; abandoning a promising singing career to spend six years as a doormat; the ultimate woman.

Michelle Marvin (*written by Lee Marvin*): conniving; manipulative; immoral; out to get any unwitting man's money; fully aware of the tentative nature of the relationship; a cheat; a liar.

Lee Marvin (*written and played by Lee Marvin*): the poor duped male; knifed in the back by a woman who shared a lifestyle other women would envy; threatened with the loss of his money, his property and the rewards of his talent and hard work.

Lee Marvin (*written by Michelle Triola Marvin*): the macho male; chauvinistic; desires women's bodies, but little else; not above a few "masculine" lies for the use of those bodies; forms no permanent alliances with women; "loves 'em and leaves 'em."

So there we have it whether we care to tune in or not: the two roles of Lee Marvin and the two roles of Michelle Triola Marvin. The Marvins have played out the roles perfectly and now the public is getting a front row seat to watch the stored-up hate pour out in these fraudulent relationships.

As far as I am concerned these roles add up to an unappetizing blend of lies, deceit, naivete, unbelievable stupidity and inhuman behavior. I would not venture to say who is right in Marvin v. Marvin. As far as I am concerned, both are wrong. But the guilt extends much further than just these two people. Complicity is shared by all of us who have gone along with the game and who have passed our playing skills along to others.

Let's hope that something has been learned from this revolting human drama—something like playing it straight with people, even to the point of putting agreements in writing.

Lee Marvin and Michelle Triola Marvin are victims of their times. With their help, perhaps the caricatures they represent will be a dying breed.

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower is a radio talk show host on KTRH Radio.

Media Matters

by gabrielle cosgriff

Times certainly do change (see illustrations this page.) Only five years ago, the Phil Donahue Show was being advertised in *Broadcasting* magazine as a sure-fire way for TV stations to "pick up young women." An earlier issue of the magazine had a full-page ad saying "Donahue rates well with young women." And Houston's Channel 2 (KPRC-TV) was touting its daily line-up of "fun and games."

Now, in 1979, Donahue is an ardent feminist and leads off Channel 2's daytime programming.

When local feminists pointed out to Channel 2 in 1974 that their daytime programming was insulting and trivial, they were told that women didn't want serious or thought-provoking programs during the day—they wanted escapism. When Donahue was in Houston recently, taping a

series of shows, he was asked if he would prefer to be aired at night. "No," he replied. "I can't see myself back-to-back with *Charlie's Angels*. People want to be distracted in the evenings—they want escapism."

Donahue's syndicated, audience-participation show is the best thing that ever happened to Channel 2's daytime programming, by anyone's standards. For the viewers, he offers a stimulating alternative to the mindless network shows; for the station, he puts them ahead in the ratings for that time period, which translates into advertising dollars. No wonder Channel 2 thought it was a good investment to bring Donahue to Houston.

They covered all the expenses of producing the show, taking care of Donahue, his staff and his guests, Gloria Steinem, Oral Roberts, Melissa Sands, the Green

family and Sophia Loren. They leased the theater, threw parties and generally basked in the glow of having backed a winner.

The bills are not all in yet, but Tom Reif, Channel 2's program director, figures the tab for the week will run somewhere between \$25,000 and \$30,000. That *does* include the \$287 for renting the potted plants for the theater stage.

The *Houston Post*, which, together with Channel 2 and KPRC Radio, is owned by the Hobby family, did not skimp on its coverage of the Donahue phenomenon. Gloria Steinem, his first guest, was the subject of an interview on the Today section's front page (Feb 19) and Sophia Loren graced page one of the Entertainment section (Feb 24). C.W. Skipper, the *Post* TV editor, devoted three days of columns to Donahue and guests, one of them the whole front page (in yellow) of

the Spotlight section (Feb 24). Melissa Sands, mistress-turned-wife, rated a half-page interview in the Today section (Feb 25).

But the prime placement was reserved for Donahue's mystery guests (who could not be identified beforehand because of "possible legal problems") Chad Green and his parents, who fled to Mexico so that Chad could receive the controversial anti-cancer drug Laetrile. They made the front page of the *Post* (Feb 22)—two pictures, in fact, above the fold, and were also the subjects of a section one news story that day (p. 26A).

The *Houston Chronicle's* coverage consisted of a two-part article on Donahue by TV editor Ann Hodges (Feb 19, 20) and a photograph of the Green family in Houston (Feb 22).



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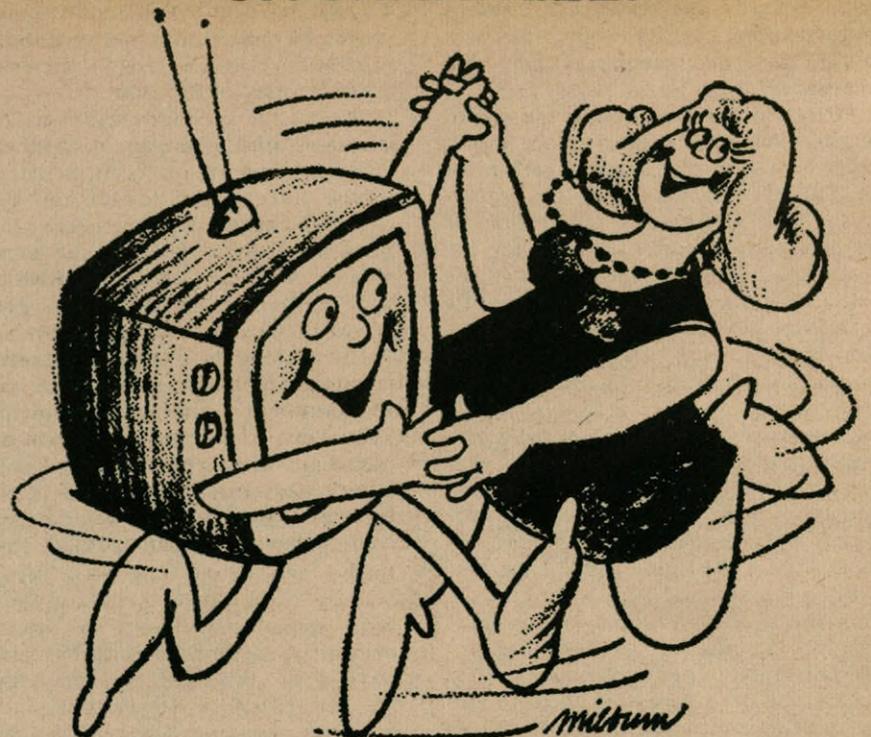


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10:00 High Rollers	12:10 The Joanne King Show
10:30 Hollywood Squares	12:30 Jeopardy



Carol Boudreaux, press aide for the MTA, resigned her job after one week because her husband was told he could not keep his job as city editor of the *Houston Post* if she kept hers. "It would be a conflict of interest for the city editor's wife to be handling publicity for the transit authority," said Kuyk Logan managing editor of the *Post* (see story p. 11.)

The reaction of Houston news organizations to Logan's ultimatum was varied. Channel 13 interviewed Carol Boudreaux (and aired their interview on three newscasts.) Garvin Berry, assignments editor at Channel 13, claimed he tried for two days to interview Logan. "I hate not to get both sides of a story," said Berry, "but it was a matter of logistics—we just couldn't get together." Logan said he received two calls from Channel 13, both of which he returned. "I'm always accessible," he said.

Channel 11's assignments editor, David Wilson, opted not to cover the story. "I knew about it" he said, "I just didn't feel it was newsworthy." Channel 2 ran a "word story" on two newscasts (no film, just a short piece read by the newscaster saying that Boudreaux had resigned, and why.)

Radio stations KTRH, KLOL and KAUM interviewed Boudreaux, and *Time* magazine called her for details. The *Houston Chronicle's* MTA reporter John Kling did two short 'Wrap-up' pieces—one on the resignation (Feb 17) and one on the hiring of Boudreaux's successor (Mar 3.)

The first story said that an "unnamed MTA board member" asked "I wonder what we're going to do for the *Chronicle* now?" while the second story had minor inaccuracies of fact and chronology.

The *Houston Post*, however, didn't have to worry about inaccuracies—they chose not to cover it at all. Terry Kliever, the *Post* MTA reporter, feeling that "discretion was the better part of valor," gave his notes on the resignation to John Boudreaux, his boss. Kliever figured that John Boudreaux knew more about the story than he did, anyway. According to managing editor Logan, John Boudreaux left the decision to him (Logan) on whether or not to run a story. Logan chose not to.

"In retrospect, I would probably have made a different decision today," admitted Logan. "I didn't realize it would make that big a to-do on TV—I would have rather run a little item on it and cleared the air—it looked like we were hiding something. In other words, I made a mistake."

A few days after the resignation, Logan received a letter which read: "The *Post* has certainly earned my respect. You acted promptly and judiciously informing the Metropolitan Transit Authority that Houston has a free press." Logan saw the letter as an opportunity to rectify his mistake. "Here was a chance for us to state our position . . . a chance for me to do perhaps what I should have done."

Logan passed on the letter to Sound-Off editor Bill Bedell, requesting him to run it in Sound-Off, with the following notation (Logan's wording.) "The MTA hired the wife of the *Post* city editor to be its public relations director. The *Post* city editor handles MTA news. His wife would have been handling MTA publicity. The *Post* managing editor rejected this arrangement as a clear conflict of interest. The city editor's wife resigned her new MTA job." The letter ran March 1.

So finally, after two weeks of silence, the *Post* commented on Carol Boudreaux's resignation—in the letters-to-the-editor column. No names, no dates.

But as Logan explained, the issue was not one of "who" but "what." This was "the city editor of a newspaper and the p.r. director of the MTA" and Logan felt that the credibility of the newspaper was at stake. "The public depends on us to report what's going on. If you're the MTA reporter who's covering the MTA and you

deal with the p.r. director and then you've got to come back down and deal with the city editor, who's married to the p.r. director . . . it has all kinds of bad connotations."

And the name of the new MTA press aide who succeeded Carol Boudreaux, wife of the *Post's* city editor? Her name is Joyce Rasco. She's the sister-in-law of Larry Rasco, Channel 2 newscaster.

"It should be remembered," wrote James Reston in his Sunday *New York Times* column, "that Nelson Rockefeller died at his desk late on a Friday night after almost everybody had gone home for the weekend. He was a worker, a yearner, and a builder to the end."

But where was he working? For what was he yearning and when was the end? Alexander Cockburn, in his *Village Voice* press column, comments on the New York newspapers' accounts of Rockefeller's confusing demise, pointing out that Rockefeller left a 60 minute gap where Nixon could only manage 18½.

"Nothing was more seemly than the accounts in Saturday morning's newspapers. In these first reports Hugh Morrow, longtime family spokesman, announced in 'slow, solemn tones' that Rockefeller, 70, had been stricken at 10:15 Friday night. . . at his desk in his office at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. . .

"Initial accounts described Rockefeller's passing as one of the most uplifting since the death of Socrates, and the *Daily News* seemed quite prepared in its Sunday coverage to let Nelson thus die in unquestioned dignity. No such overdeveloped spirit of prudence and good taste infected the *Times*. Its excellent coverage on both Sunday and Monday produced so many lines to read between that at times the narrative looked like a financial statement by Bert Lance.

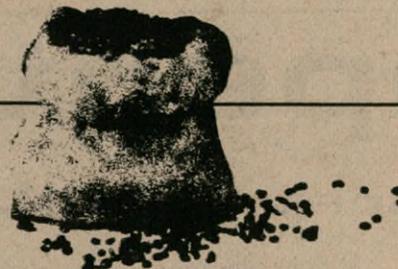
"Readers of Sunday's *Times* found the venue of death shifted, the participants increased in number and multiplied in sex, the times clarified. . . The *Times*, having enlivened every Sunday brunch in the city, had the full, revised version on Monday. . ." And so on, with spokesman Morrow sinking further into the morass with each new contradiction. "If, over the weekend, Morrow was sounding about as reliable as Nixon in one of his later press conferences, on Monday he was on the ropes. . . He simply told AP on Monday that he was tired of the whole business and had nothing more to say."

Similar uncertainties have attended other deaths, recalled Cockburn: "John Paul I. . . was first stated by the Vatican to have been reading Thomas a Kempis when he died with a smile on his face. It later turned out that he had a heart attack after reading an unpleasant bureaucratic memorandum. . . At least in the whole saga there's comfort for smokers and drinkers," concluded Cockburn. "Rockefeller, who reportedly took off only three days from work in his entire life for reasons of ill health, never indulged in either of these particular vices."

People shuffle off this mortal coil in various ways, according to the obituary columns in the *Houston Post* and the *Houston Chronicle*. Most people "pass away" some "die," a few "expire" or "enter into rest"—and just the other day one person "died physically." But one rugged individualist (both papers, Feb 27) "after a valiant fight with cancer, tiptoed out of her cocoon." The woman succumbed as follows: "Gracefully conceding the last bout, as one tear dropped from one eye and a gentle smile came through her lips and a peaceful look transcended her face, she all in a split second, in one smooth glissano (sic) was gently lifted up. Her hair grown back from chemotherapy was still black with nary a gray. In good health before the cancer attack, had she not been invaded by cancer she would have been here for many years." The deceased was 78 years old.

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The Houston Public Library is currently holding a series of talks, films and special events called *The Media in Houston*. The list of topics is impressive: The Front Page and the 6 o'clock News, How the Media Cover Minorities, Minorities in the Media, The Power of the Press, etc. Except there is nothing about women in the media.

When asked about this oversight, Dr. Ed Osowski of the Houston Public Library, who put the program together, said, "We decided not to address that issue because, frankly, it seemed a little tired."

KPFT, Houston's only listener-supported radio station, called Dr. Osowski to ask why alternative media had not been included in the series. His answer: "We considered including KPFT, but decided it was too controversial."

The series was made possible by a Cultural Institutions Program grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Osowski explained that the grant was originally intended to fund a series on the Mexican-American community and the media, but that it had been "revised" for a more general appeal.

But women, Mexican-Americans and the alternative media really shouldn't get too upset with Dr. Osowski, because, as he pointed out, "I know nothing about the media." We have no reason to doubt his word.

Channel 8's *Friday Local* recently aired a four-part series on the media—print, radio, cable TV and television. Houston public television's only locally-produced, public affairs show concentrated on the establishment media, ignoring the alternative/minority organizations.

The show's producer, Mike August, was asked why KPFT Radio, for example, was not included. "Because there's nobody articulate enough at KPFT," responded August. His last job was station manager at that listener-sponsored station—a slot still unfilled.

Moderator Susan Wright wrapped up the last segment with "This concludes our look at the media." Kind of like Walter Cronkite saying "That's the way it is."

In a press release recently issued by the Houston Citizens for Animal Protection, pet owners are reminded that they have "a responsibility to their neighbors. Owners of unspayed females have the greatest responsibility of all. The unspayed female is the cause of all the unwanted puppies and kittens born each year. Humane shelters put hundreds of thousands of these creatures to sleep every year because some pet owner found a 'good' excuse not to have their female spayed." So shape up, Houstonians. Everyone knows that females, and only females, are responsible for overpopulation. Parthenogenesis, anyone?

Jane Byrne has just defeated Mayor Michael Bilandic of Chicago in the mayoral Democratic primary, and will most likely be elected mayor on April 3. The AP and UPI wire service stories that appeared in the Houston dailies provided a typical illustration of how women newsmakers are reported on.

In the first story (Feb 25) UPI senior editor David Smothers mentioned Byrne twice—"a wispy, waspish independent who has waged a one-woman vendetta against Bilandic for two years" and "Byrne, 44, a onetime Daley protege." (Wow—all those w's. What a wonderful way with words!) No history or reason for the "one-woman vendetta" was given—which fact, coupled with the "wispy, waspish" description, left the impression of a woman with decided character flaws and not much else. The only qualifier given Bilandic in this story was his age, "Bilandic, 51. . ."

The AP story, by John Shurr, (Mar 1) gave a little more information, but still described Byrne as "a 44-year-old, stern-looking woman. . . (who) gained revenge on the man who had fired her as commis-

sioner of consumer sales, weights and measures." No physical description or age of Bilandic was given. The second UPI story (Feb 28, no byline) called Byrne "a feisty Irish woman"—no physical description of Bilandic.

We usually look to the newspapers to fill in the gaps left by TV's sensational, spot reporting, but in an ironic twist it was the network coverage that gave the best background to the "wispy, waspish, feisty, stern-looking, Irish woman, aged 44," who snowed Bilandic.

Rolling Stone (Mar 8) has an update on the Karen Silkwood case by Howard Kohn, whose book "Who Killed Karen Silkwood" will be published this year. Apart from feminist publications, *Rolling Stone* is the only national magazine that reports regularly and in depth on developments in the case, which is set to go to trial in Oklahoma City in April—more than four years after Silkwood's mysterious death.

More poop on the pope: Some excerpts from the notebook of Hugh A. Mulligan, MAP special correspondent, "found along the pilgrim path of a pope in Mexico:"

In Santo Domingo, the first stop on his first trip outside Italy, the pope blessed the crowds from a mechanized platform that looked like a stripped-down bowl parade float. The vehicle was dubbed "the popemobile" by news honchos trying to keep track of the papal procession by walkie-talkie radios. When preceded by the two flatbed trucks fitted out with wooden bleachers to accommodate photographers, the three vehicles were designated the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

In anti-clerical but overwhelmingly Catholic (93 percent) Mexico, the pope was greeted everywhere with enthusiasm, sometimes bordering on fanaticism. Wherever he visited, security guards remained on duty all night to keep the faithful from ripping up the paving stones he had trod for relics and souvenirs.

Thousands of gringos, including a number of Polish Americans, flew south of the border to see the pope. In downtown Monterrey they shouted "Viva la papa!" The message must have amazed him as much as their fervor, because they were shouting "Long live the potato" instead of long live the Pope, which is "viva el papa."

Best little what?" asked William Albright, *Houston Post* theater writer (Feb 24). Albright claimed that "every TV and radio station in town is bleeping out the word 'whore' from the commercials' soundtracks" for Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. Not so, huffed KLEF Radio's Steve Shepard. "He should do his research a little better. KLEF did not bleep the word 'whore,' we ran the commercials intact." KLEF is Houston's only classical music station.

And. . . Bella Abzug will be writing a monthly column for *Ms.* magazine and will report on national reaction to her firing in the May issue. . . KEYH Radio, which used to be Houston's only all-news and information station, has changed its format. It is now a Spanish-language station. . . *Houston Business Journal* will soon be publishing Los Angeles and San Francisco editions. . . Remember back in 1960 when Elizabeth Taylor won a Best Actress Oscar for her role in *Butterfield 8* after she almost died of pneumonia and had to have an emergency tracheotomy? Well, two of John Wayne's commercials for Great Western Savings and Loan have just won the International Broadcasting Awards for excellence in broadcast advertising during 1978. . . Random House is publishing the collected works of Polish poet Karol Wojtyla, better known as Pope John Paul II. (\$5-10 deluxe boxed edition.)

Breakthrough editor Gabrielle Cosgriff has a close relationship with the English language—she used to sell Encyclopedia Britannica in the Australian outback.

Should women attorneys defend accused rapists?

"It is easier for a woman attorney to impugn the character of a rape victim..."

"In my mind, representing someone accused of rape is no different than defending someone accused of robbery or murder."

"You are trying to close my doors and take business away from me."



by Hildegard Warner

Five years ago, in *A Case of Rape*, millions of television viewers watched a skillful defense attorney cross-examine a rape victim, Elizabeth Montgomery, so effectively that the defendant in the case was acquitted.

The film was the highest-rated made-for-television film in the industry's history. It was also the first serious attempt on television to deal with the sensitive issue of rape.

What struck viewers about the movie is that the defense attorney so effectively destroying Montgomery's story is a woman. They will never forget the look of shock which appears on the victim's face as she discovers that she is the one being attacked in the courtroom rather than the defendant.

Although much research has been done on the subject of rape—the history of the crime, interviews with convicted rapists and victims—there is no research or written material on the effect a woman defense attorney has on the victim or on the jury.

The question is only now being raised around the country, and will be a topic of a panel discussion on *Women as Criminal Defense Attorneys* during the Tenth National Conference of Women and the Law, March 29 to April 1, in San Antonio.

The panel will address the "moral and political" problems encountered by women attorneys defending men against charges of rape or child- or wife-abuse.

"It will be a dynamite panel," said panelist Susan Dasher, with the Texas Attorney General's Office in Austin. "We will have people in private practice and others who have worked as public defenders. We will be talking about all aspects of women in the public defender's office, when they must take a case no matter how they feel about it, and about women who can choose to take a case because they are in private practice.

"We will discuss the attitudes of the feminist community toward women who do take on the responsibility of defending an accused rapist, the effect on a jury of having a woman doing that particular kind

of work and the effect on the attorney herself. We will have differing positions because the people on the panel are from both sides of the issue," Dasher said.

As part of her work in the public defender's office in California, Dasher has represented accused rapists. She feels women defense attorneys can be more sensitive in the courtroom with the rape victim. "Women who cross-examine the victim don't have to run rampant over her personal sexual existence," Dasher said. Women can be equally effective but do not have to be so brutal in cross-examination. Dasher added she would not attack the victim's character unless it was absolutely necessary to win her case.

Other panelists will include Pat Pierce with the Defenders Association in Philadelphia, Margaret Ratner, private criminal lawyer from New York, Holly Maguigan, a partner in a criminal defense firm in Philadelphia, and Alice Hector, with the public defender's office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The reaction of Houston women defense attorneys confirms the controversial nature of the issue. Raising the question, "Should women attorneys defend accused rapists?" disturbed several of the attorneys. "You are trying to close my doors and take business away from me," accused Phoebe Lester. "What is wrong with it?" she demanded. Her law partner, Carolyn Garcia said, "That question is not consistent with our constitutional rights to a fair trial."

"It is a silly question," responded Michol O'Connor, a prosecuting attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Houston. "I hate rape, but I cannot deny the accused rapist a defense and a trial."

These attorneys believe their role is to defend anyone accused of a crime, regardless of their personal feelings as women, or of pressures from other women. As lawyers, they are dedicated to the right of a fair trial as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Lester was the most adamant. "I find it not at all difficult to defend a man whether it is rape or anything else. I do my goddamdest to represent him. I find it admirable that women are taking these cases," she stated.

O'Connor added, "If you are a lawyer, you have to be dedicated to the proposition that everyone deserves to have an attorney. If someone were in a position where they wouldn't have a defense, our whole system would break down."

"A man is entitled to an adequate defense just as much as any woman, and it doesn't make any difference that the woman is the victim in a rape case," said Pat Wicoff, president of the Houston Association of Women Attorneys. "We have been preaching for a long time that we want equality. Men are entitled to the same equality as we are."

"I have no problem with it because I am a lawyer. I don't take it personally," added attorney Bonnie Fitch. "I don't put myself in the position of the victim or the defendant. I don't see any conflict in my being a woman and defending a rapist."

Many of the attorneys do not distinguish the seriousness of rape over any other crime. "In my mind, representing someone accused of rape is no different than defending someone accused of robbery or murder. I do not find rape any more repugnant," said Mary Craft.

"Rape is a vile crime, but there are things that are worse in my mind," Garcia added. "I would find it most difficult, even impossible, to defend someone accused of serious child-molesting."

Several other lawyers, however, admitted to some soul-searching before deciding to take on a rape case. Carol Carrier has just defended a client whose family approached her to take his case. This is the only rape case she has handled in her two-and-a-half years of practice, but Carrier has definite feelings about taking on others.

"This is one type of crime I would have to believe the client's story rather than do it because it was a job," Carrier said. "If I didn't believe him, I don't believe I could try the case." Carrier said that after talking to her recent client and studying the case, she believed he was innocent, so she took his case. "I feel that as a woman, you have to believe your client. It becomes more than a job when it comes to the nature of the crime. I think rape is one of the top crimes," Carrier added.

In her four years of practice, Harol-

deen Hartsfield has defended two accused rapists. But she didn't take the cases automatically. "I would have reservations on rape cases. I make the decision on what I have heard from the person accused, taking the injuries into account. I listen to the fact pattern and examine the heinousness of the crime. Being a woman you automatically do that. I think that is a consideration that should be used," Hartsfield said.

Shannon Warren has only been approached once to defend an accused rapist in her one-and-a-half years of practice, but she chose not to take the case because she thought the man was guilty. In the future, Warren says, "I would evaluate each situation separately. I would have no problem defending a man if I thought he was innocent."

Warren would employ different standards in other criminal cases. "I would take other cases whether or not I thought the accused was guilty or innocent. I would determine guilt in my mind before taking a rape case," Warren said.

"That is ridiculous. All my clients are guilty," Lester stated. "I have represented quite a few rapists (in nine years of practice). I am an advocate; I cannot determine guilt or innocence. I do my best. It is up to a jury to decide whether he should pay a penalty."

"I divorce personal moral feelings from representation of my client," Craft added. "I don't think you can practice criminal law if you made moral decisions in deciding whether or not you would represent someone. The issue is 'can the state prove that the person did it?'"

"It is not my job as an attorney to decide whether a person is innocent or guilty," Garcia said. "Just because someone has been accused of a crime doesn't mean they are guilty. For me to make that kind of judgment, be it a legal or a moral judgment, is unethical behavior."

Garcia said even if the crime bothered her as a person, it should not influence her as an advocate. "If someone is accused of rape or any sort of sexual behavior having to do with a woman or a child or anybody, I am not the person to judge whether or not that is a correct allegation," Garcia said. "My job as a defense attor-

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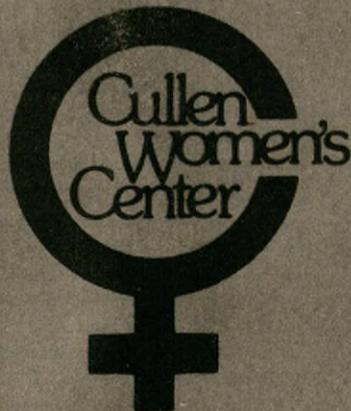
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ney is to be an advocate to protect the constitutional rights of the person accused.

"I have a terrible case (now); it is very bad and I don't like it," Garcia explained. She is currently defending a man who is being retried on charges of rape and sodomy. The victim says she was forced to perform oral intercourse, that the accused shoved a gun in her rectum and threatened to blow her to pieces.

"I feel sorry for the victim, but someone has to protect this man's constitutional rights, to protect me and you and everyone else," Garcia said. She defended the accused during his first trial in which he received a 20-year sentence, but was successful in getting the decision reversed.

What offends feminists most deeply are the tactics used by many defense attorneys to get their clients off. In hardly any other crime is the victim's character and behavior attacked to the point where she is on trial. During a robbery or assault trial, the victim is not asked, "Did you consent?", "Did you resist?", "Did you submit without a struggle?" In a rape trial, the victim's answers to these and other probing questions about her actions during the crime often mean the difference between conviction or acquittal of the defendant. What is so abhorrent feminists argue is that women attorneys often participate in this kind of attack on the rape victim.

Although the attorneys stated that their first loyalties were to their clients once they took a case, it is possible for a woman defense attorney to be more sensitive to the victim as well as knowing how to attack more effectively. They said juries may react both positively and negatively to a woman defense attorney's behavior in cross-examining a victim.

"It is easier for a woman attorney to impugn the character of a rape victim," feminist attorney Jo Nelson told a group of woman attorneys at a conference a year ago. "I still feel that way," she said recently. "You know the coquettish games that they (women) play. You are more familiar with their dating skills and their socialized behavior patterns."

But Nelson also believes a woman attorney can be more sensitive to the victim, which also will have an impact on a jury. "I think a lot of people sympathize with a female victim if the male attorney is being crude or crass and browbeating her.

"Their voices are different—his a big booming voice, making a power play on the victim, whom the jury always views as a little girl," Nelson said. "A female lawyer can take that edge away, and that is an advantage."

"A woman attorney can be more sympathetic," agreed Garcia. "I have been associated in bad, bad situations where sexual abuse, weapons and artificial devices were used. In that case it is better not to go into that area. One extra question or one extra attack hurts rather than helps your case."

Fitch also believes it is easier for a woman attorney to cross-examine a victim and obtain information she would not give to a male attorney. "A woman relates better and is more adept at cross-examining another woman. She would get information the victim wouldn't give to a man because she (the attorney) takes a better attitude toward her."

Clares Studevant, an attorney for six years, believes that a jury would accept a woman defense attorney's attack on the victim. She believes a woman attorney would have a lot more understanding and be more knowledgeable on both sides of the case. "It is easier for a woman defense attorney to attack the victim on the issue of consent and her past character," Studevant said.

It is not easy to predict how the jury will react to a woman defense attorney's tactics. "Every jury is made up of 12 different people. One jury may be affected, whereas to another set of 12 people it wouldn't make any difference whether it

was a man or a woman," Garcia said.

Craft has found juries to be very hard on woman attorneys. She believes woman jurors would be more suspicious of a woman defense attorney trying to discredit another woman.

On the other hand, Hartsfield feels that jurors are sophisticated enough to understand the fact patterns and that being a female attorney does not work as an advantage or disadvantage. But she added, "Each case is different. It changes according to the environment you are in—the courtroom, the jury, the attorneys, the judges, etc."

Nelson and Warren said that they have been approached to defend rape cases because they are women, while other lawyers agreed that a rape defendant would prefer to have a woman attorney representing them, others believed it makes no difference to the defendant.

In Warren's case, she believes she was approached because of her race also. "The defendant and the primary defense attorney were white," Warren explained. "I felt I was being asked because I was a white woman. I did not take the case because I thought this would bias the jury."

Nelson said she has had a few clients choose her because she is a woman, specifically in prostitution cases. It is the psychology that as a female "you are not afraid of the big bad criminal," she believes.

While waiting next to a hold-over cell recently, female attorney Clyde Williams overheard a conversation between male inmates saying that they prefer women lawyers because they felt women were more sensitive. "I think a lot of the men accused of rape are wanting women because they feel they have an advantage," Williams said. "If it is a crime against another woman, they feel having a woman defending them is a better combination than two men (male lawyer and defendant) against the victim. I think women can be more effective," she added.

While Hartsfield and Fitch believe men still prefer to have male lawyers represent them in a criminal case, Craft and Nelson said getting the best attorney they can afford is the primary consideration of an accused rapist.

"Money is a key factor and after that come other factors," Nelson said. "I have had friends appointed to a case and the guy didn't want a female attorney."

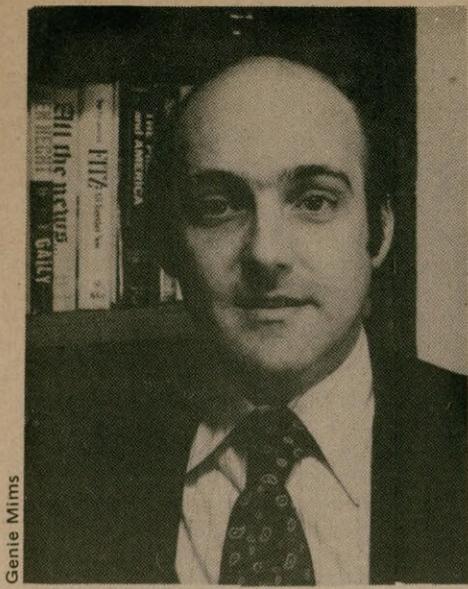
"I think there is less and less an automatic seeking of a male attorney," Craft responded. "They want the best criminal lawyer they can afford. I doubt very much that a person accused of rape would be less inclined to hire a woman instead of a man. They don't think far enough to consider what impact a male or female attorney would have on a jury."

What it all boils down to, according to the women attorneys, is that they are doing a job. "That doesn't mean we have to take every case because we are attorneys," O'Connor said, "but I think if everyone refused to represent people accused of crime, our legal system isn't worth a damn."

Wicoff, who is not a criminal lawyer, believes each case should be examined individually. "I would understand the viewpoint if a woman cannot take a case, but I can understand women saying that is not a realistic attitude," Wicoff said.

This is the dilemma of the woman defense attorney. As a person, feminist attorney Nelson says, "Rape is an emotional issue. I believe if the state can prove its case, they ought to throw the book at him (the accused rapist)." As a defense attorney, Nelson gets "a lot of flack" from feminist groups, who threaten "to take away my buttons." But she says, "When you hang out your shingle as an attorney, that is what they are paying you for."

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



John Boudreaux

"Either Carol quits or you're fired." That was the ultimatum handed down by *Houston Post* management to *Post* city editor John Boudreaux recently, over the question of his wife's job as a \$23,000-a-year press aide for the problem-ridden Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Carol Boudreaux worked for the MTA exactly seven days before her forced resignation. Hardly long enough, she says, to show what she or her husband could do.

But it was enough time for *Houston Post* management to decide that her job "appeared to be a conflict of interest," according to James E. Crowther, *Post* general counsel and vice president.

The *Post's* ultimatum was issued to John Boudreaux on Friday morning, February 16. Later that day, at an open legislative hearing, State Representative Bill Blythe sharply criticized MTA for hiring Carol and pointed out her relationship to the *Post* city editor.

Blythe's statement was the first time her employment as MTA's press aide was made public. But his announcement was not the cause of the ultimatum. It had been handed down earlier that morning, the Boudreauxs' say.

Kuyk Logan, *Post* managing editor, claims full responsibility for the decision, although, he adds, Crowther and *Post* owner Oveta Culp Hobby "concurred in his concern." (Hobby could not be reached for comment.)

"In this day and age, when the credibility of newspapers is being questioned and particularly when you have a controversial group like the MTA, which is just starting out, the appearance of evil (and we're talking about the conflict of interest) is as bad as the evil itself," he emphasizes.

Logan says that he never questioned the Boudreauxs' integrity or professionalism. But he points to the fact that the city editor has more power over what goes in the paper than does the managing editor.

In this case, John Boudreaux would have been sending out a reporter to cover news generated by his wife, Logan says.

The Boudreauxs' admit they discussed at length the possibility that the two jobs might be a "conflict of interest." But, since they are both journalists and had faced competitive situations before, they believed the MTA job could be handled similarly.

"I really felt pretty shook, because we weren't given a chance to perform and prove what we could do professionally," Carol says.

In fact, she feels strongly that it is a situation which transcends the personal problem she had to face and has "ramifications through the whole structure of society."

Women, she points out, no longer go to work as they did 20 years ago, just to buy clothes. Now, they're working as serious professionals and are meeting and marrying men in the same or related fields.

"There can be suspected conflicts of

"Either she quits or you're fired"

by Barbara Farrar Karkabi

interest on every level of society," she points out, "and where do you draw the line? It's only an example of what we're going to be facing over the next few years."

Carol adds that many *Post* reporters were sympathetic to the problem. It's been hard for them too, she says, because it made them realize how much control "the company" has over everyone's lives.

Many of the *Post* employees have husbands or wives who work professionally and they worry about how far-reaching this question of "conflict of interest" can be, she says.

Personally, John Boudreaux says that he has trouble putting the problem in a feminist perspective, because journalism has traditionally employed women.

"The situation could easily have been reversed. There could have been a woman city editor, with a husband in a sensitive political post," he says.

But he does feel that it is a problem that needs to be examined closely, as women move into upper-echelon jobs. "In five years, people probably won't even think about it and the question will have resolved itself."

Ironically, Boudreaux says that he always wanted to marry a woman who was directly involved in, or trained in, journalism.

Only another journalist, he says, could possibly understand the hours involved in the profession. "So, that's exactly what I did," he says, "and now we're both paying a price."

The Boudreauxs' have been in competitive situations since the first day they met as general assignment reporters for the *Baton Rouge Morning Advocate*.

As Carol puts it, "Goddamn, I wanted the assignments as much as he did."

When John was offered the job of reporter at the *Houston Post* in 1971, Carol took a job with KPRC Radio. Although she had previously worked for the *Post* in 1967, the paper has a policy of never hiring a husband and wife team.

Before taking the job with KPRC, Carol thought about working for the *Houston Chronicle*, but says she felt that was a "conflict of interest" over and above any other job possibility.

In the five years she worked as a news writer for KPRC, there were several occasions when, as John puts it, "we knew the inside skinny on what KPRC and the *Post* were doing on certain breaking stories and easily could have slipped things to each other, but didn't."

One example that sticks in Carol's mind is the Donald Yarborough case. (Yarborough is the former Texas Supreme Court Justice who several years ago was accused of forgery and aggravated perjury. He was found guilty of perjury and sentenced to five years in prison. His case is still under appeal.)

"It was a block-buster piece," she recalls, "and the *Post* broke the story. John knew about it for several months and I felt something was going on. But, by the

time he told me, it was the midnight before the story broke. John knew that KPRC's news format ended at 1 a.m. and it was much too late for me to try and go with it."

That's the way it's always been for them. They have always talked about news at home and she feels that has deepened their relationship. But, she adds, there has always been a "deep and healthy respect for our profession."

When Carol left KPRC in July, 1977, and began looking for a job, she called Barry M. Goodman, now executive director of the MTA and at that time director of transportation for the city of Houston.

"I told him that the transit department was something I could really dig my teeth into. I believed in the issue and I liked the guy who headed it. Of all the city officials that I knew, Goodman was the most accessible and straightforward. He always had his act together," she remembers.

At that time, she points out, MTA was only a vague possibility in the future. The job of press aide for the transit department would have been a civil service position, she says.

Carol remembers that, at that time, John mentioned to Kuyk Logan the possibility that she might take a job with the transit department. He says that Logan seemed to have no objections.

After MTA was voted in last August, Carol and Goodman talked several times. Many people at the *Post* knew that Carol was hoping to get the job.

When Carol was finally offered the job, they discussed the issue with several media friends, including *Post* reporter Terry Kliewer, who covers MTA. Kliewer's only objection was on a personal level, she says, because he wondered what the Boudreauxs' would discuss at home.

"I told him," Carol says, "not to be intimidated by the fact that I was his boss's wife. I also discussed the possible conflict with Barry Goodman and reminded him that John was Terry's boss. But Barry believed firmly in our professionalism."

"We had all discussed the possible 'conflict,'" says Marilee M. Wood, MTA executive assistant, "but we had confidence in her ability to do the job. It was definitely not the initiative of MTA that caused her to leave."

Wood says further that she interviewed at least 12 people for the job and talked to many more on the phone. Carol was the best qualified, she says, and in her one week of employment, became a part of MTA.

If anything, Wood feels that Carol's employment should have made the *Post* bend over backward to show they had no bias. "I have a lot more confidence in the press than to think you can buy them off that easily," says Wood, who adds that the whole issue bothered her, "as a woman and as a feminist."

Carol started working for MTA on Monday, February 12. Logan was informed of her job the previous Friday and had voiced no objection at that point.



Carol Boudreaux

But on Wednesday, Logan told John that he was worried about the "appearance of a conflict of interest," and said that he intended to discuss it with Mrs. Hobby.

After Logan issued his ultimatum on Friday, John called Carol to tell her. "It was after the legislative hearing and John asked me how it went," she says. "I told him that it went fine and that I was a pretty resilient person. John's reply was that I might be resilient, but the *Post* wasn't. I thought at first that he was kidding, but I soon found out it was no joke."

Their answer was expected on Monday and Carol says they must have made 50 decisions over the weekend. "Twenty-five of them were that John would get fired and 25 that I would quit. It was agonizing."

On Monday they still hadn't reached a decision, so John went in to talk further with Logan. "I told him," John says, "that we always knew there would be accusations of 'conflict' but accusation is one thing and performance another. If, after a number of months, there had been examples then we would have had no argument."

Logan feels that he was not unsympathetic to the problem. In a conversation with *Breakthrough* editor Gabrielle Cosgriff, he says that he doesn't think a woman's job should be limited because of what her husband does. But, he adds, "the higher up the pole you go, the more your fanny shows . . ."

If John Boudreaux had been a reporter or sports editor, the "conflict" would not have arisen. On the other hand, if Carol Boudreaux had worked as press aide for the Houston Zoo, there would have been no problem. He says it was really a question of "those two people in those two jobs."

In the end, it was Carol's decision to resign. She decided to do so for several reasons. First, she felt MTA had received enough negative exposure and "they didn't need a newsmaker on the staff."

Secondly, she says, if John had left his job, he would have lain in a hammock for several months, grown a beard and then set out to look for another job. Inevitably, it would have been in another city.

"So, no matter what we did, I probably would have ended up leaving MTA, which would have been a disservice to them," she says.

One of the positive aspects of the whole crisis was John's strong support. He never at any point told her she had to resign, she says, and adds that she doesn't know many men who would agree to their wife working at the risk of their own job.

Almost a month after the incident, Carol still feels "mad as hell about it. I really wanted the challenge of that MTA job."

Barbara Farrar Karkabi is a staff writer for the *Houston Westside Reporter*.

whether or not; together or not

Presidential and Party Primaries in Texas

by Dixie Lee Hawkins

If Texas has a presidential primary next year, when should it be held?

That appears to be the central issue in what could be one of this legislative season's hottest battles. And the battle is not entirely another cut-and-dried confrontation between liberals and conservatives. In fact, one of the state's best known liberals would prefer no 1980 Democratic presidential contest for Texas.

Several proposals have been bandied about and more could surface, but the debate seems to be narrowing down to two bills sponsored by Houston legislators. One, by Democratic State Senator Jack Ogg, calls for a presidential primary on March 11th—separate from the regular nominating primaries held later. His measure has the backing of Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby and House Speaker Billy Clayton and, according to Ogg, the support of some Republicans, too.

The other major proposal, by Democratic State Representative Ron Waters and Republican State Representative Brad Wright, would allow a presidential primary on the same day as the regular nominating elections in May. The Waters-Wright bill would require it be held on the same day as the general primaries. (A party could pick its presidential nominating delegates through the state convention process instead.) This measure is being pushed by a coalition of Republicans and liberal-moderate Democrats, but it also has the State Democratic Executive Committee's endorsement (by a 65 to 1 vote) and support among some traditional conservatives such as former state party chair Calvin Guest.

Ogg's proposal would change the beginning of the state's election year from March first to April first, thus enabling Texans to vote in one party's presidential primary in March and then switch to the opposite party's regular primary a few months later. That's why Democratic National Committeewoman Billie Carr of Houston calls it, "the April Fool's Day bill. Hey, I was a Republican in March, but April Fool! I'm a Democrat in May!"

That's also why it has been called "the John Connally bill." Opponents of Ogg's legislation say Connally, who was a Democrat when he was Texas Governor but is now an announced Republican presidential candidate, does not really have a power base of his own in the state's GOP organization. He needs his old conservative Democratic constituency to win a Republican contest.

Such cross-over primary voting has been illegal in Texas, and Carr argues it is "morally wrong" to change the election laws after a candidate has announced. The state legislature, she charges, "changed the laws so Lyndon Johnson could run for President and Senator at the same time, and they changed the laws for Bentsen, and now they want to change the laws to accommodate John Connally. . . The laws that we keep passing to accommodate favorite sons of Texas make us a laughing stock in the country, and as a member of the Democratic National Committee, I just get tired of having to explain this kind of chicanery."

Ogg counters by reporting he has not consulted Connally about his bill, which he says may—or may not—be favorable to the former Governor. Ogg claims he understands some of Connally's supporters indeed do like his separate primary proposal—as do some backers of Ronald Reagan and even Jimmy Carter, although he also says he's heard some Carter supporters do not want any Texas presidential primary.



"The April Fool's Day bill—Hey, I was a Republican in March, but April Fool! I'm a Democrat in May!"

Ogg points out the so-called "Bentsen bill" in 1976 was supposed to boost U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination but instead backfired and helped Carter. And Ogg adds, "One plane wreck, one headline, one heart attack or one scandal and everything we speculate about today would be a different ballgame in the morning."

Some opponents claim the greatest impetus for a separate presidential primary, however, is the fear of the conservative Democratic leadership that a same-day primary next year could cost them their power base. The theory is that conservative supporters will defect to a lively and attractive Republican presidential contest, thus leaving the Democratic races too liberal for some conservatives to win.

GOP leaders already have said they will hold a presidential primary next year whether Texas Democrats do or not. And that is why Ron Waters claims Ogg, Hobby and Clayton are pushing for a separate primary. "They've been told already that 'if you don't do anything, we're going to do it anyway,' so they're under strong pressure to do something" so they can control it.

Waters, who is co-chair of the House Elections Committee, concedes the potential defection of conservatives is one of the reasons both liberals and Republicans find the same-day primary attractive. The GOP's ranks would swell and the Democrats would be purged and liberalized. Waters theorizes a same-day contest, "would really make the people who are left a truer sample of the Democratic party because most of the people who are going to vote for Ronald Reagan, I submit, are not Democrats. The only reason they've been voting in Democratic primaries is that there has not been anything going on during the Republican primaries, but they vote Republican in the general election in November."

At the same time, Waters stresses he

does not think the potential defection of Democrats would be as massive as some conservatives fear, and he argues that there would be nothing wrong with a strong two-party system in Texas anyway. There is also the theory that while Texas may have many "presidential Republicans," those same voters will still tend to support Democrats in state and local races.

In urging a separate presidential primary, Ogg discounts the arguments for "party purity," saying the loyalists, in effect, are more interested in protecting their respective parties than in representing the people as a whole. Ogg argues what "loyal" Democrats and Republicans fail to acknowledge is that "the only real movement among voters is not to join either party, but to be an independent voter."

He points to a statewide survey last summer showing almost 40 percent of Texas voters refuse to identify themselves as either Democrats or Republicans and that an even larger percentage say they vote for candidates of both parties. Ogg feels people want to vote in the primary of the candidate whose opinions are closest to their own and in the race that's most exciting. Ogg also says the selection of a candidate "for the most important office in the world. . . far overcomes any party purity."

Tied in with all these arguments is the matter of voter turnout. Waters maintains a separate primary would diminish voter participation, while a same-day primary would increase it, particularly among those who do not vote regularly—blacks and Mexican-Americans, for example. Ogg says if that analogy were followed to the nth degree, then all elections, federal, state and local, all over the nation should be held the same day. Ogg also thinks "voter turnout has to do with whether the issues and the candidates excite the people enough and whether the media pick it up and whether it generates

enough activity that people want to go out and vote."

The cost of a separate presidential primary is another bone of contention. The Secretary of State has testified a separate election would cost Texas taxpayers between 2 and 4.7 million dollars, but Ogg says if the cost is weighed against the potential economic benefits of an early Texas primary, "it's not even close."

It is those potential benefits which Ogg cites as the biggest argument for a separate—and early—Texas primary. Ogg believes the early primaries in the northeastern states have had a measurable impact on the issues considered and the positions taken by presidential candidates. "There's a heck of a difference," he argues, "in what the frost belt wants and the sunbelt wants, in what energy producing and energy consuming states want," and so on. Therefore he feels Texas should have an early primary to force more consideration of Texas interests and opinions.

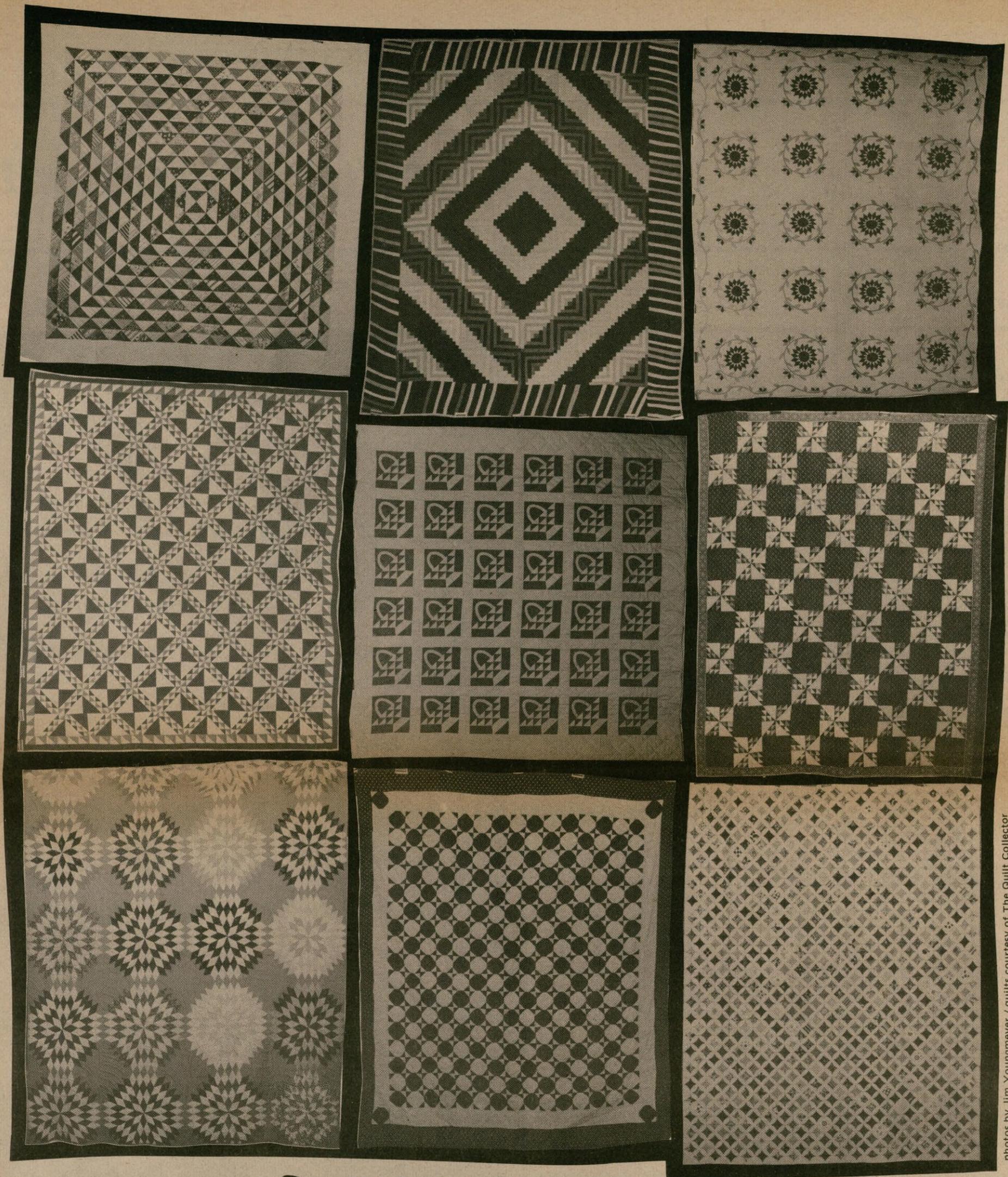
"That's pure bullshit," replies Billie Carr. She points out that under Ogg's bill, candidate's names would have to be submitted to the Secretary of State's office by January 22nd in order to get on the March 11th ballot. That's just too early to have very many announced candidates, according to Carr. "With an incumbent Democratic president, maybe somebody like Jerry Brown would run against him, but later, if Brown proves Carter is vulnerable, then a Ted Kennedy may get in the race, like Bobby (Kennedy) did in '68."

Carr argues it is the late primaries which have the most impact because all of the candidates are finally out in the open, the weak contenders have been washed out by the early contests and the choices available in the late primary will be the most realistic. Then is when she says Texas could be more influential "because you're getting down to the wire when they really need delegates desperately." Carr concedes the early primaries get a lot of media attention, but she adds, "They're just testing grounds, and I don't want to be that. I want to be down near the wire and help make the final decision where it counts."

Although Carr likes the idea of a presidential primary—on the same day as the regular party contests—and does support the Waters-Wright proposals, her real preference for Texas in 1980 is no presidential primary at all. She feels current national Democratic party rules penalize primary states and unless those complicated rules are altered, she thinks a state convention is a more representative way of choosing delegates to the national convention. Carr hopes the rules will be changed at next year's national convention but until then, she's hoping a Democratic presidential primary in Texas can be avoided—and that is a very good possibility.

While many observers believe there is strong sentiment among Texas legislators to enact some sort of 1980 presidential primary bill, the present sentiment is too strongly divided to guarantee either a separate or a same-day primary. All sides involved claim they can get their bills passed or at least block their opponent's bills from consideration—and there is plenty of time between now and the end of the legislative session for arm-twisting and opinion-changing. There also are several outside the legislature who reportedly do not want a primary at all, so it's still a very unsettled issue.

Dixie Lee Hawkins is a freelance writer and former news reporter for KPRC Radio.



photos by Jim Youngmeyer / quilts courtesy of The Quilt Collector

Quilt Feelings

by Frances Roberts Pavlovic

When our pioneer mothers pulled off in covered wagons stuffed with heirloom furniture wrapped in quilts, they were unaware of the hauling problem that awaited them. Even before the first mountain range was reached, some hard decisions had to be made. The fine secretaries were sold in the next town. The dining room tables soon followed, then the hutches. Out went beds grandmothers were born in; wardrobes; chests; sometimes a grandfather clock and the few remaining chairs. The women sacrificed most of the fine things that tied them to their past but they never gave up their quilts.

Quilting is the American woman's blues

Quilting was one thing our foremothers had going for them. Frugality was almost fun when the scraps you saved could be shaped to your own design. When the first square was created, the quilt was named as if it were a newborn child. The names read like poetry—*Texas Tears, Rocky Road, Indian Hatchet, Log Cabin, Darting Minnow*. Unfortunately, the names of the quilts' "mothers" were rarely handed down. Unlike the male artists of the period, these women did not sign their work.

That is the way it was with "folk art." No one thought of quilts as art. Women had no time for studio arts, but they painted with fabrics and thread as women are doing again today.

June Norton, vice-president of Houston Quilt Guild, says, "I think of quilts as an art form. . . every bit as much as anything you can do with paint on canvas. It takes longer to make a quilt than to do a picture, many, many hours. . . You put so much of yourself in."

Thanks to museum exhibits and color photographs, quilts are being recognized as an art form by a growing number of people. Proprietors of Houston's quilt shops regard themselves as patrons of the art. Diane Giles of *Quilt Collector* looks for emerging artists such as Gretchen Miertschin, V.J. Voyles, Pam Green, Nancy Baker, Marilyn Outlaw and Connie Akers, whose work can be found in her shop.

Catherine Anthony and Sarah Minor, co-owners of *Quilt Patch*, bring in nationally-known authorities to give workshops. *Great Expectations'* Karey Bresenhan devotes a great deal of her energy to organizing and boosting city-wide quilt shows and organizations.

Houston's quilt shops have personalities of their own. *Quilt Patch*, with its bustling look, specializes in new quilts. *Great Expectations* has quantities of old quilts and new ones with an old-fashioned feeling. *Quilt Collector* has some contemporary art quilts and antique quilts for the serious collector.

At *Quilt Collector*, Amish quilts are numerous. Shop owner Diane Giles commented, "I have a network of families all over the country who do quilting for me, especially in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. The Amish never stopped quilting, you know. It's recreation to them. They don't have television or radio. They don't have to carpool. Everybody works. I believe they have the most peaceful, self-sufficient life you can find anywhere."

In the '30s many of the country's women were still quilting. During the Depression, quilting was a necessity if

one could not afford blankets. According to Karey Bresenhan, "Women who married in the '30s thought of quilting as something you did because you had to; because you were poor and had to make every scrap count. They welcomed wartime wages as an escape from such drudgery."

"Women who married in the '40s were not taught to quilt—it was no longer considered an essential part of a girl's preparation for life. This was a shame, because patchwork quilting is as close to an indigenous art form as anything America has produced. . . and it was a 100 percent female contribution. When our grandmothers died, quilting almost died, too."

A few people continued to piece quilt tops, however, and in every town there were always one or two professional quilters who would finish them for very little money. "It is sad to think how little status these skilled women had," Giles said. "It is also heartbreaking to know that many quilts have been discarded through ignorance. Sometimes people who grew up with quilts did not realize they should be protected from abuse."

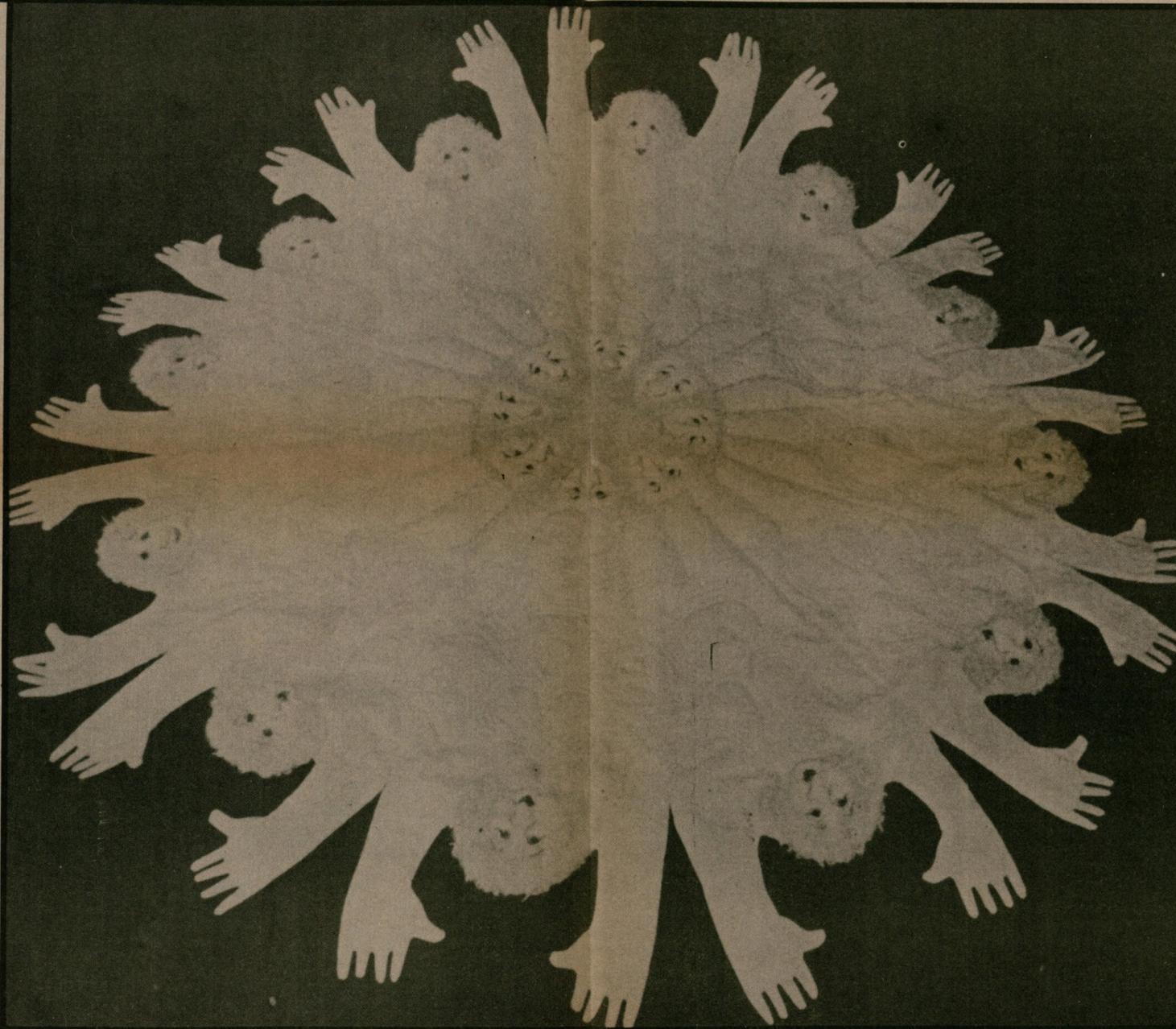
By not valuing quilts, not only in terms of beauty and artistry but of our personal history, we let too many of these works of art slip away. And now we want them back.

Those old quilts of our grandmothers donated to Goodwill or lost somehow years ago are irretrievable now. But quilt-making is experiencing a revival all over America. The success of local quilt shops and the number of quilting classes attest to this fact. Many young mothers are also learning to quilt.

Jan Morrison, a Texaco mathematician, includes geometric configurations in her quilts. She says this has nothing to do with her training in mathematics.

"There is something about the texture and feel of quilts that appeals to me. I have always liked to look at quilts. I remember staying inside as a little girl to watch my grandmother show my mother her quilts. Neither one of them quilted but they treasured the quilts they had."

Morrison may see little relationship between mathematics and quilting, but geometry and quilting have a lot in common, as Carrie Hall explains in her book, *The Romance of the Patchwork Quilt in America* (1935): "Who shall say that woman's mind is inferior to man's, when, with no knowledge of mathematics, these women worked out geometric designs so intricate, and co-related each patch to all others in the block?"



Women's Circle by Elizabeth Gurrier, 1976. Photo by Robert Raiche. Appeared in *The Quiltmaker's Handbook* by Michael James, Prentice-Hall, 1978.

Roberta Brown, a retired teacher, started quilting six years ago and does intricate figurings and designs in the five quilts she has made for friends. That is why people use machines more, she feels.

Giles agreed. "Most piecing is done on the machine today, although it is possible to make them just as durable by hand. In fact there are some patterns that are almost impossible to piece except by hand—the curved ones especially. I do know a young Amish woman, however, who has such skill with her sewing machine she can do anything!"

Technology has affected quiltmaking in other positive ways. Giles noted scissors that cut through many layers of material have made quiltmaking easier and she mentioned the many labor-saving gadgets made of plastic. Anthony pointed to polyester battings which make quilts lightweight, easy to wash and durable.

To Bresenhan the greatest recent improvement in quiltmaking is the "quilt-as-you-go" method. "It liberates women from the quilting frame." Since small units of a quilt can be quilted individually, "it's as easy to carry around as a piece of needlework," she added. It's hard to detect whether a quilt has been finished by this method until one feels for seams that crisscross the lining.

Quilting with family and friends is a tradition that no technology can alter or destroy. There are quilting clubs all over Houston, particularly those associated with churches. Alma Stoltje belongs to a quilting club at Central Presbyterian Church. Meeting once a week, the quilting group paid for an organ, eight stained glass windows and complete refurbishment of the chapel. "We have done a lot for the church," said Stoltje. The club still attracts women of several generations. A new member, "only 24," joined recently "but she does beautiful work."

Houston has a thriving quilt guild. Within the last two years, thanks to the number of quilters in this area, it has grown to be the largest quilt guild in the country.

Bresenhan spoke enthusiastically of the creative work being done by long-time quilters who are guild members. Many members conduct and participate in quilt shows and exhibits.

Grace Simpson, whose work is in a class by itself, only exhibits her quilts and never sells them. She does, however, copyright and sell some of her designs. "Her *Loving the Animals* is remarkable," said Bresenhan. "The animals seem to have their natural curves, but all the pieces have straight edges."

Quilt collecting has gained a definite foothold in Houston. Diane Giles said her most avid collectors are men over 50. "They do it from nostalgia. They are mostly family men. Lots of architects are fascinated by quilts—their graphic quality." Young people "just love the way they look and the way they feel. . . they want something special for their rooms."

Foreign visitors buy many quilts from the *Quilt Patch* and *Great Expectations*.

"They prefer to buy one large thing that is representative of American art than to take home several small things of less significance," Anthony explained.

Bresenhan believes foreigners considered quilts as an art form before Americans did. "A visitor told us they have quilts in Europe but they come from the United States," Bresenhan said.

Local shopowners have some advice for people who are considering starting a quilt collection or who simply want one good quilt for themselves. All agree that people often buy quilts wherever they find them and they may be paying too much for what they are getting.

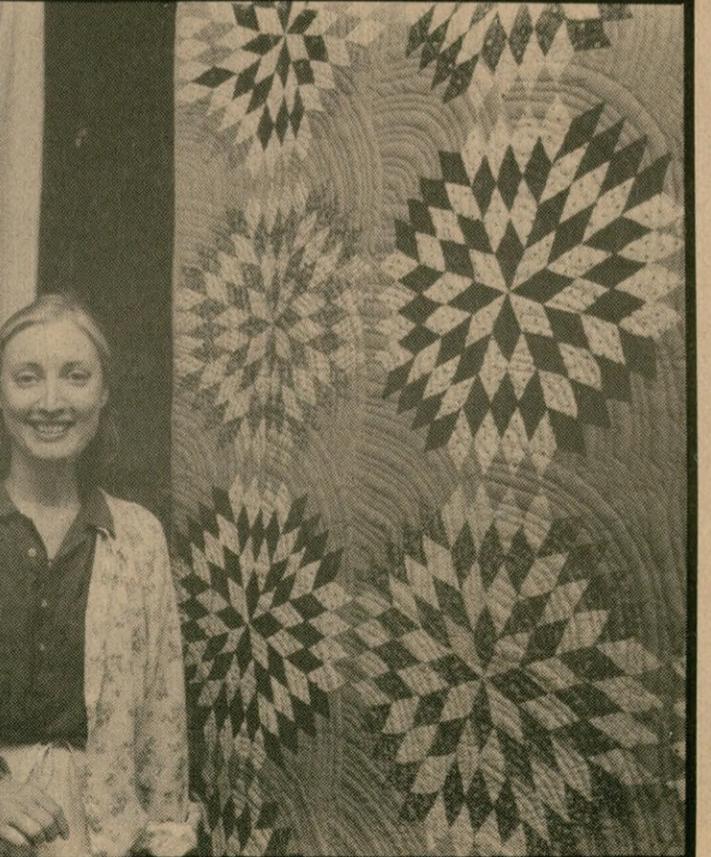
"Just because it is handsewn, even of old material, doesn't mean it is valuable," said Giles. "Art quality is important—and technique." "Tiny, even-running stitches, as perfect on the back as on the top," added Bresenhan, "are essential to the structure of a quilt. Sometimes raffle quilts are sewn in a hurry—the people want to finish them up and it turns out to be 'toenail' quilting. That's when you catch your toenail in the stitching when you're sleeping under it."

People should be willing to pay a fair price for a fine quilt, Giles continued. "Think of the hours of skilled work it represents, as well as the creative element involved. Think of famous male artists whose every scribble is valued. As more women are earning good money at a variety of occupations, I hope people will learn to judge art objectively and that they will search out women's art for investment and enjoyment."

A visitor to any of these shops comes away certain that there are such things as "quilt feelings." As Giles expressed it, "Quilting is the American woman's blues." One can sense the emotion that is contained in these women and their quilts. One can hear it in the names women give their patterns. And one can feel the past and the future of a fine old art in the graceful tracery of a million running stitches.

This is Frances Roberts Pavlovic's first published story.

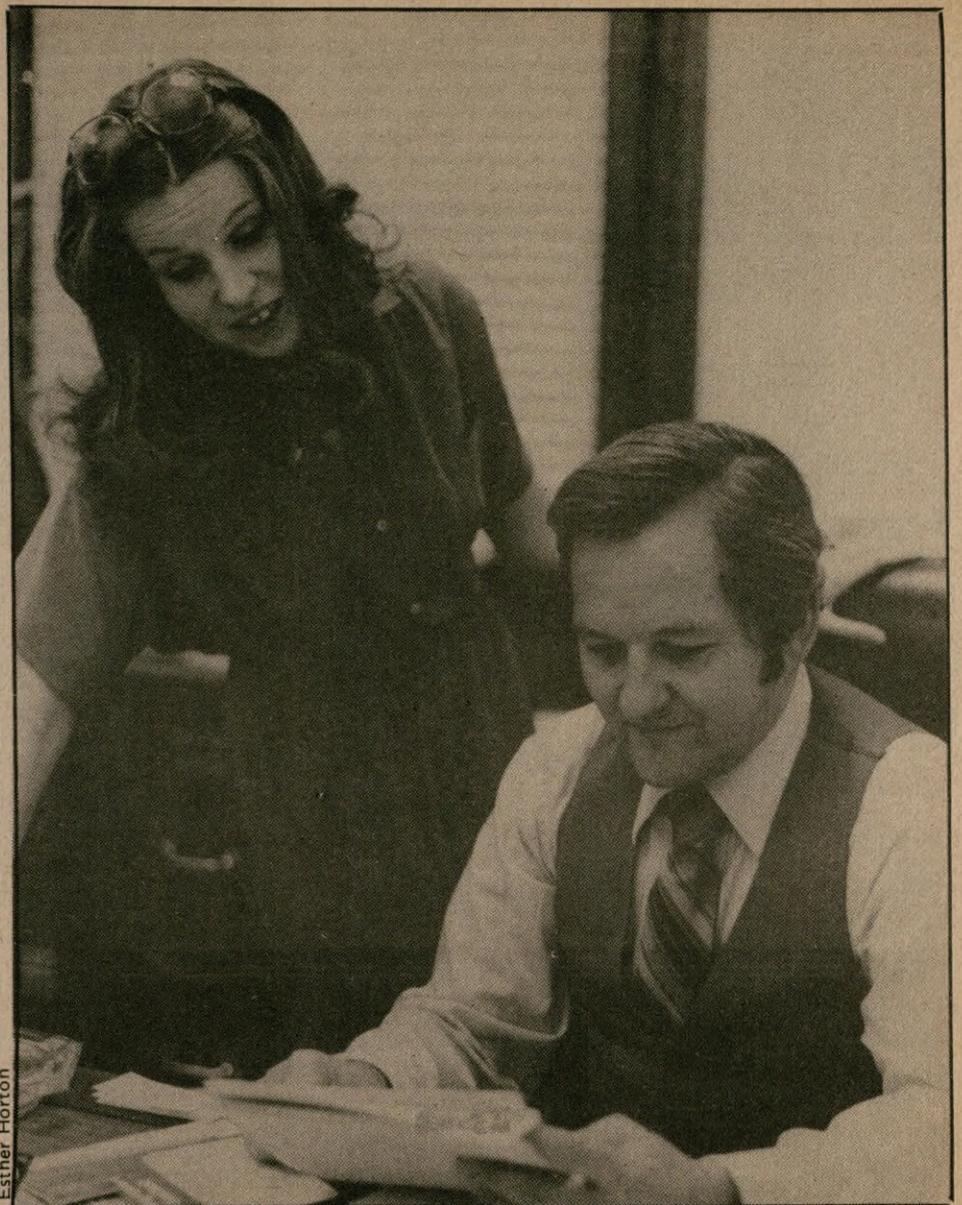
women's art:



Houston's quilt artists and collectors: (upper right) Sarah Minor and Catherine Anthony, co-owners of *The Quilt Patch*; (middle row, left) Roberta Brown with her handmade quilt; (right) Karey Bresenhan in her shop, *Great Expectations*; (bottom row, left) Jewel Patterson, Bresenhan's mother, co-owner of *Great Expectations* with her student Maria Anghera of Venice, Italy and her sampler quilt made by the quilt-as-you-go method and (right) Diane Giles, owner of *The Quilt Collector*.

photos of Roberta Brown, Karey Bresenhan, Jewel Patterson and Maria Anghera by Theresa Di Menno. photo of Diane Giles by Jim Youngmeyer

Austin Aides



Senator Jones wants her to find his shoes. "They were in the bottom right hand drawer of my desk," he grumbles.

by Esther Horton

AUSTIN—As administrative assistant to State Senator Gene Jones of Houston, Deirdre Darrouzet has weighty responsibilities. She hires staff, handles correspondence, drafts legislation, runs interference with lobbyists, and, sometimes, hits the campaign trail.

But, for the moment, Sen. Jones wants Darrouzet to concentrate on finding his shoes.

"They were in the bottom right drawer of my desk," he grumbles. Darrouzet looks concerned but not hopeful. After much conversation, Jones wanders back into his office.

Add one more thing to the job which Darrouzet, in her third session at the Texas Legislature, describes as "sometimes boring and sometimes exciting, but never static." It's a description echoed by other AA's to the 24-member Harris County delegation.

Until recently, legislators had little money to hire staff. Now they do— aides make an average of \$1,600 a month. Also, as the amount and complexity of legislation introduced each session grows, lawmakers are increasingly dependent on their staffs.

Women, many of them law students, are moving from the traditional positions of secretary and clerk to those of administrative and legislative aides, and staff to the Harris County delegation is no exception.

Darrouzet said it is no longer rare for women to be AA's in the Senate. In fact, the chief administrator of the Senate is a woman (Betty King).

A student at South Texas School of Law, Darrouzet said the most important quality an effective AA has is "a good relationship with the person you are working for." She and Jones work together so closely, it is sometimes hard to know who has an idea first, she said.

Such was the case with a bill introduced by Jones this session as a companion to one filed in the House by Rep. Hugo Berlanga of Corpus Christi. It would abolish the term "rape" in criminal statutes and make the crime an assault, rather than a sexual offense. The punishment will remain the same, but live-in boyfriends and husbands would no longer be immune to prosecution.

Jones, who teaches criminal law at South Texas, was a natural sponsor for the legislation, Darrouzet said. The two discussed the idea, and she worked closely with Houston lawyer Michol O'Connor on a proposed bill.

The "rape" bill is also an example of how aide and boss must agree generally in their politics to be a strong team, Darrouzet said. "If he popped up and said he was going to vote for rescission of the (Texas) Equal Rights Amendment, I'd probably leave," she said.

For Debra Danburg, there's no "probably" to it. Her boss, Rep. Ron Waters, is strong on feminist issues; otherwise, "I just wouldn't do it (work for him)," she said.

Danburg met Waters when both were students at the University of Houston.

photos by Esther Horton



Judy Roberson



Debra Danburg with State Rep. Ron Waters



Diane Mazuca

She thought him "square," because he worked in party politics. As women's advocate at UH Danburg "even got a sorority to boycott lettuce."

Because Waters' District 79 (Montrose, Heights, old 4th and 6th Wards) is so varied as well as being "politically as-

tute,") Danburg spends a lot of time attending political meetings and handling constituent complaints. "If I miss three gay rights meetings in a row, they let me know," she said. Danburg, working her second session with Waters, has become much more pragmatic. "I've gotten

to where I like winning," she said.

Danburg is also the source of some of the legislation Waters introduces, and, unlike many other aides, she is not reluctant to try to influence legislators or their aides.

For instance, while Waters is focusing his interests in changes in elections law this session, Danburg is pushing hard for passage of a "warranty of habitability" law to tie down a recent victory won by tenants in the Texas Supreme Court. The legislation "warrants that if a place is rented as a dwelling, it is fit for habitation," Danburg said.

Although the bill was defeated last session, Danburg believes it stands a better chance this year because landlords might rather see legislative restrictions than have to face costly court battles.

Her experience with the bill has taught her that "Just because it's right doesn't mean much of anything around here." Still, the third-year law student counts "the ability to get things done" as one of the aspects she likes most about the job.

Danburg also delights in the "people contact" in her job, a benefit which ranks high with another AA, Diane Mazuca, Danburg's next door neighbor at the Capitol.

Through her job with Rep. Ben Reyes, Mazuca has met President Carter and Vice-President Mondale, among others. The University of Texas government graduate hopes to work as a Congressional aide eventually, but, like most other aides, denies an interest in running for office herself.

The only part of her job Mazuca doesn't like is the pressure. "I have to be on top of so many different things," both in Austin and in Houston, where she's also in charge of Reyes' office, she said. Since Reyes does not have a legislative assistant, Mazuca must know not only how to file bills but also what's in them.

And she helps draft legislation. She and another AA in the office drafted a bill introduced by Reyes this session to amend the criminal code to make it a felony for a police officer to recklessly or knowingly harm an individual. The bill is the result of the death of Joe Campos Torres in Houston and other incidents of police brutality against Mexican-Americans around the state.

Mazuca, who grew up in San Antonio, met Reyes through a politically active cousin. Since this is her first session in the legislature, "I've had to ask lots of questions," Mazuca said. She has spent hours in the office of Rep. Gonzalo Barrientos, whose staff has "led her through the legislative maze."

Judy Roberson, on the other hand had never even heard of Sen. Chet Brooks when he walked into the Texas Commerce Bank in Houston and, within five minutes, offered her a research job.

Before then, the former secretary said, "I barely voted, to be honest." That was six years ago, and since then Roberson has learned a lot about state government.

So much that two years ago Rep. Ror Wilson hired her away from Brooks to be his administrative assistant. As such she runs his office, is responsible for most of the correspondence, does research and represents him when necessary.

Although Roberson leaves the writing of legislation to Wilson, she strongly supports his stands on family issues, especially a bill he has introduced this session strengthening penalties for child abuse.

Roberson calls herself a realist rather than a feminist. "I learned early that I had to work within the system because I was poor," she said.

"At times, I've been labeled a troublemaker," she said. "I think that's a misconception. It's just that I've always had an intense desire to learn."

At 19 she began a job in the proof department (where checks are examined) at Texas Commerce. Over the next seven years, she climbed to clerical and book-keeping jobs and finally to secretarial level.

Even after landing the job with Brooks, Roberson was not satisfied for long. After she'd been there 18 months, "I started wanting to know what the dots (on bills) meant, who the lobbyists were..."

As an AA, she is still learning—how to supervise, how to write, how to read faster. This spring she will complete a degree in government at UT, and she plans to enroll in the school's public administration program.

Esther Horton is a freelance reporter based in Austin.

for excellent coverage of women's news



Theresa Di Menno

Sandra Feldman, above, KTRH City Hall reporter, received a Breakthrough Media Award for 1978 for her excellent coverage of women in, and affected by, city government. Others honored were: Elma Barrera and Laura Estrada of Ch 13's Viva Houston, for the attention given to the special problems and issues of Mexican-American women; Joanne Harrison, Houston City Magazine's senior writer, for her outstanding feature on art-deco artist Tamara de Lempicka; Jan Glenn and Don Nelson of Ch 13's Good Morning, Houston, for their innovations of the past year in daytime programming.



Phil Marcus

Astrid Sheil (left), program director for KUHF Radio (88.7 FM) hosts *The Woman's Show*. Her interview with city council candidates (l to r) Eleanor Tinsley, Joanne Gerhardt and Kathryn Ross will air on KUHF on Sunday, March 25 at 5 p.m.

by Astrid Sheil

1979 is an election year. And though the familiar signs of campaign paraphernalia have yet to begin to litter our car bumpers, our telephone poles, and our laundromat windows, there are hopefuls quietly setting up offices and planning strategies for the coming months. There is no madness in this method, for come November three names will be household words to the voters of Houston: they are Kathryn Ross, Joanne Gerhardt and Eleanor Tinsley.

These three women are by no means novices to the Houston political arena. Ross ran against longtime city council member Frank Mann in the last election and came in second in a five-candidate race.

Ross, who comes from a politically active family, was not discouraged. "That was my first political race. I captured 20 percent of the vote, and I did it on a shoe-string budget while running my own cam-

budget has been determined for city services. "We are living in a Proposition 13 world and the people need to have their basic services met or soon they will refuse to pay taxes."

In a recent interview on KUHF Radio, the candidates discussed some of the problems they face as women running for city council. All noted the fact that there has never been a woman on city council.

Tinsley pointed out that of the 26 departments under Mayor McConn not one is headed by a woman. Ross summed up the candidates' feelings when she stated, "Women have never been taken seriously by our city government. I am continually having to justify my being a candidate. But male candidates are not required to explain why they want to run. And I am questioned more stringently on my qualifications—it is just a matter of attitude that trickles down from city hall."

"Women have never been taken seriously by city government. I continually have to justify my being a candidate."

paign." She believes that the principal issues for this campaign will be, "What are we getting for our money? Taxes go up year after year and the budget doubles and triples—yet we find the same problems with deterioration of city services.

"I am really concerned with growth: taxicabs, emergency units, police and fireman shortages, park shortages, traffic congestion," says Ross. "All the things that add up to whether or not people enjoy living in Houston."

Gerhardt, a native Houstonian and attorney is also making a second attempt for political office. In 1974 she was candidate for Texas state representative (Dist. 100) and lost by only a few hundred votes in the run-off. She returned to her law practice but her concerns with preferential treatment of higher-income neighborhoods, arbitrary annexation of land and affirmative action policies have brought her back into the political spotlight.

Tinsley's credentials read like a *Who's Who* in the Houston Almanac of civic activities. She was appointed by former Governor Dolph Briscoe to the Board of Commissioners for the Texas Commission on Services to Children and Youth. She served as Secretary, Vice-President and, finally, President of the Board of Education, Houston Independent School District. She has sat on over 30 boards during her career. Tinsley is concerned with the way the

This same thought was picked up by Gerhardt on the issue of minorities, "Racial discrimination is rampant in this city and it is obvious by the lack of representation on the city council." On the subject of undocumented aliens, she said, "They are here and we cannot deny the fact that they are being used as a resource by business and in that regard they should benefit from city services. We cannot sweep it under the carpet for the problem will surface elsewhere as in the crime rate."

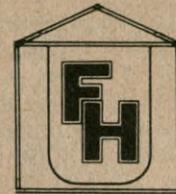
Ross also articulated the reality of the situation and called for a practical solution. "The choice is to see that they have equal opportunity and respect and that their children are educated. We do not want these people left outside of society where they will not have a chance to integrate into the economic mainstream."

On the issue of gay rights, Gerhardt commented on the police harassment of gays. "Those people who cannot afford to be publicly recognized by going to court and fighting the case will pay the fine and move on. That is a source of manipulation used by the Houston police." Ross, who was endorsed by the Gay Political Caucus in the last election went on to say, "For a gay person to be afraid to call the police after his house has been burglarized is outrageous. I think that it is essential that everyone is afforded equal protection under the law."

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SHERE HITE AND BETSY ROSS

Margit Ilika

by Joe Arredondo

Margit Ilika is a new name in the world of art. Using women as her subjects, she paints their images over photographs of other women to achieve portraits of her subjects' inner selves.

To Ilika, representing women as they were represented 400 years ago is irrelevant. "I'm tired of odalisques on couches," she says. "They are not representational of women today." She feels there is much more to representing a woman, especially from a woman's point of view.

"I paint portraits of women the way they are today. The physical appearance is intimidated by the colors used. As a woman I feel that I understand the feelings of women, but more importantly, I paint *as* a woman."

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1947, Ilika moved from city to city with her parents until 1966 when the family moved to Beaumont, Texas. That fall she started her art studies at Stephen F. Austin State College in Nacogdoches with Bill Arscott, who taught her painting in the manner of the abstract impressionists and motivated her by leaving messages such as "Women can't paint!" on her canvases. After two years she had learned all he could teach her. He recommended that she transfer to the University of Texas at Austin.

At U.T. Ilika was dramatically influenced by Mort Baranoff, who taught art as ideation, or an intellectual expression, and did so with a wonderful, cynical sense

of humor. "When I showed him my first etching, I was really excited. He said, 'Well, it's no Picasso.' He hated it. He never liked anything I did. He never liked anything anybody did."

She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1970. To further expand her art concepts, Ilika spent the next nine months visiting every major art museum in Europe. "I had seen countless photographs of artworks, now I wanted to see the real things."

Back from Europe just one year, Ilika left for Mexico in the fall of 1972 to work on a Master of Fine Arts degree. She spent five years there.

She studied first at the Universidad de las Americas in Puebla under Merl Wachter, now Director of the Southwest Craft Center Gallery in San Antonio, and Fernando Belain, the Mexican painter. While in Mexico she also added the figurative style of the Mexican Muralists to her technical repertoire.

The first one-woman show of Ilika's work was in 1974 at the Centro de Artes Creativas in Cuernavaca. It was followed by a one-woman exhibition at the Galleria de la Universidad de las Americas in Puebla that same year. She received her MFA in 1975.

By 1977, as in 1971 and in 1972 when she left the United States, Ilika was suffering from "job burn-out." "I got tired of my role—I was fed up." She returned to Texas with her son Joshua to live with her father, now in Bryan.

Ilika is most enthusiastic about her son. "Joshua is two-and-a-half. He was born in Mexico. He helps me with my painting. He helps me see things. He's really wonderful. In fact, he's the main reason why I'm doing what I'm doing right now. He makes

me see things positively. He's just such a positive person."

Margit Ilika also made a major decision that year. "It had taken me 11 years to really find something to say and a way to say it. It's just in the last three years that I've really been getting it all together in my painting." She finally felt she had something to say through her work, she knew how to say it, and she wanted to share it with others.

What Ilika has to say is both intriguing and disquieting. Her portraits are abstract expressions of her subjects. The medium is generally collage with painting in oil. She uses photo-clippings from women's magazines, to which she applies "masks" to reveal the inner woman. At one time Ilika would actually spend hours drawing a detailed face to which, when finished, she would apply the mask much as she does to the photo-clippings now. She finally came upon the idea of using photo-clippings and likens them to "packaged food." "Why waste time," she exclaims, "when with these photographs I can produce a painting NOW about a woman NOW!"

Why masks? "We all wear masks daily," she contends. "With my work I attempt to reveal the inner self. I once did a painting of a friend of mine. When I presented it to her she said, 'This isn't me,' then paused and said, 'no, wait, it is me; that's who I want to be.'" In essence Ilika uses the painted masks to unmask the inner emotions and thoughts of the subject, producing an exciting revelation for the viewer.

That most of her photo-clippings come from magazines like *Vogue* and *Bazaar*, which tend to employ models whose visages are even more plasticised than most,

magnifies the contrast of the unmasking process. Ilika's works become slightly satiric jabs at the facades women employ and the games they play. She advocates instead a freeness of being, much as she feels her works express an "assertive joy."

Ilika feels an important example of her work is *Shere Hite and Betsy Ross*. "It's not really a feminist statement. It's just a comment on women. You know, when I was growing up, the ideal woman was supposed to be someone like Betsy Ross. She sewed," says Ilika laughing. "If you want to do something, see, here's what you can be. Be Betsy Ross.' Now I think the woman of today is Shere Hite. She writes. And it's what she's writing about (the awareness of female sexuality) that's really a comment on what I see happening with women today."

"I paint portraits of women the way they are today. The physical appearance is represented by color auras, and the psy-



Margit Ilika

"I'm tired of odalisques on couches. I paint portraits of women the way they are today."



chological expression is intimated by the colors used. As a woman I feel that I understand the feelings of women, but more importantly, I paint *as* a woman."

Since she returned from Mexico, Ilika has had a one-person exhibition at the Gallery at Texas A&M University and has received a purchase prize in an Art League of Houston competition for her painting *Easter*. This painting also received honorable mention at the 35th Southwest Painting Competition in Abilene, Texas. Two of Ilika's paintings will be on exhibition in New York through the National Association of Women Artists through the end of May.

Ilika's latest one-person show just opened at the Student Union at the University of Texas at Austin. It will be there until the end of March. She's particularly excited about the series of five paintings in the show inspired by a painting by Titian that she saw in Europe.

"The first one is a woman in a white dress holding a little white flag. . . In European tradition flags are important. Brides used to carry little white flags—like symbols of surrender. When I saw the Titian it really hit me. 'What is this?' I said to myself. In the first of my paintings the woman is wearing a white dress and carrying a flag, but when you look at her face, she doesn't look like surrender at all!

"In the next painting, she's in black, and then red, yellow, and blue, the primary colors. By the fifth one, in yellow, she's so alive she just jumps out of the canvas at you. When you see her face, she's like the sun, carrying her yellow flag."

Joe Arrendondo, Jr. is the curator of art exhibits at Texas A&M University.

STAR

Sandi's Tearoom & Emily Jane Flower Shop

by Diane Harrington

Down on Bissonnet, half of an old bright yellow house has undergone another of several rebirths. Combining a cheerful antique-filled tearoom and a small flower shop, it attracts customers in everything from mink to jogging shorts.

Sandi Bubbert and Emily Jane Japhet are the co-owners of the enterprise, appropriately named *Sandi's Tearoom and Emily Jane Flower Shop*.

Originally the building was a house converted into a real-estate office. Emily's parents bought the property 25 years ago and remodeled it into a flower shop. Emily's father developed the internationally known hybrid Japhet orchid. Queen Elizabeth carried the small white orchids in her coronation bouquet and Silver Jubilee Celebration. Emily operated the shop after her parents died, adding an art gallery which has been replaced by a quilt shop.

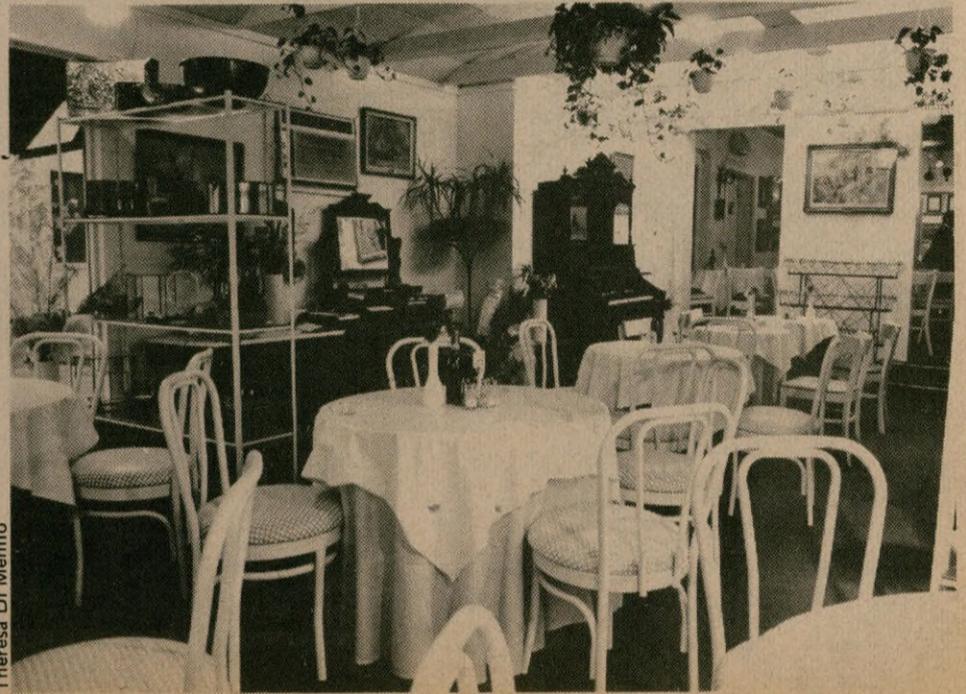
The tearoom was born one day last summer when Sandi was helping Emily paint the flower shop. After eating Sandi's cooking, several of her friends had urged her to open a restaurant. Sandi mentioned that fact to Emily who said, "Why don't you just put it in here?"

anything is bad. No one ever goes away hungry," said Sandi proudly. She adds, "The weather changes, people's tastes change. We try to bend with people's tastes."

Flowers are visible everywhere from the tables to the salad bar to the fireplace mantel. Antiques share wall space with Emily's original oil paintings. A hand-carved pump organ, donated by Louise Cooley, the wife of heart surgeon Dr. Denton Cooley, rests against one wall. The overall effect of the white, yellow and green color combination is at once day-brightening and relaxing.

Sandi was formerly a surgical nurse in Vietnam at Pleiku during the Tet Offensive. Following that she was a rental consultant for caterers and hotels. Dissatisfaction with inadequate pay and an "in name only" job title led her to the restaurant business. Sandi firmly believes that "It's not an easy profession but extremely satisfying."

Emily, who has lived in the Southhampton neighborhood all her life, has her own philosophy. "Make do with what you have, cover up a multitude of sins and make it attractive and appealing at the same time." Though she is an



Theresa Di Menno



Theresa Di Menno

Sandi Bubbert and Emily Jane Japhet

Five months of hard work by the two women resulted in the opening of the tearoom. They laid all the carpet, remodeled the bathroom, painted and built the salad bar—in spite of a few hassles with city inspectors. Nitpicking inspectors, according to Emily, delayed issuance of plumbing and wiring permits.

Inspired by the memory of food served at the old Junior League tearoom downtown—and by Southern cooking, Sandi, a native South Carolinian, created an ever-changing menu. There are homemade soups, sandwiches, salads and a hot plate that is different each day. Brownies, cheesecake and carrot cake are available for dessert. All food and six varieties of tea are served on antique plates, cups and saucers. "I've only been open three months, but have yet to have anyone say

accomplished flower arranger and painter she is also a talented potter and sculptor. Her sculpture has been purchased by both Texas A & I and Texas A & M. Her work has been exhibited nationally.

Before this venture, Emily was an art teacher for 13 years in the Houston Independent School District—teaching for 11 years at Edison High and two years at Thomas Jr. High.

Sandi's Tearoom and Emily Jane Flower Shop is located at 1724 Bissonnet and is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Prices for lunch range from \$2.00 to \$5.00.

Diane Harrington is a freelance writer and works in a bookshop.

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Sally Gall

Mothers and daughters

by Mary Ann Bass

Writer Mary Ann Bass will be running in the upcoming Bonne Bell race. So will four of her daughters: Vicki, a marathoner; Rita, an avid racquet ball player; Patty, an attorney and Laura, a 12-year-old runner. Daughter Amy, suffering from a torn ligament, will be photographing the event.

Mother-daughter teams pictured above (l-r): Kay Duplichan and daughter, Donna, Celia Waddell and her mother, Dr. Carolyn Waddell, and Mary Kleinhenz surrounded by daughters Suzan, Cindy, Christine and Mia.

On April 1 mothers and daughters, running in competition with other mothers and daughters, will participate in the Bonne Bell 10K. In this second annual ten-kilometer (6.2 mile) race sponsored by Bonne Bell Cosmetics and the Road Runners Club of Houston, women of all ages will be competing for the trophies in each of five age groups.

"Running is my number one priority," said Donna Duplichan, who plans to run in the 10K with her mother. In order to get in the necessary mileage for marathon running Duplichan runs "in the morning and again in the evening."

"My husband is a week-end jogger," said Kay Duplichan. Her daughter Donna added, "I can't imagine anyone going five days without running."

"I feel guilty when I don't run," said Dr. Carolyn Waddell, who will be competing, along with her daughter, in the Bonne Bell.

Women all gave different reasons for beginning to run. Dr. Waddell was influenced by her marathon-running husband and sprinter son.

"Jogging makes me feel in better shape, and I feel it's good for me," she said. "I plan to run marathons someday." Waddell has been running a year. Her daughter Celia, 13, has been running six months.

"I don't do any sports at school so I enjoy doing the running," said Celia.

Kay Duplichan said she started running because her husband's doctor had urged him to run, "I knew he wouldn't go it alone. My daughter, Donna, is my first and only convert."

"My mother told me to just keep going slowly, not to try to go fast and I could keep adding the additional miles."

Donna Duplichan, 22, has run the Houston and Woodlands Marathons.

All 11 members of the Kleinhenz family won the family award in the Bayou City Fun Run last year. Mary Kleinhenz and her daughters, Suzan, 23; Christine, 18; Mia, 13; and Cindy, 8; will be participating in the Bonne Bell race.

"I like what it's done for the family. It's something we can all do together. We had some kind of run to compete in at least once a week last year. The togetherness has carried over even when we were not running during the hot summer and cold winter. Mia and I ran the Bonne Bell last year. This year all the girls are involved."

Practice runs varied for the women. "Mother runs in the morning at T. C. Jester," said Mia Kleinhenz, "and I run after school. I'll be running track at Black Jr. High."

Mary Kleinhenz said, "The older boys have cars, so they'll take the younger children to Memorial to practice. Suzan,

my oldest daughter, ran track in grade school, high school and college."

"I never thought I'd make it through the winter because I'm a hot weather fan, but I warm up so fast that the cold weather didn't bother me," said Kay Duplichan. "I draw the line on rain though."

"It's difficult to make yourself change clothes and run, particularly when you're drained from a hard day's work," said Carolyn Waddell.

"It was hard during the winter. We're looking forward to spring." Waddell and her daughter do their running together at Memorial Park.

The addictive effect of running is coupled with the desire to let everyone else in on it. "I try not to be a bore and talk about running all the time," said Donna Duplichan.

"I had never done anything remotely athletic before. I was astounded that I could keep adding the miles. I feel there's no end to what I can do. After a few months, I was more energetic and I never seemed to get tired," said Donna's mother Kay Duplichan.

Along with the high from just feeling better physically, some runners lose weight. Or try to. "I can't say that I've lost any weight. But I hate to think how much I'd have to cut down on my eating if I didn't run."

Mary Kleinhenz said, "I lost weight the first time I started training. I kept saying to myself how much easier it would be to run if I didn't have 50 extra pounds to carry around."

She did regain some of the weight over the hot summer and cold winter, "when I wasn't doing as much running. I'm disappointed that it's not coming off as fast as it did the first time in training."

A runner's clinic open to all will be given by Jess Bell, an avid runner himself and president of Bonne Bell Cosmetics, at the Allen Park Inn on Saturday, March 31, from 6-8 pm. The race is also sponsored by the Road Runners Club of Houston.

Entry blanks are available at local Y's, Rice University, University of Houston, University of St. Thomas, and various sporting goods stores or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Anne McBrayer, race director, 7733 Moline, Houston TX 77087. Entries should be received no later than Wednesday, March 28, 1979.

Each entrant will receive a T-shirt and Bonne Bell products. Entry fees are \$3.00 until March 28 and \$4.00 for late registration at 2121 Allen Parkway, Saturday, March 31, 4-6 pm. No one will be allowed to register the day of the race, Sunday, April 1.

Network

Editor, Hildegard Warner

A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN: OURSELVES, OUR ARTS, OUR CULTURE. In observance of the vernal equinox, when night and day are equal over the world, we will honor our connectedness with nature. A free festival will be held for women and children beginning Saturday, March 17, at 10 a.m., and ending Sunday, March 18, at 6 p.m. The womanspirit ritual program will begin Saturday evening at 7 p.m. It will be located at a beach house on Bermuda Beach, Galveston. Music, art, dance, poetry, games, rituals, and a house will be provided. Bring your own food, drink, paper plates, silverware, cooler, sleeping bag, and musical instruments for all or part of the festivities. Let us join together to weave and spin new beginnings and womanspirit with creativeness. For further information call 526-5416 or 664-2915.

Women's Week will be observed at the University of Houston Central Campus from March 26-30. Among the speakers during the week are Dr. Pauline Kolenda, *Anthropology of Women: A Crosscultural Perspective*, Dr. Dale Hill and Dr. Nanette Bruckner, *What is the New Woman?* and Mary Elizabeth Schlayer on her book *How to Be come a Financially Secure Woman*. Other topics will include displaced homemakers; raped, abused and battered women; the single parent; ERA; affirmative action; abortion and sterilization. For more information and a schedule of events, contact Linda Johnson, 749-1742, or Astrid Sheil, 749-7188.

The Contemporary Woman and her World: An all-day seminar to be held Saturday, March 24, at Brazosport Junior College, 500 College Drive, Klute, Texas. Pre-registration: \$14. At door: \$18. Dr. Nikki Van Hightower will be the opening speaker. The 14 topics for discussion will include: *The aging parent, Women and their bodies, Women and the law, Parenting, Returning to the job market and Uncovering inner strength.* (Miriam Edelman and Dr. Nanette Bruckner are two of the speakers. For more information, call Carol Sarnace (AAUW liaison) 1-297-1337, or Dr. Grant Morrison (Dean in charge of Continuing Education) 1-265-6131, Ext. 46.

Do you find liquor ads which rely on sex appeal offensive? If so, you can voice your concern to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The Bureau is thinking about updating its liquor advertising laws and is seeking comments or suggestions from the public. The Bureau would like to know how citizens feel about extending the current ban on ads that are obscene or indecent to include ads that rely on sex appeal as a selling technique. Send letters to the Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Box 385, Washington, D.C., 20044, Attention: Chief, Regulation and Procedures Division.



The 10th National Conference on Women and the Law meets March 29 through April 1, at the Convention Center in San Antonio. Over 135 workshops will cover topics including employment and educational discrimination, marital and other domestic issues, the criminal justice system, abortion and sterilization, economic and social welfare issues, immigration, and problems of aging women. Several workshops will be devoted to the strategic planning of implementing feminist, lesbian, and minority goals through the legal process. Keynote speaker on March 30 will be Vilma Martinez, President and General Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. For information and registration materials write: Women's Law Caucus, University of Texas School of Law, 2500 Red River, Austin, Texas 78705.

Women Work for Work will sponsor a forum *Forty Plus and Making It*, on Thursday, April 5. Women Work for Work is a vocational guidance service which sponsors employment forums, conducts career planning workshops, assists with job placement, provides support groups, offers worksite tours and provides individual, short-term personal counseling. For more information call 659-1800.

An ERA Support Committee has been organized in Houston to urge support of the Equal Rights Amendment and the economic boycott of unratified states. Made up of members of the Gay Political Caucus, Lesberadas and Houston Area NOW, the group is urging ERA supporters not to spend money in unratified states and to express their feelings in letters to political officials in those states and their major cities.

The Gay Political Caucus has already endorsed a resolution supporting the ERA and the boycott and has selected Louisiana as a target state. Members have written personal letters to the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce regarding their boycott of the recent Mardi Gras celebration.

The Support Committee urges other groups to pass similar resolutions and select a state as a target for letters and a boycott. Committee members are available to speak to organizations and provide fact sheets and sample resolutions and letters. For more information or speakers, contact Renee or Barbara, 524-0982, Alice, 864-8569, or Larry, 521-9295.



The downtown YWCA has planned three special ways for women to get together and share their problems and their strengths. The first is a *Displaced Homemaker Mini-Workshop*, sponsored by the Houston Center for Displaced Homemakers. The workshop, on March 13, 14 and 15, is designed specifically for helping the displaced homemaker assess her strengths and skills and get ready for the job market. Women between the ages of 35 and 64, who are widowed, divorced or separated and have worked without pay as a homemaker for several years are eligible. This is a free program, but advance registration should be made by calling 523-6881. Participants should plan to attend all three days and to bring a sack lunch.

A *Club for Single Mothers* is a support group for women without the traditional family structure who are experiencing the financial and emotional stress of raising children alone. A variety of activities are planned, from seminars to nights on the town. Child care will be provided, as well as some activities which will include children. The group will meet at 6 p.m., the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. It is free.

A support group for *Women in Crisis*, women with fear of physical or emotional abuse as part of their lives, will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday evenings. A trained counselor will meet with the group for discussion and will provide referrals and advocacy. Child care will also be provided for this free group.

For more information about these support groups, call the YWCA at 523-6881.

The YWCA has a new spring schedule of events and classes available. Classes include all forms of dance, tennis, yoga, jogging, pre-natal exercise, and skills such as defensive driving, bridge, art, Spanish, sewing and guitar. Several group visits to museums and shopping trips are scheduled. Special workshops for women include Displaced Homemaker Mini-Workshops, Club for Single Mothers and Women in Crisis. For more information about these and other activities call your neighborhood YWCA branch: Blue Triangle, 659-7630; Southeast Center, 738-1700; Downtown, 523-6881; M. D. Anderson-Magnolia, 926-2601; Cora Root Peden, 723-4752 and Spring Branch-Memorial, 468-1727.

Crisis Hotline volunteers number 185 now but many more are needed for the 24-hour telephone crisis intervention service to continue to meet the needs of the growing Houston community. Especially in demand are volunteers who speak both Spanish and English and those who can volunteer after midnight. Volunteer training programs cover family conflicts, loneliness, depression, drugs, advocacy for battered women and rape victims, suicide prevention and information giving.

Volunteers are asked to work one four-hour shift per week; that's all it takes to be there when someone needs help. For more information call 228-1505 24 hours a day.

The second South Central Women's Studies Conference will be held April 20-22 to gather together people who are involved and/or interested in women's studies and school and community women's programming in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Teachers, students, counselors, those involved in women's centers and community service agencies and other interested persons are invited to attend.

The conference will be held at the Administrative-Conference Tower (ACT) of Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

Workshop topics include Battered Women, Teaching Women's Studies in the Bible Belt, Women and the Media, and a Rational Approach to "Burn Out" in the Women's movement. Other subjects covered will be Foundations of Feminist Philosophy, Strategies for Dealing with Sexism in Interviews, and the Displaced Homemaker. A special workshop on K-12 Women's Studies will include the topics Feminist Research and Traditional Methodology, and Eliminating Sexist Language Patterns in Schools.

Pre-conference sessions will focus on Women Goddesses and Homemade Religion and Women and Anger.

Fee for the three-day conference is \$15.00 for members and \$25.00 for non-members. Registration deadline is April 10. For housing information contact Lindley Doran, Conference Coordinator, 1915 Westwood Drive, Denton TX 76201. For further information contact L. Doran (817) 566-2586 or Clara Boyer (817) 387-7611.

A special invitation to all Texas feminists to attend the upcoming Texas State NOW Convention, March 23-25, at Texas Woman's University Campus, Denton, Texas. The 1979 convention will feature a feminist film festival, a readers' theatre, a banquet and live entertainment in addition to plenary sessions and strategy planning meetings. Workshops planned include Women in the Media, Lesbianism/Gay Rights, Consciousness raising, Socialism and Feminism, Reproductive Rights, Women in Higher Education, Women in Sports, Women in Texas Law, Women in the Arts, Women in Local Politics, Women and Mental Health, Math Anxiety, Lobbying and Texas Politics, Older Women, Sexual Harrassment in Employment and Title IX (Education).

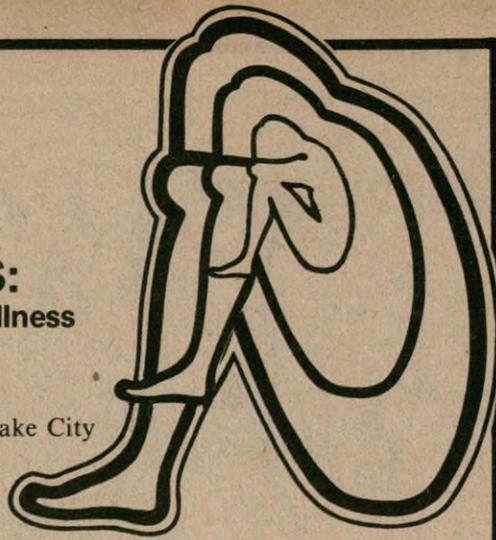
Motel reservations may be made through Jim Horn, Holiday Inn, P.O. Box 1429, Denton, TX 76201 or by calling (817) 387-3511. Rates vary from \$21.00 plus tax (1 person, 1 bed) to \$25.00 (executive suite). Additional occupants are \$4.00 each.

In a separate note, list any special accommodations you will need (signing for the deaf, handicapped facilities, transportation between motel and convention sites, free childcare during convention hours, or lodging in Denton County NOW members' homes). Send this information along with a check for registration: Texas NOW members (\$15) and non-NOW members (\$20) to Denton County NOW, Convention Planning Committee, P.O. Box 402, Denton, TX 76201. Make all checks payable to Texas NOW Convention. Enclose an additional \$6.00 if you plan to attend the Saturday night banquet.

**SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION
AND CRAZINESS:
Incest, Rape and Mental Illness**

Thursday and Friday
March 22 and 23, 1979

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Adult Mental Health Advisory Council
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The School of Human Sciences
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A Community Education Conference

In Cooperation With:

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**Sexual Exploitation and Craziess:
Incest, Rape and Mental Illness**

Keynote Speakers:

Thursday, March 22, 1979

Susan Forward, M.S.W., Co-director,
Sexual Abuse Treatment Program, Van Nuys,
California; Author of *Betrayal of Innocence*

Friday, March 23, 1979

Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D., Noted Author,
Psychologist and Lecturer; Author of
Women and Madness.

REGISTRATION FOR:

Workshops	
(Indicate 1st and 2nd Choices for Each Day)	
_____ March 22	_____ March 23
_____ Treatment Aspects of Working With Families	_____ Psychological Trauma & Crisis Counseling
_____ Origin of Incest Taboos	_____ The Law: A Need for Reform
_____ Protective Service Role in Sexual Abuse Cases	_____ Minority Perspective on Rape and Incest
_____ "Problemas Entre La Familia"	_____ Critical Life Events
_____ Film Theater	_____ Rape and "Craziness" Film Theater

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_____ One Day \$15.00 _____ Thurs. _____ Fri.
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Make Check Payable to: Adult Mental Health Advisory Council
Mail to: c/o John Lefeber
P. O. Box 1149, Baytown, Texas 77520



Actress Bernice Crudden (left) is the wife fighting for custody of her children in *Who Remembers Mama?*, an hour long award winning documentary film which will be aired nationally on Wednesday, April 18 at 9 p.m. (CST) on public television channels. *Who Remembers Mama?*, co-produced and written by Cynthia Salzman Mondell and Allen Mondell through KERA-TV in Dallas/Fort Worth, is one of the few television documentaries to examine thoroughly some of the problems and issues faced by older women.

Statistically, *Mama* represents 25 to 40 percent of the more than one million divorces granted annually in the United States. She is over 35 and was married 15 years or longer. Having lost her husband, economic security, youth and social identity she joins a struggling group which could be referred to as the "nouveau poor."

The Mondell wife-husband team examine the emotional and financial devastation experienced by these women when they lose their roles as homemakers through divorce. The conversations among women about their former roles, about the courtroom battles and their attempts to get child support are candid and emotional. Several women also discuss the difficulties they've encountered looking for and keeping jobs.

The courtroom dramatization of a divorce trial, presided over by a real judge and two practicing family law attorneys, graphically illustrates the adversary system of justice at work in a fight between husband and wife for property and custody of their children.

While offering a straightforward and fact-supported picture of the Displaced Homemaker, the film is very provoking because it confronts one of the most intimate of human situations—the relationship between husband and wife. In this case, it's also the dissolution of the family.

Major funding for the film was provided by a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Houston Center for Displaced Homemakers, located on the UH Central Campus, provides pre-employment skills and training for displaced homemakers, women between the ages of 35 and 64 who are widowed, divorced or separated. Services are free and include workshops, personal and peer counseling, job placement assistance, and referral to supportive services. The next workshop starts March 19, meets five days a week for four weeks from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Center will present two mini-workshops at the Downtown YWCA March 13-15 and at the Peden YWCA April 17-19. For more information call 749-3755 or 749-7253 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Houston artist Alice Cahana will direct the creative visual arts area for children in Tranquility Park I, as part of Houston Festival, Main Street Plus, on March 17-18 and 24-25. Houston area school children are being asked to participate in the Children's World in Tranquility Park I in special celebration of the *Year of the Child* during the Festival. Cahana is planning a unique art project for Houston's "special children" to participate in as part of the activities. Main Street Plus will be one of Houston's biggest celebrations and is planned as a festival of international dimensions. The free festivities will include music, dance, visual art, drama and street activities.

The Women's Success Development Center is sponsoring a series of free lectures in March. All lectures begin at 8 p.m., at the Center office, 4141 Southwest Freeway, Suite 415. For more information call 840-9207

- March 13 Linda Thompson, Attorney, *Anti-discrimination Laws: credit, housing, employment, insurance and education*
- March 20 Harriett Dickerson, *Temporary Employment: Its Advantages and Opportunities*
- March 22 Ming Fong, District Sales Manager, Investments Diversified Services, Inc., *Financial Investments: What Women Need To Know*

Houston Outreach Theatre, Inc. is a new endeavor by a group of Houston artists to provide lively theater to those who do not have access to it. Performers with this non-profit group have entertained at hospitals and nursing homes throughout Houston. Their current program, *American Scrapbook*, consists of traditional folksongs accompanied by guitar, banjo and fiddle, and readings from prose and poetry of Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain and Edgar Lee Masters. The group is supported by businesses and individuals from the Houston community.

The theatre also provides lectures and workshops on theater administration, creative dramatics for children, dance appreciation and story telling for artistic and other community groups. For bookings or other information, contact Jenifer Blair, 783-7898, or Brenda Dubay, 772-8061.

Persons interested in learning more about their school districts will find information in *Harris County School Facts*, a new publication available from the League of Women Voters. The booklet covers twenty school districts in Harris County, including a map, charts and illustrations showing the tax rates, budgets, per pupil expenditures, pupil-teacher ratios, salaries and much more. Copies may be obtained for 55 cents each from the League of Women Voters of Houston, 1947 West Gray, Suite 202, Houston, 77019. For information regarding bulk ordering, call the office at 529-3171 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Family Service Center offers several homemaker services for persons unable to care for their homes due to a temporary illness or family crisis. One program is free for many Harris County residents 60 years of age or older. Homemakers plan and prepare meals and do other light housekeeping duties.

Similar services are available to families in need of temporary housekeeping services due to illness, particularly when there are young children in the family. Eligible families may receive these services free of charge through Title XX funding. For more information about any of the Family Service Centers programs, call Shana Clark, 524-3881.

The Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) of Houston has announced that it is dropping Title IX Charges against Sigma Delta Phi Fraternity at the University of Houston. Olga Soliz, Houston WEAL president and Gertrude Barnstone, Texas WEAL president, said the fraternity has ceased its former policy and practice of excluding women from membership. They credited the assistance of the U.S. Office of Health, Education and Welfare in improving the fraternity's policy.

Information for the *Network* column should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the page, and sent to Hildegard Warner, *Houston Breakthrough*, P.O. Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004. We regret we cannot take information over the phone. Announcements of events that are free and open to the public are published free of charge.

classified ads

IMAGINE! ADRIENNE RICH REVIEWING SUSAN GRIFFIN, ANDREA DWORKIN REVIEWING RITA MAE BROWN, GLORIA STEINEM REVIEWING ROBIN MORGAN; finally, feminists review feminists. This, and more, happens in the *New Women's Times Feminist Review*, a regular supplement to the national *New Women's Times*, from the hometown of Susan B. Anthony, founded in 1975. Subscriptions, \$10/year includes 24 issues of the newspaper and 6 issues of the Review supplement. Back issues of the Review are available for \$1.50. *New Women's Times*, 1357 Monroe Ave. HB, Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

SINGLE. 56. Want congenial roommate to share HER 2-bedroom apartment or hunt another with me. 2 housebroken cats. Wood 868-3901; at work 527-1744

Recent B.A. grad seeking career alternatives wishes to contact persons willing to share their experience, feelings and contacts. Please write Elizabeth Tudor at 7499 Brompton or call 871-1655 or 666-3591 evenings before 10 p.m.

I would like to share a house with some good people. Can pay \$125/month. Call Ellen, 9-6, 526-6686. Montrose area.

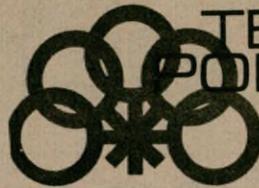
off our backs, a national women's newsjournal, is planning to publish a spring 1979 issue written and produced by women of color. Send submissions of poetry, commentaries, news articles, writings from personal experiences, articles on women in prison, political struggles, feminism and lesbianism to: *Ain't I A Woman*, 1313 Quincy Street, Washington, D.C. 20011.

For an anthology on the subject of child molestation, we are seeking first-person writing—stories, poems, journal entries—by people who have been molested as children. We are also interested in writing by other family members and writing by children. All material must be factual although you may change names or use a pen-name. Please type and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mail to: Ellen Bass, 240 Day Valley Road, Aptos, CA 95003.

The 1979 *Index/Directory of Women's Media* is now available from the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press (WIFP). The Directory lists hundreds of women's periodicals, presses and publishers, news services, columns, radio and TV programs and women's media collectives and companies in film, video and cable, music, art/graphics/theater, and multi-media. Also included are lists of courses on media and women, speakers bureaus, women writers' groups, women's public relations companies, authors' agents specializing in women, plus information about products made and distributed by women and professional organizations. The names and addresses of over 800 media and media-concerned women are listed alphabetically and cross-indexed. An annotated index of women's media research and activities in over 100 categories is also included.

The *Index/Directory* is available by sending \$8 to Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, 3306 Ross Place, Washington, D.C. 20008, (202) 966-7783.

How To Rape-Proof Your Neighborhoods, the first rape prevention information package to be published in a national magazine, is included in the March issue of *Ms.* magazine. The article includes suggestions on alerting neighbors about rape prevention, self-defense, and tactics used by groups to protest unfair court decisions in rape trials. Reprints of the article are available for \$1 on an individual basis from Reprint Department, *Ms.* magazine, 370 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10017. Bulk reprint rates are available on request.



TEXAS WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

815 Brazos, Suite 304
512 / 474-1798
Austin, Texas 78701

8 March 1979

Dear Breakthrough Readers:

The House and Senate versions of the family violence bills will soon be up for vote on the floor of each body. These bills provide for funding for up to 12 centers for battered women around the state.

They also establish a new kind of procedure for filing a temporary restraining order and make it a criminal offense to violate such an order.

Letter and telephone support from local constituents would be very helpful. The bills in the House are H. B. 1075 and H. B. 1076. In the Senate, they are S. B. 594 and S. B. 595. The House will be taking action around March 15 and the Senate in about 10 days.

Thank you for your help.

Cathy Bonner
Legislative Consultant

Academy Award Nominee — Best Foreign Film

"Blier doesn't attempt to present a woman's point of view; he stays with the man's view of women, and that gives his films a special ambience. For a woman viewer, seeing "Handkerchiefs" is like a vacation in a country you've always wanted to visit. Reading a book such as "From Here to Eternity," a woman enters an area of experience from which she has been excluded; seeing a Blier film, a woman enters a man's fantasy universe stripped of hypocrisy. Blier's films have no meanness about women; the wife in "Handkerchiefs" isn't neurotic—just elusive. Women are simply seen as different.

—Pauline Kael, *The New Yorker*



GET OUT YOUR HANDKERCHIEFS

Starring GERARD DEPARDIEU, PATRICK DEWAERE and CAROLE LAURE Directed by BERTRAND BLIER
A Robert A. McNeil Presentation From New Line Cinema



Exclusive Engagement

NOW SHOWING!

Breakthrough Night with the Houston Angels

honoring women in sports



Houston vs Dayton
March 27, 1979, 8:00 p.m.
The Astroarena

Houston Breakthrough has named the WBL Houston Angels its Women of the Year for 1978, and now the newspaper joins forces with the team to honor and acknowledge the accomplishments of thousands of Houston area women who participate in sports from basketball to jogging.

Women's teams of all kinds will be on hand March 27, and special group rates are available for those women's teams that haven't made arrangements. Call 781-5085 for reservations for your team—basketball, volleyball, softball—you're all welcome. Come out and join the fun as our Angels drive for the WBL Championship.

If you don't have a team, we want you to be on hand anyway. Just clip the special coupon below and you can receive a free ticket when you purchase another.

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Special Offer—One Night Only—March 27, 1979
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Mail to Houston Angels; P.O. Box 42238; Houston, TX 77042.

Please note: This coupon may be presented at the Astroarena box office on the night of the game.