

Houston

# Breakthrough

Where Women Are News

September 1979

\$1



**PEGGY BUCKHORN**  
**Rides Herd on Texas Utilities**

*Plus stories on*

**Houston's Housing Crisis**

**Uncovering the United Way**

**Sue Bennett's Year-long Ordeal**

# letters

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

## "Let's Shut Down Seabrook"

I would like to share the following information with *Breakthrough* readers. On October 6, the Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook, New Hampshire, along with numerous Clamshell (anti-nuclear) groups throughout the country, will begin an occupation at the Seabrook nuclear power plant site. This occupation will differ from others because the occupiers plan to live on the plant site until it is agreed that the Seabrook nuke will never go on line. Arrest is not the objective and will be non-violently resisted.

This type of occupation was successful in Whyl, West Germany. On February 17, 1975, construction was to begin on a nuclear power plant at this location but was halted because several hundred people went to the site and blocked bulldozers, preventing construction for the day. The police intervened and ended this action. However, the following week, 28,000 people returned to the site from all over Germany and from the French Alsace region. They overwhelmed the police, who were forced to withdraw.

A "village" was maintained there for more than a year. Houses were built as were other structures serving as educational and social centers. Farming on (and off) the site provided food for the occupiers. After work and on weekends people would gather on the site to discuss local issues and offer whatever support they could. That nuclear power plant was never built.

In the wake of TMI (Three Mile Island)—the most serious attempt by the oil/energy and utility monopolies to cover up the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history—and after the demonstrated irresponsibility of the government in investigating the disaster, the time has come to act. The success of this occupation is dependent on the numbers of people involved in this action and the first few days will be the most critical time. However, it is equally important for as many people as possible to be involved in support work.

Involvement can include going to Seabrook (even for a short duration as an occupier or outside support person), donating money, and/or presenting this issue to individuals you know as well as groups that you are involved with for support and their possible involvement.

Seabrook, New Hampshire, may seem like a long way from Houston, Texas; however it is vitally important for the nuclear power plant at Seabrook never to open for business. Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Bikini, Utah, Seabrook, Detroit, Harrisburg, and Bay City, Texas have much in common.

Seabrook is our anti-nuclear stronghold—a nationwide and worldwide symbol of our resistance to nuclear power. Let's shut down Seabrook.

Niami Hanson

Editor's Note: For further information on the Seabrook occupation, you may call the local anti-nuclear group, Mockingbird Alliance, at 666-5468.

## "I would like to set the record straight."

A *Breakthrough* article by "Red Zenger" ("The People are the City," July/August 1979) was filled with inaccuracies regarding my professional research on representation of minorities on U.S. city councils. Specifically, the article misrepresented: (1) my research findings; (2) the procedures governing publication of scholarly research; and (3) my integrity as a consultant and academician. I would like to set the record straight.

The results of my research on minority representation in 243 U.S. cities (1976), as testified to in federal district court, showed that "socioeconomic conditions are much more highly correlated with equity of minority representation than is the council member election plan. Residents of smaller cities, characterized by growth, greater wealth, and more highly educated populations are more inclined to elect minority candidates to office than are residents of cities not so characterized regardless of the plan of electing council members" (at-large, single member district, mixed, etc.). This is quite different testimony than that reported by Zenger who stated that I testified "inequality is due to socioeconomic factors such as lower education and income levels among minorities" (*Breakthrough*, p. 9).

Zenger simply did not report the facts regarding publication of my research in the *Social Science Quarterly* ("City Council Election Procedures and Minority Representation: Are They Related?" June, 1978). For an article to be accepted for publication in a professional journal, the author must submit four copies of the manuscript to the journal's editor. The author's name is then removed by the editor and sent as an anonymous piece of research to three independent reviewers in the profession. They recommend to the editor that the article either be accepted or rejected, or that the author be asked to revise the article in line with reviewer suggestions and then resubmit it for consideration. It is the editor's decision as to what will finally happen to the article. My article ("City Council Election Procedures . . .") was the result of an initial request to revise and resubmit an article written by Professor Taebel (UT at Arlington) and myself. The editor of the *Social Science Quarterly*, Professor Charles Bonjean, University of Texas, requested that Professor Taebel and myself resubmit separate manuscripts for publication because of a difference in focus of our individual research . . . In no way did Professor Chandler Davidson participate in the publication decision. It was strictly a professional decision made by the editor of the journal. The sequence of events, as reported in *Breakthrough* by Zenger ("after Davidson howled in the academic community, MacManus removed her name from the article . . .") was totally erroneous and the innuendos malicious.

Zenger's attempts to discredit the findings of my research on the basis that I received payment to conduct it was nothing but a cheap shot. First, the most recent research on the topic shows that my findings in 1976 were correct. Second, the inference that receipt of a fee to complete a professional study by definition colors the findings is ludicrous.

Two recent articles by Professor Albert Karnig (associate professor in the Center for Public Affairs, Arizona State University) and Professor Susan Welch (chairperson, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska) using 1979 municipal representation data from 164 U.S. cities over 25,000 population report findings almost identical to those of my study using 1976 data from 243 cities over 50,000. In fact, both articles widely cite my earlier research . . .

My getting "paid by the City" to conduct research on the nationwide effects of council member election plans on minority representation in no way biased the results as has been shown by the Karnig and Welch articles . . . It is . . . no different from any other professor receiving a grant from HUD or the Ford Foundation to conduct research. What is rather ironic is that such a comment was printed in *Breakthrough*, a paper whose articles and editorials have on numerous occasions called for greater use of minority consultants by Houston area local governments.

In light of my familiarity with current research conducted on a nationwide basis examining determinants of minority municipal representation, I have felt compelled, when questioned in Houston's feminist circles, to caution against assuming that single member districts will automatically remedy minority underrepresentation on the city council, particularly Mexican American and female underrepresentation. The evidence thus far simply has not shown this to be the case.

Dr. Susan A. MacManus  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
University of Houston

Editor's note: Red Zenger, in last month's cover story, devoted three paragraphs to Dr. MacManus' involvement with the single-member district issue. We do not believe the reporting was either "totally erroneous," "filled with inaccuracies" or "a cheap shot." Nor were the "innuendos malicious."

"The point is," says Zenger, "that Dr. MacManus reached inconsistent conclusions using the same data. The evidence is available for anybody who wishes to see it. The 1976 trial transcript is in the Houston Metropolitan Archives at the Houston Public Library. The article she co-authored with Taebel is available on request from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in San Antonio, and the third article appeared in the *Social Science Quarterly* of Spring, 1978."

In our October, 1977 issue, the same charges of inconsistency were leveled at Dr. MacManus by Chandler Davidson, in his article "Women and Minorities At Large." Before that issue went to press we informed Dr. MacManus of the allegations, and suggested that she reply to them in that same issue. She declined.

## "Yeast, spice and wheat."

*Breakthrough* is yeast, spice and wheat. My mind's reeling with ideas, on which I'll act; the presentation is full of spirit and what is reported matters—all this from sitting with the summer issue.

I don't know many feminist publications, but I've heard in California and New York that *Breakthrough's* the finest.

(In *Letters* last month) B. J. Kolenda's sentence ". . . if this 'war expectation' is ever to be broken up, it is up to women to do so, with the help of a few reasonable men . . ." echoes my conviction; I'd like to join up with her."

Thank you, all of you.

Simone Withers Swan  
New York City, N.Y.

## "Keep up the good feminism."

It is impressive and wonderful that you get better and better. The regular features are good. I especially enjoy the *Commentaries* by Nikki Van Hightower and *Media Matters* by Gabrielle Cosgriff. A couple of issues ago, the excellent article on *The Dinner Party* ("The Dinner Party" and "Will Houston Host The Dinner Party?," June 1979) was much in my conversation. Is Houston going to be able to have a showing?

The book review on *The Violent Sex* (reviewed by June Arnold, July/August 1979) was strong and thought-provoking.

One feature I miss from the "old days" is the *Pats and Pans* column. I know the content is still covered but I miss that particular brand of wit. Any chance of a reincarnation?

Keep up the good feminism.

Evie Whitsett

Editor's note: Thank you for the kind words. *Pats and Pans* was fun while it lasted, but there are just so many puns you can make on those two words. As for *The Dinner Party* coming to Houston, read the exciting news on page 25.

## "John Wayne didn't sit back on the film lot..."

I'd like to comment on Nikki Van Hightower's column on Marion Michael Morrison, better known as John Wayne ("A Medal for Masculinity," July/August 1979). While the article was an editorial and therefore, an opinion, there are two points where I think she was in error.

First, Wayne was not awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor; that can only be awarded to persons in the military for specific actions. Rather, Congress decided to create a special gold medal for John Wayne and to make similar medals of bronze, the latter for public sale to pay for the whole package. Congress has taken this action 31 times in the past 79 years, honoring such people as Jonas Salk, Walt Disney, Robert Kennedy and Bob Hope. The action was proposed by Sen. Barry Goldwater, and those who spoke in favor. . . included Elizabeth Taylor, Maureen O'Hara and Katherine Hepburn . . .

I was very surprised to find Ms. Van Hightower so off-base and contacted her about it while I was looking up this information. She said she had written what her sources of information had supplied her. I apologize if it seems snide, but perhaps she might check up on her sources . . .

Van Hightower also commented on why John Wayne was awarded anything, concluding it was to add more reality to a make-believe world. I would suggest we can also see it as a way of acknowledging that dream world and the part it has played in our lives. To acknowledge doesn't require acceptance of the total dream, that we incorporate it into our present, or that we try and further it. What we got from the movies Wayne acted in depended on the direction we approached them from. Some see the

(continued on page 21)



*Portrait of Tina Modotti, 1924, by Edward Weston (above) and Alfred Stieglitz' Portrait of Georgia O'Keefe, 1933, are two prints included in "Target II: Five American Photographers," at the Museum of Fine Arts from September 21 through November 18.*

## writers & stories

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**2** Letters

**4** Newsmakers

**5** Commentaries  
*by Nikki Van Hightower*

**6** Media Matters  
*by Gabrielle Cosgriff*

**8** Guilty Until Proven Innocent  
*by Barbara Karkabi*

**10** Peggy Buckhorn: Riding Herd on Texas utilities  
*by Jill Cropper*

**12** Before You Give at the Office . . .  
*by Christine Le Laurin*

**14** Costumes of the Arab World  
*by Barbara Karkabi*

**16** The Invisible City  
*Transcribed by Juliet Clarke and Karen Spearman*

**20** Women of Faith Sponsor Energy Day  
*by Helen Wils*

**24** Comedienne Robin Tyler  
*by Claire Noonan*

**24** The Michigan Womyn's Festival  
*by Sharman Petrie*

**25** Network

**27** Classifieds

*Cover photograph by Ernie Shawver*

# Newsmakers

by H. Kathleen Gresham and Diane Harrington

Kathy Whitmire, Houston's City Controller, was featured in *US* magazine (September 4) in an article called "One of these women may be our first woman president." The article took note of the fact that she is



Nancy Landau

"being promoted as a successor to the city's politically troubled mayor, Jim McConn."

"But," she insists, "I'm not interested if my principles have to be compromised. I'm getting pressure from business groups to change my position on women's and gays' rights. The office isn't that important to me."

When asked about running for national office, Whitmire commented, "I don't think you can plan those steps in advance. I didn't plan to run for city controller, but the timing was right . . . We're a fair distance away from having a woman president. I think we'll see a woman Vice President first."

Also featured in the article were Carol Bellamy, president of New York's City Council; Jane Byrne, Mayor of Chicago; Olympia Snow, U.S. Rep. from Auburn, Maine; Pat Schroeder, U.S. Rep. from Colorado; and Yvonne Braithwaite Burke, U.S. Rep. from California.

"Some of them may seem like long shots now," the magazine points out, but adds, "remember that two decades ago, Ted Kennedy had just passed the bar exam in Massachusetts, Gerald Ford was a greenhorn Michigan Congressman and Jimmy Carter was the chairman of the Sumter County (Ga.) School Board."

Mary Heather, a 75-year-old retired teacher in Stockbridge, Mass., is helping beat the energy crisis by saving and restoring to operation one of hundreds of abandoned small hydroelectric plants in New England. "My own power plant—that's exciting," she said laughing, "but our prime thing is saving energy."

People call it "Mary's power plant," although she owns it with her 70-year-old brother, a retired electrical engineer. They hope to have it in operation by October. The plant should have a capacity of about 200 kilowatts when it starts up with one turbine powering a generator. Heather is confident they can re-harness the waters of the beautiful Housatonic River, and so is the New England Electric System, which has contracted to buy their power. The plant is expected to provide enough power to light and run appliances in 100 or more homes, saving many thousands of gallons of high-priced foreign oil.

Some people wanted to tear down the 50-by-50-foot granite building (built in 1906 and shut down in 1947).

"I don't like to see anything destroyed that can possibly be used again," she said, "and I thought that this was an exceedingly well-built structure. It would be a crime to tear it down."

"Mary was the pioneer," said Jack Casey, coordinator of power contracts at the New England Electric System. "Hundreds of old sites will (now) be looked at."

"It has made a lot of other people aware that New England is blessed with streams and abandoned dams," she said, "and that we should use these energy resources."

Linda L. Cathcart is the new Director of the Contemporary Arts Museum. Cathcart comes to the CAM from a position as curator at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, N.Y. for the past four years.

She told a *New York Times* reporter recently, "Buffalo taught me that the real function of a museum director, in the end, is to build the collection. In Houston my new museum doesn't have a collection at all—its function is to house temporary exhibitions—but I'm wondering if I oughtn't to try to change that in time."

Her previous professional associations have included the Brooklyn Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum and the Metropolitan Museum.

Cathcart's educational background includes a Fine Arts undergraduate degree from California State University at Fullerton, a M.A. degree in Art History from Hunter College in New York and post-graduate study as a Fulbright Fellow at the Courtauld Art Institute in London, England.

Cathcart was the unanimous choice at the May 31st meeting of the CAM Board of Trustees following an intensive nationwide search which included distinguished museum personnel from throughout the country. She assumed her new role on September 1 and is working on a Nancy Graves retrospective.



Pat Corrigan

Sue Bennett a Family Connection counselor was found innocent of sexually abusing a child following a trial in State district court last May 17 (see story page 8). Although the year-long ordeal is over, her friends who raised

over \$16,000 to meet bail bond and legal fees, still need \$2,000 more to repay loans. A benefit concert on behalf of the Sue Bennett Fund is planned for Thursday, September 27 at 8 p.m. at Fitzgerald's, owned by Sarah Fitzgerald, located in the Heights, 2706 White Oak at Studewood. ADD LIB, the all women's jazz band will play at the concert. See Network page 26 for ticket information.

Cassandra Cole, age 12, of Chicago, spent her summer vacation teaching in a school she started last summer, called *Excel to Excellence*. The 13 pupils, ages 4 to 8, met on a porch in Cassandra's back yard each week day afternoon from June 5 to August 20.

She was assisted by her cousin Gia Huff, 11. Together, they taught mathematics, spelling, and reading. Cassandra took her school seriously—giving individual attention to each child. She assigned homework, administered tests, and issued report cards three times during the summer.

Cassandra says she thought of starting her own school for a long time. Last year, with her parent's permission, she obtained the permission of her pupils' parents and did it! "Some people said I should charge, but I don't want to. I just wanted them to come and learn," she said.

Cassandra knew the value of praise.

She put stars on good papers and hung them on the "good work" wall in the classroom. Good students received a certificate at the end of the summer.

Debbie Rollins, Cassandra's seventh-grade teacher was not surprised to hear about the summer school. "I think it's typical of the type of grown-up Cassandra is going to be. And she's going to be much more and achieve much more."



Theresa Di Menno

Francine Friend, founder of the *Women's Success Development Center*, which opened this year, describes the center's programs, "We're an educational and counseling center for women, with an emphasis on

education.

"Women learn from talking with other women and from that talking we learn who we are, what we need, and what we feel. We also learn about the lives of other women."

Twice weekly, she holds "Brown Bag Lunch Talks" for a \$1.00 donation. Working women come on Wednesdays; homemakers on Thursdays. On Wednesday evening a support group meets from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for a rap session.

Friend, who has a master's degree in sociology and her mother, Sharlee Friend, M.S.W., and Jeanne Zell, M.S. run the center.

They hold workshops on such topics as self-esteem and confidence building time management, and sex education.

The center is located at 5400 Memorial, Suite 708. For information, call 840-9207.

Barbara Ellman, M.S.W. is leading a six-week lecture and discussion on *Women: The Other Sex* at the Jung Educational Center, 5200 Montrose. It is for those who are ready to explore the philosophical, historical and psychological components of women's subordination and the alternatives available today.

The lecture continues for six weeks beginning September 12 and runs mid-day from 12:15 p.m.—1:45 p.m. Call 524-8253 for more information.

Ruth Yale Long, Ph.D., is a Houston nutritionist and the founder of the *Nutrition Education Association, Inc.*, now offering nutrition services for anyone who wants to gain pep and energy, to eliminate damage from stress, to ward off colds before they start, to be slim, and to feed her body (and those of her family) so well that the body will heal itself of dis-ease.

Dr. Long conducts nutrition classes and does individual counseling in nutrition. A home study course is also available.

Dr. Long will speak without charge to any organization on such subjects as *Stress, Depression, and Mental Problems; Allergies; Disabilities; Nutrition and Weight Control; a Basic Diet and Food Supplement Program; Vitamins; Minerals; and What We Should and Shouldn't Eat and Why.*

Offices are at 3647 Glen Haven. For information call 665-2946.

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Bill Narum

# COMMENTARIES

by nikki VAN HIGHTOWER

## Nine-Five: A Victory for Apathy

It seems that everyone is now claiming victory with the approval of the 9-5 City Council election plan. Those in favor of single-member council districts claim to have defeated their at-large opponents, even though most leaders of the single-member district groups opposed this particular plan. Opponents of the single-member district plan are also patting themselves on the back because the 9-5 plan allowed for the least change that the U.S. Justice Department would tolerate and thus provided the best possibilities for keeping the present power system in tact.

I believe that both sides were the losers and apathy was the winner. Only 11.3 percent of eligible voters bothered to take the five or so minutes necessary to express their opinion on how they would be represented in their city. It is interesting to speculate on what statement the other 88.7 percent of eligible voters have made by their non-participation. "It won't affect my life one way or the other?" "It was too confusing?" "Politics is rotten and I don't want to get involved in it?"

Clearly there is a tremendous credibility gap between the political leaders and followers in the Houston community. There is some question whether the term "followers" is an appropriate one here, for the majority of the political constituents do not appear to be following anyone. Given the time, money, and energy spent on it, the single-member district issue was a very important one for the community leaders. However, they alone seemed to appreciate the importance of how the pie is to be divided up through election districts.

Ironically, the lowest turnouts were in the city's minority precincts. Minority leaders were billing this election as a vote on whether or not they should have a greater piece of the decision making pie. Sadly, it seems that their constituents were not convinced that the division, one way or the other, would make much difference in their lives.

Voter turnout in the white middle and upper-middle-class precincts suggests that although concern for the outcome of the election was not great by any means, their sense of the relevance of the election on their lives was greater than in the minority areas.

The participation in this election reminds me of an article I read recently on the stress associated with life in Houston. Houston is described by Jerry Lester of Baylor University as a place where one comes to make a fortune only to be able to go where one *really* wants to live. The author compares Houston to the inside of an airplane—"you tolerate it until you get where you want to go and then you get off."

I'm not sure that Lester was too far wrong in his assessment, but I would extend his classification of Houstonians.

There are those who are here to make their fortune and then to move on to some place where people care about the quality of the life of their citizens. This group holds a great deal of power and influence in Houston. There are those who hold little power and influence and who feel that change is hopeless. Then there is a small group of people who truly wish to make Houston their home and are willing to make an investment in the money making schemes. These people retain the optimism that through conscientious hard work and community involvement Houston will be a politically progressive city. Unfortunately, as the voter turnout on the single-member district plan indicated, these people are a distinct minority—apathy wins again.

## Feminism is for Men

I lost a friend a few weeks ago. His loss affected me deeply. Perhaps I could see the possibility of what happened to him happening to many other men of my acquaintance.

Michael killed himself. The circumstances around the suicide are not too clear, for he tended to keep his personal problems to himself. He worked for a large corporation which transferred him and his family to Houston several years ago. Michael worked for them for many years and, I am told, he closely linked his identity with his employment there.

A few weeks before he took his life he was told that he was being dismissed. The resulting identity crisis was apparently too much for him to bear. He purchased a pistol, stopped at one of the retail outlets of the company, and shot himself in the head. I suppose this was his way of forcing this impersonal corporation to recognize his pain.

So far, women have been the direct beneficiaries of *the women's movement*. Within it and as the result of it women have grown, blossomed, shed old-identities and developed new ones. The changes have taken place not without pain but at least with the hope that wherever we were going with our lives, things would be better. Women are on the move, there is no doubt about it. Even the most insensitive males are feeling the impact, or perhaps I should say discomfort of it. The spirit of liberation, however one might wish to label it, has definitely caught on with women.

But what about men? It is my opinion that in relation to women, they have virtually been standing still. The question is, why? Do men really have it so good that change in the direction of *equality* would be detrimental to the *quality* of their lives? Or is it that women have discouraged men's involvement in the movement. I contend that the answers to both questions are no.

Men experience considerable discomfort from their roles in life. Some suffer so much that they, like Michael, end it.

When I discuss the women's movement with men a common response is that they (men) don't have it so good either. They have heavy responsibilities and expectations that they must live up to. And, they go on to tell me, they don't go around griping and complaining like women are doing these days. When I suggest (as I always do) that they might be better off doing a little griping and complaining I usually receive a blank stare indicating that they have not yet conceived of the possibilities of either a real partner relationship with their spouse or periodic role switching.

Being a man still seems to equal being a provider. It follows that giving up being a provider means giving up being a man. Being a man and being a provider means having control. Not maintaining control or allowing oneself to be dependent is feminine. Most men will quickly admit that their roles in life leave much to be desired, but nevertheless, they still cling tenaciously to them. Their roles, their jobs, mean high status, relatively speaking their control equals their manhood. Few people voluntarily abandon higher for lower status. The trip in between is usually defined as failure.

Men have a great deal to learn from feminism. Breaking down the role barriers is the key to unlocking their prison doors - prisons that they refuse to acknowledge exist. If my friend Michael had internalized feminism no corporation could have penetrated his sense of personhood/manhood. He, like many other men, bought into a self-destructive philosophy.

## The Continuing Textbook Battle

Once again the yearly exercise to rid the sexist content from our children's textbooks is going on in Austin, led by the National Organization for Women and coordinated by Twiss Butler of Bay Area NOW. The Commissioner of Education, the State Textbook Committee and textbook authors and publishers have all heard the arguments seven years in a row, yet it seems they are still not quite convinced that the content of textbooks really has much to do with the attitudes, opinions and self-perceptions that our youngsters acquire and take with them as adults. Worse, they may be fully aware of the impact of those books on children's attitudes.

My own awareness about the image of women in textbooks took place somewhere around 1972. I was working on my doctorate at New York University and began to research a dissertation topic. An active women's movement in the New York area stimulated my interest in the topic of women in government.

I soon realized, however, that I knew absolutely nothing about the subject of women in politics and government. Then, I asked myself why I knew nothing

about it and from that question, a new sense of reality hit me. I had come through grade school, high school and the universities, earning bachelor's, a master's and almost a Ph.D. degree without ever hearing one lecture or reading more than a line or two of what was just as likely to be misinformation about women in government and politics.

Now I was about to go out and join the ranks of teachers and perpetuate the same level of ignorance. At that time I doubt that I could have named five women who had done anything of consequence in the field of government or politics. Nor could I offer any explanation for women's apparent lack of activity in governing our own society.

My research focused ultimately upon the political socialization of women. And how are women socialized through our textbooks? Politics has been identified as a male domain, and man has been identified as "the political animal." Political scientists and textbook authors have been content to categorize women as apolitical and have overlooked the crucial connection between education and citizenship.

Typically, researchers have found that in government textbooks 1) women are largely omitted from the books used in junior and senior high schools; there are almost no women quoted; the great majority of illustrations show males only or men superior in status or numbers over women. Women are rarely used in case histories or examples. 2) There is ubiquitous use of masculine terminology (man/men, he/him, the man in the street, Mr. Average Citizen and Uncle Sam), and 3) there is no acknowledgement or discussion of the rules and practices that have kept women from leadership positions and in supportive and subordinate roles; there is completely inadequate coverage of the Nineteenth Amendment and the struggle for women's suffrage, with no mention of the heroes and leaders of the movement; there is little or misleading information of the current feminist movement—a political movement of profound importance to the high school girls who will be tomorrow's women.

Given this training, or socialization, it is small wonder that women, constituting 51.3% of the population are represented by only one U.S. Senator, two state governors, four percent of the House of Representatives and no one on the Supreme Court.

We are all the losers from this tacit political screening process. There are brilliant and caring young women in this country whose adult leadership we desperately need.

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

# Media Matters

by gabrielle cosgriff

**W**e get there first and stay all day," claims the *Houston Post*. Well, not any more. As of September 4, the *Houston Chronicle* has a morning edition, complete with bright yellow banner and assorted hoopla.

The *Post's* reaction to this encroachment on its early-morning turf, even before it happened, was to come out with a "Final Edition," starting August 23, which hits the newsstands later in the morning.

The *Chronicle* is opening seven bureaus in surrounding areas, such as Huntsville and Brenham, and is hiring several new reporters. Even Ed McMahon, TV's huckster supreme, is in on the act. Extolling the *Chronicle's* new features and expanded coverage, McMahon's TV ads promise "everything you'd ever want in a newspaper."

The fact that both dailies now have morning editions may lead to some confusion. Unfortunately, time of delivery has sometimes been a useful guide in telling one from the other, since content and style are often interchangeable.

Take, for example, their strikingly similar coverage of the recent difference of opinion between City Controller Kathy Whitmire and Houston Mayor Jim McConn. Whitmire questioned the expenditure of funds for hiring consultants to help the city draw single-member district boundaries. McConn threatened to take her to court if she didn't approve the expenditures.

peaceably, McConn said, she'll have to face the city's guns in court."

In that same *Post* story, McConn, his feathers obviously ruffled, said, "The mother hen sits on most contracts. But the mother hen will be blasted out of the coop if she doesn't turn it loose . . . We'll take her to court."

The sexual put-down of "mother hen" and the violence of "blasted out of the coop" are further illustrations, (as if we needed any) that the macho, frontier mentality is alive and well in Houston.

**T**he *Texas Observer* has been without an official editor since Jim Hightower resigned in July to run for the Texas Railroad Commission. Managing editor Linda Rocawich is acting editor until the position is filled. September 1 was the deadline for applications, and Rocawich did not apply for the job.

Rocawich has been at the *Observer* for two years and has been managing editor since February. Before that, the *Observer* had no managing editor for six months, while Rocawich, who was then associate editor, and fellow associate editor Eric Hartman, shared the responsibilities of the job.

"We were trying to do things differently," said Rocawich. "Neither one of us wanted to create hierarchies. Neither of

**The mother hen sits on most contracts. But the mother hen will be blasted out of the coop if she doesn't turn it loose . . . We'll take her (City Comptroller Kathy Whitmire) to court.**

—Mayor Jim McConn

The *Post's* Tom Kennedy began his story, "In the fashion of a classic western standoff, Mayor Jim McConn . . . gave . . . Whitmire until high noon Thursday . . . If Whitmire fails to act . . . he will aim the city's legal guns at her and take her to . . . court for a showdown."

Not to be outdone, or outdrawn, Fred Harper of the *Chronicle* said, "An old-time western showdown is shaping up at high noon Thursday between . . . McConn and . . . Whitmire, both sticking to their guns . . . Unless Whitmire goes along

us wanted all the administrative responsibilities—we thought we could divide it up. But it worked out that we did need somebody who was responsible for managing."

So Rocawich is now officially the managing editor. She is also the de facto editor, with all the authority of the editor, "for however long it takes."

With or without titles, the staff of the *Observer*, that "journal of free voices," continues to bring us the best in Texas journalism.

**S**peaking of titles, it's time for an update on how the world turns at *Houston City Magazine*.

Out, fired by owner Francois de Menil on August 2, are publisher Gary Easterly, editor David Crossley, design director Peggy McDaniel, and advertising director Lynette Gannon.

In, as of that date, are publisher Francois de Menil and editor Nathan Fain.

Out, then in, is managing editor Linda Sylvan, who handed in her resignation a week after the firings, then withdrew it.

Out, then in, then out again, is Laura Furman, who quit to protest the killing of a nuclear story in June, then came back as a consultant, then was fired by editor Fain.

the thick of another magazine project." He will be part-owner and publisher of *Texas Sports* magazine, due to hit the newsstands in September 1980. A monthly, the magazine will be "very unusual," promises Easterly, "no scores, no how to string a racquet or swing a golf club—it will celebrate the sports fanatic in all of us, the good and the bad."

Ex-editor Crossley, who replaced ex-ex-editor Tom Curtis last March, has several irons in the fire. Among other projects, he is working on some ideas to do with the space program.

Laura Furman has been in New York recently, putting the finishing touches on her book of short stories, *The Glass House*, which will be published by

**One night a British intelligence officer told me that the Ayatollah Khomeini is an imposter. He said the real Khomeini had three fingers missing from his left hand and that everybody in British intelligence knows that.**

—Marge Crumbaker

De Menil, you may remember, caused a lot of fallout among the staff when he killed a story that was critical of the South Texas Nuclear Project (Media Matters, May, June, 1979.) Incidentally, Crossley shared the byline on that story with Andrew Sansom, although he does not believe that was the reason he was fired.

Fain, who grew up in Nacogdoches, considers himself the "New York influence" at *City*, says a staffer. He came down from New York this summer, where he had been a freelance writer, at ex-editor Crossley's request. "I didn't realize I was hiring my own replacement," says a bemused Crossley.

Fain is no stranger to Houston. For several years he was the *Houston Post's* film and theater critic, and he worked on the old *Houston Journalism Review*. He put in a stint in the early days at KPFT, Houston's public radio station. Opting for discretion over valor, says Fain, "I decided to quit the second time the transmitter was blown up."

As editor, Fain promises "more service pieces" and says that *City's* "graphic excellence will be improved."

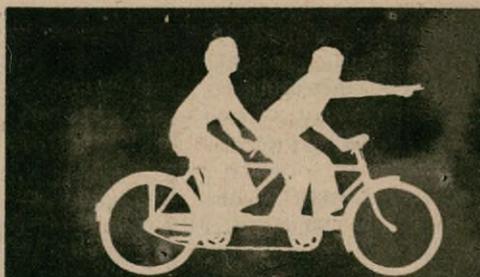
Ex-publisher Easterly is already "in

Viking next year. Two of her stories have been bought by the *New Yorker* and will be published within the next year.

As we go to press, we learn that Francois de Menil, president of de Menil Publications, Inc., owners of *City*, and now publisher of *City*, will have a new title in next month's staff box—editor-in-chief of *City*. As ex-publisher Easterly notes: "It's his money."

**T**he *Dallas Times Herald* is getting ready to open a Houston bureau—finally. It's a move that has been rumored in newspaper circles for at least two years. State editor Jon Senderling and managing editor Will Jarrett came down to talk to some local talent recently for what, at least initially, will be a one-person operation. They have also interviewed prospects from outside the area.

Besides the obvious logic of having their own staffer in the state's largest city, there is another reason for the *Times Herald's* move. The evening daily was bought in 1969 by the Times Mirror Co.,



**daniel boone cycle**  
5318 CRAWFORD  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004  
(713) 526-7011

owner of the Los Angeles Times and myriad other properties. The media conglomerate had sales topping \$1.4 billion last year and is one of the most profitable companies in the nation. In fact, profits are so high, insiders say, the firm is looking for ways to spend money—on the theory that if you don't spend it, Uncle Sam will get it anyway.

The firm has a reputation for improving the papers it buys. Since it took over the Dallas paper, the editorial budget has doubled and the "news hole" has increased by 30 percent. So the Houston outpost is a logical step and follows close on the heels of the paper's creation of a one-person Mexico City bureau.

**I**n this day and age, what replaces the town hall, the forum?" asked Adele Santos. "Clearly, television could."

Santos and James Blue have created a fascinating and innovative TV project where the viewer is an active participant in the making of a documentary film.

*The Invisible City* (see story p. 16) is a series of five programs produced and directed by Santos and Blue, with video and film production by Lynn Corcoran and Tom Sims.

Four of the five segments have already appeared on Channel 8; the final one will air October 1. Material from all five segments will then be edited to create a one-hour documentary film, to be completed by the first of next year.

"What is unique about the project," said Blue, "is the audience participation."

It sounds too good to be true. Public access to TV. The public's airwaves being used by the public. But do minorities, the poor, the under-educated, the transient, the people affected most by this series, watch?

"Amazingly, they did in this case," asserted Santos. "The whole of Carverdale was watching the first segment. Then they get hooked into the process. I think we're hitting a broad spectrum."

Mindful of the advent of cable TV to Houston, I asked Blue whether the public access channels, which cable is obliged to provide, could be used for similar projects.

"They could," he replied, "but nobody would watch. It's got to happen on the channels where people watch."

It may be a long time before viewer-participation documentaries preempt Monday Night Football. But when minorities and the poor tune in to Channel 8, that bastion of the white middle class, something is happening in the Invisible City.

**I**t's bad enough that the Susan B. Anthony dollar—because of its two-bit size—has not been accepted by the public. But even worse, for feminists, has been the opprobrium

heaped on Anthony herself by certain individuals, most notably in letters to the editor.

So it was heartening to see the following letter from Diann Peterson of Minneapolis, which appeared last month in the *Minneapolis Tribune*.

*Well, well, well, we now have a "blue-nosed, bad-tempered, monomania-suffering old maid on a fake silver dollar," as Ernest B. Furgurson kindly pointed out (Tribune, July 9). Too bad he didn't point out that on the \$20 bill we have a man who stole Cherokee Indian lands and then forced them on a death march. Or how about the drunken general whose administration was fraught with corruption, who resides on the \$50 bill?*

*How could Furgurson forget the two blessed forefathers who framed our Constitution with its implicit ideals of freedom and dignity for all, but who enslaved black men, women and children, and who are on our \$1 and \$2 bills? Then look again at Susan B. Anthony, who, while never achieving the worship accorded the aforementioned hypocrites, stayed true to her ideals of freedom and equality for all.*

**M**arge Crumbaker, *Houston Post* gossip columnist, sometimes hides little bombshells among the froth and glitter of the Zum-Zum Gang.

For example, last July (under Super People) she chided the *New York Times* for saying, in a review of *Confession and Avoidance*, that author Leon Jaworski wrote the bestseller to "take shots at his enemies."

Not so, said Crumbaker. "What the *Times* reviewer doesn't know is that, only hours before the book was to roll off the presses, Leon deleted some really strong material which might have been harmful to Richard Nixon and two highly placed Republicans." Apparently this was done over the publishers' strong objections.

The deleted remarks were about "someone who is a (presidential) candidate," claimed Crumbaker, which should narrow down the field somewhat.

Why didn't the media pick up on the story? "I don't know," said Crumbaker. "It would make a fascinating little tale."

When Crumbaker was in England recently, she reported that her dinner partner one night was a British intelligence officer, who offered the intriguing suggestion that the Ayatollah Khomeini is an imposter. "He said the real Khomeini had three fingers missing from his left hand," recalled Crumbaker. "He told me that everybody in British intelligence knows that."

Again, no news organizations picked up the story. Which didn't seem to worry the exuberant Crumbaker. "Wasn't that fun?" she said of the Khomeini story. "God, I loved that!"

So did I.



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# Guilty until proven innocent!

by Barbara Karkabi

In August and September of 1978, four counselors at the Family Connection, an emergency shelter for youth in crisis, were arrested and accused of sexually abusing several children who had stayed at the shelter. Their ordeal lasted almost a full year, before they were found innocent of all charges.

One of the counselors was a 31-year-old woman named Sue Jean Bennett. Bennett's case stands out from the other three because it was her cause that rallied the lesbian community. The male homosexual community was almost totally indifferent to the plight of the three men.

On the afternoon of August 28, 1978 Bennett was moving to a new apartment. She had just taken her roommate to work and had gone home to pack a few remaining belongings.

"I looked out the window and saw several police cars, but didn't think too much about it because they were always in the neighborhood," she says. "But, all of a sudden there they were, knocking at the door and presenting me with a warrant which said I had sexually abused a child at the Connection."

.... "I just felt like I had been on a trip to the sewer and back. They did everything possible to humiliate me."

There were no specifics on the warrant, Bennett adds, and she was never read her rights. In fact, she says, it was months before she knew the state's actual charges against her.

The officers who presented Bennett with the warrant were three Houston police officers from the Juvenile Division, Sexual Exploitation Detail — Officers Ralph Yarborough, Johnny Freeman, and Chuck Mayes.

When Bennett asked Freeman if he had the legal right to search her home without a search warrant she said he replied, "Sit down and shut up or I'll treat you like a man and knock you down."

"I wasn't really frightened," Bennett says. "But I was in a total state of shock. It's very difficult for me to dislike anyone, but I really felt that those officers, especially Freeman, were cold, calculating and unfeeling."

Bennett was dressed in a pair of running shorts and a halter top and had no change of clothes at her apartment. She was never given the opportunity to go back to change her clothes.

"It was terribly humiliating because I had to parade around in front of all those men in the jail," she says, "and besides that it was terribly cold in both the city and county jails."

At the city jail, Mayes questioned Bennett and attempted to get her to confess, even though Bennett says she was still not sure of her crime.

"He kept trying to be friendly and would repeat the statement that he had nothing against homosexuals," she recalls. "I just told him I didn't know what he was talking about. I also told him to look at the child who had made the accusation and examine her record. She was known for distorting the truth."

After searching Bennett's purse, Mayes pulled out a photograph of a woman and commented on how "good-looking" the woman was. She claims he said "I wouldn't mind having a piece of that."

"I just felt like I had been on a trip to

None of the officers involved were able to comment on any allegations made by the four defendants, under their lawyers' instructions.

Officers Yarborough, Freeman and Mayes and the City of Houston are currently being sued by James Bond in a federal civil rights case.

According to the suit, Bond alleges that he was deprived of his privileges and constitutional rights by the officers.

D. Reid Walker, lawyer for the three police officers, said that an answer had been filed denying the charges and stating that Yarborough, Freeman and Mayes had acted in good faith as police officers.

the sewer and back," Bennett recalls. "They did everything possible to humiliate me."

When it became apparent that Bennett would not confess any charge, she was sent for a strip search, booked and placed in a cell with three other women. She was still dressed in her halter top and running shorts.

After three hours in jail, Bennett was allowed her first phone call. She called Jim Horwitz, a lawyer friend, and found out that other friends were trying to raise bail for her.

Later on that evening, a matron

brought warmer clothes to her cell. Bennett says she had to undress and hand her clothes through the bars before she could receive the new clothes. At midnight, she was transferred to the county jail.

Meanwhile, Bennett's friends learned of her arrest when the 6 p.m. news broadcast her photograph across the city and announced that 31-year-old Sue Jean Bennett, a Family Connection counselor, was in jail on a felony charge of sexual abuse of a child.

Within one hour, Bennett's friends began to gather at a house in Montrose. Each person dropped cash on the coffee table and sat down to discuss the arrest.

Bond was set at \$5,000 and \$750 in cash was needed for bail. By 9 p.m. that night The Sue Bennett Fund had been organized to raise bail and legal defense funds. By midnight there was \$750 on the coffee table and at 4 a.m. Bennett was released from the county jail.

"I guess that's what I remember the most out of the whole experience," Bennett says, "It's really hard to get a positive experience out of being in jail but I think I did. The way the lesbian community supported me and came up with those funds really meant a lot to me."

.... "I felt like the jury knew I was a homosexual woman, but it didn't matter to them. There were several women on the jury that didn't shudder at the word 'homosexual'. I think they realized that you would have to look far before you find abuse of a child by a lesbian."

Bennett says that it is hard to know all the motivating forces behind Family Connection's investigation by HPD. She does admit that the Connection's relationship

with HPD has been strained in the past.

"I believed they felt we harbored runaways," she says, "and they often looked askance at us because we were not the usual social workers, and that's true."

The Family Connection is an emergency shelter and residential treatment program that has provided services to more than 2,000 children since its founding in 1970, Bennett says.

It was founded by eight people from the Montrose community who realized the severity of the runaway problem and the dangers for a child on the street.

According to Carl Boaz, director of the Connection, the home was founded on the principle that runaway children could work out their problems with a mediator. Staff members functioned as mediators. They listened to both sides of the argument and encouraged parents and children to try to reach a compromise.

For the first six months, all workers at the home received no pay except for free food which was supplied by donations from local churches. After that, Boaz says, a large donation from a local business made it possible for the staff to receive \$30 a week for their work.

Soon, professional volunteers from the Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences began training the staff in individual, group, family and drug counseling.

.... "None of us had examining trials, and we were indicted before we had a chance. I was treated from the first moment as if I were guilty and would begin paying for it now."

In 1971 the home was licensed as an emergency shelter by the Texas Department of Public Welfare. In 1976, the home received a Child Placing Agency and Foster Group Home License.

Bennett says she feels the police started investigating the Connection because of two separate incidents. One involved a child at the home and another former worker, Frank Salzhandler.

In the spring of 1978, a 15-year-old

girl who had stayed at the home for two months earlier in the year, made some statements about Bennett to a juvenile probation worker.

The girl had been asked to leave because, according to Bennett, who was her counselor, she was extremely disruptive and hostile. The decision to ask her to leave was a staff decision, Bennett says.

In the girl's statement to JP Officer Maggie Hineman, she claimed that Bennett had taken her to gay bars and had given her gay books. Juvenile Judge Criss Cole instructed Hineman to take a formal statement.

Later, in Bennett's trial, Hineman would testify that the girl did not claim any sexual indecency or abuse by Bennett in this statement or in any conversation that Hineman had with her.

Later that year, Boaz was called to juvenile probation and told about the accusations made by the girl. Boaz says that the administrator did not believe the statements but he warned him that "one never knows where something like this might go."

"In July, another administrator named Jack Murray called me and asked what I had done about Bennett and if I still had 'gay' people on the staff," Boaz recalls. "When I told him we did, he said this might be a problem for the Connection."

One week later, Boaz says, juvenile probation caseworkers received a memo telling them not to place children at the Connection. The caseworker who told Boaz said no reason was given, but it was probably because some of the staff were gay.

According to Officer Freeman's testimony during Bennett's trial, police began an investigation of Family Connection after a phone call from Frank Salzhandler, a former employee.

Bennett says that Salzhandler, a transient who claimed to be from New Orleans by way of California, was hired by the Connection because he had experience with runaways.

"Both (counselor) Richard Kellogg and I voted against his hiring, so he was placed on the staff for a probationary period," Bennett says. "But it was a staff decision to let him go after four weeks."

Among other things, Salzhandler made sexual advances to female staff members and when rejected, accused all the women of being lesbians, Bennett says.

After he had been fired by FC, Salzhandler wrote an "expose" of the Connection and took it to the police, social services agencies and the media. He took the story to the *Houston Post* and the University of Houston *Daily Cougar*, but neither of them would pick the story up.

However, Freeman began an investigation of FC and Yarborough re-interviewed the girl who had previously made the statements about Bennett.

After a two-hour interview, the girl gave Yarborough a one-page statement accusing Bennett of sexually abusing her on March 19, 1978, at the FC home.

Later, during Bennett's trial, the girl explained she told the police more the second time because the "police could see there was more to the story." It was the girl's second statement, according to the police, which led to Bennett's first arrest in August.

Bennett says that police went to Boaz and asked for a list of names and addresses of children who had been residents within three months of the girl's stay. Since they did not have a warrant, Boaz says he refused to give them the information.

However, after Bennett's arrest, the Texas Department of Human Resources made FC comply and Boaz gave the police a list of 100 names.

"We felt that the police wanted the kids' names to try and make a bigger case out of the whole thing," Bennett says.

---

**.... "We feel that the real issue involved is whether or not gay people have the right to work counseling children."**

---

"Several of the children called us after they were visited by the police and told us about the tactics they used to try and get them to say things."

Apparently they got enough out of their interviews because on September 11, both Bennett and Richard Kellogg, Bennett's husband, were arrested.

Kellogg recalls that he was at work at the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Association, administering psychological tests to a three-year-old girl.

"There was a knock on the door and one of my colleagues asked me to come out. When I told her to wait she said I'd better come out right now," Kellogg recalls. "When I came out I saw four men who seemed to be about 18 feet tall."

Kellogg was handed a warrant by Officer Ralph Yarborough, for his arrest on three counts of sexual indecency with a minor and one count of sexual abuse of a minor. Kellogg says the police were methodically polite, but he was not read his rights.

"I was in shock," Kellogg recalls. "I didn't recognize any of the names and I told them so. But, I realized that it didn't make any difference. I was being arrested. The process was set in motion."

The officers took Kellogg outside, handcuffed him and put him in their car. After one hour of searching for Bennett, they found her at home.

Bennett says she was fixing lunch when Freeman walked into the room with a drawn gun pointed at her and announced that she was under arrest again.

"My landlady, who I babysit for, saw the police and came over," Bennett recalls. "When Freeman asked who she was, I explained and he said, 'It's really something the types of people that some people allow to take care of their kids.'"

In the car with the officers, Kellogg says that at one point Freeman asked him if two of his friends were lovers.

"I told him that it was none of his business, and he came out with a stream of unbelievable obscenities," Kellogg says. "He also pointed to Sue and said, 'Do you think that just because she's here I'm not going to do something to you?'"

At the City Jail, Kellogg was interviewed by Mayes, whom he calls an "inept bumbler."

"I told him he hadn't read me my rights and so he did. At the end of the speech, there is a part that says you have the right to terminate the interview if you want," Kellogg says. "That's what I did. It's a feeling that you'll do anything to

assert your own dignity."

Later that evening, Kellogg was asked if he was a homosexual. When he said that he was, he was placed in a single cell. Kellogg also remembers being given a physical and the examining physician sent him back to the cell saying, "Don't bring him back unless he's bleeding."

"I didn't mind being alone in the cell because at least I got a good night's sleep," he says. "But apparently they give homosexuals a different color tag which I found out when the other prisoners began to make snide comments."

Kellogg says that the guards and other prisoners were pleasant until they found out what he was in jail for.

"It was altogether a grim experience," he says. "I guess it would have been different if I had been in jail for a traffic violation, but I wasn't. I kept thinking that my life and my career were finished."

Kellogg's bond was set at \$10,000. On the advice of his lawyer, he decided to stay in jail overnight in hopes the bond would be reduced the following morning.

James Moriarty, Kellogg's lawyer, managed to get the bond reduced to \$4,000. Kellogg paid \$450 bail, and eight hours later was taken off a bus, just as it was leaving for the prison farm.

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**.... "I felt all along that this particular group of police were into really into publicity. They seem to live in the gutter and they did it with Channel 2, 11 and 13 right behind them."**

---

Bennett's bond was set at \$10,000 and the Sue Bennett Fund, after deciding not to leave Bennett in jail overnight, raised the necessary bail of \$1,250 and Bennett was released at midnight.

Former Family Connection counselor James Bond was attending classes as a pre-med student at Prairie View A&M when he learned of the arrests of Bennett and Kellogg. It was through a news broadcast that Bond discovered he was also wanted by the police.

Bond set about raising his bond money and returned to Houston to turn himself in. At the city jail Bond was told he was under arrest on a felony charge of sexual abuse of a child. Although his bail was arranged, Bond says that he was placed in a cell for two hours before police released him on bond. Like the others, Bond says his rights were never read to him.

"I was questioned by officers who wanted to know if I was a homosexual," he says. "The whole experience was humiliating and perverse."

On the morning of Tuesday, September 12, former Family Connection staff member John Lucario also went to the Harris County courthouse to give himself up.



He had heard of the arrests of Bennett and Kellogg the evening before. When he learned there was also a warrant for his arrest, Lucario raised the bail money and called his lawyer.

The charges against him were one count of sexual indecency with a minor and one count of sexual abuse of a minor, both of which are felony offenses.

After Lucario turned himself in, he says that Officers Freeman and Yarborough arrived at the courthouse and asked that he be released to their custody. He was taken to the juvenile

media were provided with polaroid pictures of the defendants.

Salzhandler, in an interview on Channel 11 TV, said, "Somebody has to speak out about the prostitution ring at the Family Connection." He claimed that "lesbian staff" of the FC took female children to lesbian bars where they were sold to older lesbians for \$1.

Interestingly enough, after making all these accusations and provoking the original investigation, Salzhandler dropped out of sight and has not been seen since, Bennett says. He never testified at any of the defendants' trials.

While TV news reports devoted extensive coverage to Salzhandler's and the police's version of the story, both the *Houston Post* and the *Houston Chronicle* noted the arrests only briefly in their back pages.

In the meantime, the Family Connection had temporarily closed in early August, 1978, in order to meet new licensing demands, says Boaz.

"We were shocked to hear from a new licensing worker that our license was due to expire on August 23, and it might be too late to avoid interruption of services," Boaz says. "She explained to us that our old worker had failed to provide us with the proper 90-day notice of expiration and had then quit the department."

Boaz says the new worker advised him to close the home and reopen an emergency shelter because that status required keeping less permanent records. So FC closed temporarily on August 24. During the closure they redesigned administrative procedures and remodeled the building in accordance with emergency shelter standards, Boaz says.

However, Boaz says the media jumped on the closing and assumed it was in connection with the arrests.

"When we did open, the media didn't mention the fact until two months later," he says. "And then there was only a small mention of it in the *Chronicle*."

In the meantime, all four defendants were indicted by a grand jury.

"It seemed to me to be a conspiracy from top to bottom," says Bennett. "None of us had examining trials and we were indicted before we had a chance. It was really quite frightening. I was

(continued on page 22)



Ernie Shawver

# Peggy Buckhorn

## Riding Herd on Texas Utilities

by Jill Cropper

Every utility rate-payer in the State of Texas has a friend in Peggy Buchorn. Always wearing the cowboy boots that have become her trademark, she is a familiar sight in the utility hearing rooms of Austin.

Since 1976, she has taught herself enough law to cross-examine witnesses, write and file legal briefs, and decipher the legalese of technical documents.

"I'm not an economist. I'm not a lawyer," she told a Railroad Commission hearing in 1978. "I'm a housewife and a mother of four and a grandmother of three. I'm not paid and I'm the only person here representing the individual

consumer."

As Executive Director of Citizens for Equitable Utilities, she has taken on such Texas utility companies as Houston Lighting and Power, LoVaca Gathering Company, the Texas Railroad Commission, as well as the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Not averse to grabbing headlines for her cause, she recently wrote a bill, introduced in the Legislature, requiring every private utility and public entity sponsoring a nuclear power plant to store the radioactive waste in or under the same building they make their corporate headquarters and principal offices. The

bill didn't pass, but it was widely publicized, and its "educational value" was not lost on Buchorn. Nor was it lost on the utilities that Peggy Buchorn was someone to be reckoned with.

Buchorn was the only representative of individual ratepayers to attend the Texas Railroad Commission hearings on \$1.6 billion in "pass-through" contract overcharges to Texans by LoVaca Gathering Co. and its parent, Coastal States Gas Corp.

She was also able to prove to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that Citizens for Equitable Utilities should be allowed to intervene in matters con-

cerning a license sought to operate the South Texas Nuclear Project (STNP), a plant under construction five miles outside the small town of Wadsworth, 90 miles south of Houston.

Buchorn was born and raised in east Texas, in the small town of Brookeland. ("Mention Brookeland, my daddy will like that," she told *Breakthrough*.)

She moved to Brazoria County in 1954 with her husband, Kenneth, a chemical engineer with Dow Chemical Company. In the sixties, she began her community involvement by working in the Brazoria County juvenile office with first-time offenders.

Today he is chair of the Gulf Coast Region Mental Health and Mental Retardation Foundation. She also served as the Foundation's Treasurer for three years. Of that experience, she says, "I was responsible for the disbursement of millions of dollars every year. I developed some expertise in how to get along in Austin—what to do and how to go about doing it."

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***I'm not an economist. I'm a housewife and a mother of four and a grandmother of three. I'm not paid and I'm the only person here representing the individual consumer.***

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Neighbors and other customers of Jackson Electric in Brazoria County utilized that expertise in 1976, when they became disgruntled over pass-through fuel charges. "None of the utility payers understood the pass-through fuel charge they were paying," Buchorn recalls. "The co-op that we are on had not had a rate increase since 1973, yet our bills had doubled and quadrupled because of the fuel costs."

"Everyone was ready to tar and feather the nearest person who happened to be the manager of the local co-op. I said, 'Look, let's find out some things first. Maybe they—the co-op—are just passing on to us what has been passed on to them.'"

The non-profit Citizens for Equitable Utilities (CEU) was formed soon thereafter, with the goal of making energy and utility industries more responsive to the rights and needs of citizens. Its first battle was against LoVaca Gathering Company and its parent, Coastal States Gas Corporation.

In 1973, the Texas Railroad Commission had allowed LoVaca to effectively increase rates by passing along their higher gas costs, thus voiding earlier gas price contracts still thought to be valid by its client co-ops. Several of these smaller utility companies had already filed suit against LoVaca and Coastal States, and Buchorn's group intervened in the Railroad Commission action on their behalf.

After more than three months of hearings in Austin, the Railroad Commission, in December of 1977, ordered LoVaca and Coastal States to sell natural gas at the lower pre-1973 contract prices and to refund the \$1.6 billion in overcharges to their customers. Coastal States and LoVaca claimed they could not comply without going bankrupt; in March of 1978, the Railroad Commission suspended its order and decided to consider a settlement plan drawn up by Coastal States and LoVaca.

"That was the most cruel hoax that has ever been perpetrated on the citizens of this state by anyone," Buchorn charged. "People have a hard time understanding how the Commission could allow these people to void their contracts. They are never, ever, going to see any bit of that money whatsoever, because the Railroad Commission just

turned 'belly up.'"

The following spring, when the Railroad Commission held its hearing on the Coastal-LoVaca proposed settlement, the final witness was the homemaker from Brazoria. Buchorn called the plan a "now-you-see-it, now-you-don't proposition" in which the utility consumer had no rights. She went on to label it a case of "rape the ratepayers."

"I can't see how this could possibly be in the public interest," she testified. "I'm not paid, and I'm the only person here representing the individual consumer. The only other ones here are the attorneys for the utilities and the private companies."

As the Coastal-LoVaca situation went into a "holding pattern," Buchorn traveled to and from Austin representing ratepayers from all over the state in various cases before the Public Utilities Commission. Then, on January 5, 1979, she was asked by another CEU member to look into the problems of a project in her own back yard—the South Texas Nuclear Project (STNP).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was planning a pre-hearing conference leading to a decision on whether to issue the STNP an operating license. With only one week's notice of the conference, Buchorn promised the CEU member she would be there.

"From what I was able to learn [in one week], I made a statement at the pre-hearing conference that I would be filing a late petition to intervene in the licensing process for the STNP," recalled Buchorn. As her research into the project

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***The Railroad Commission allowed Coastal States and LoVaca to avoid their contracts. The citizens of Texas are never, ever going to see any bit of that money whatsoever, because the Railroad Commission just turned belly up!***

---

deepened, she claimed not all of the project documents were on file at the county courthouse, as required by the NRC.

Buchorn, however, did find a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project. "There were so many things glaringly wrong in the report, that I had no problem getting my contentions against licensing together." She felt the worst discrepancies were portions of the study dealing with violent weather.

After a trip to Washington, D.C. to complete her research, Buchorn for-

mulated nine points on which she based official intervention by CEU in the South Texas Nuclear Project.

Her nine-point argument raised critical questions concerning structural and equipment safety during high wind velocities.

She also pointed out possible dangerous consequences of radioactive pollution to the waters and animals in the area. Finally, she charged that evacuation plans in case of plant failure were inadequate to insure the safety of residents, including school children in the area.

Buchorn hand-delivered her intervention document and her list of allegations to the NRC in February of this year. In May, the NRC delivered its final ruling that CEU did indeed have some viable contentions and should be allowed to intervene in the licensing process. The NRC, however, requested CEU redraft its contentions.

On May 9th, the homemaker from Brazoria walked into a meeting room and sat down at the conference table facing NRC and Houston Lighting and Power staff attorneys. Buchorn's first move

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***The NRC attorneys were telling me I could trust everybody. . . 'Let me tell you something,' I said. 'I wouldn't trust HL&P any farther than I can throw my Brahma bull.'***

---

was to place her tape recorder, tapes and microphone in front of her.

"They were very nervous that I had a tape recorder sitting on my end of the table—out in the open," she recalled. "I took out tapes. I didn't want them to be able to say later on that I had agreed to something that I had not agreed to. I wanted to be sure that I knew who said what, when. If they could get me, in my inexperience, to agree to certain wording, then they could maneuver around (the

don't want to be maneuvered into a point where we will have no public hearing, because the people deserve it. . . They know that there are serious problems. . . They are entitled to a public hearing.

"We know that there are risks to nuclear power and people need to know what these risks are so they can properly evaluate them. That's the reason I'm neither anti-nuclear nor pro-nuclear. Neither is this organization. We represent the utility ratepayers. They are the people who pay the money for the service."

Last month, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the NRC stated that, "it does no disservice for the staff to find that a better record will likely be created if CEU participates in the resolution of such issues."

Buchorn was pleased by that cautiously worded ruling. "There has never been a license request denied by the NRC, regardless of the problems that were found and questions asked," she said. "Because of the Three Mile Island incident, the NRC is being forced to go with the rules and regulations for the first

time."

The ASLB also ordered CEU be allowed to submit questions about the project to HL&P and that HL&P must answer the questions by the end of this year. Both sides will then be permitted to ask additional questions of each other. Finally a public evidentiary hearing will be held in late 1980 or early 1981.

Peggy Buchorn and CEU have been successful in getting the attention not only of government, but also of the industries they have been battling. HL&P would not admit at first that there had been some possible construction errors. Recently, they mailed a lengthy memorandum to the NRC pointing out the voids in the roof of the containment building and outlining the procedure they will use to repair them.

In the beginning, three years ago, Peggy Buchorn knew very little about the utility gas situation or nuclear power or filing legal briefs. In 1976, CEU was a small local group of citizens from Brazoria and Matagorda counties. Now it's a state-wide organization claiming 30,000 members.

Peggy Buchorn last month received a certificate from the Texas Department of Health signifying her successful completion of a training course in radiological monitoring. In Austin, when the Railroad Commission continues its hearings on the Coastal States-LoVaca controversy, Peggy Buchorn will be there again—this time, as an "expert witness."

*Jill Cropper is a freelance writer.*

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# Before you give at the office...

by Christine LeLaurin

Inside the corporate doors of big business, philanthropic fundraising is becoming just that—big business.

Nationwide, there are some 2,300 United Ways. If United Way were a profit-making business, it would rank 195th in the Fortune 500.

United Way "loaned executives" are engineering donation plans with upper management for the funding of human service agencies. But, unlike most business enterprises, there is no pressure from competitors on United Way.

Last year, 86.8 percent of United Way organizations had no competition at any of the companies that allowed them to solicit.

According to researcher David Horton Smith, "The vast majority of American employees and executives involved in deciding to give to charity at their workplace are participating in the equivalent of a Russian election: they can give to the only candidate (the United Way) or none at all."

The concept of United Way began in 1921, when the Community Chest was established at the request of businesses besieged from every direction for charitable donations.

Community Chest consolidated the various charity campaigns into one operation, which became the United Fund in 1951. More agencies were added, and the "fair-share giving guide" was developed. This year the name was changed to United Way.

The Community Chest consolidation created a monopolistic giant in the charity world, fostering disparity in funding and discrimination in deciding which groups would qualify, asserts the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP).

The NCRP is a broad-based coalition of public interest and social action groups and includes organizations as diverse as the National Council of Churches, Common Cause, and the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund. Under NCRP's guidance, local coalitions are organized to examine their communities' philanthropic institutions, particularly foundations, corporate givers and the subject of this story—United Way.

Robert Bothwell, NCRP executive director, claims that the slogan "a gift to the United Way works for all of us" is simply false advertising.

Of major concern to NCRP is the small number of charities funded by United Way and the virtual monopoly United Way has on fundraising in the workplace.

Of the more than five million charitable groups in this country, United Way funds only 37,000.

"United Ways do much good work," admits Bothwell, speaking for the NCRP, but "they definitely do not work for all of us. If you look back at the four or five major social action and public interest movements in this country during the last decade—the civil rights movement, the women's movement, the environment, older Americans, and other ethnic activist movements—you'll find funding of such organizations by and large negligible."

NCRP charges that funding for charities benefitting women and minorities is comparatively lower than that for more "traditional" organizations.

Traditional agencies are also favored year after year for the same or greater amounts of money, at the exclusion of newer, struggling, non-traditional charities.

The United Way traditionally answers by saying that United Ways are open systems, that any charity can apply and if it meets standards, be accepted as a

*The Young Men's Christian Association is now a standard recipient of charitable contributions. But if George Williams, the 22-year-old dry-goods clerk who started the Y.M.C.A. more than a century ago in England, were starting up in America today, he would have great difficulty getting philanthropic funds for his work. According to the National Committee on Responsive Philanthropy, Mr. Williams' venture, like today's women's groups, minority organizations and public interest organizations, would be a "nontraditional donee", too new, too risky and too controversial to get money from traditional charity sources.*

*In addition, his age and occupation, like those of many in today's nontraditional organizations, would effectively make him unable to influence the philanthropic circles of power — mainly the white, middle-aged and successful males who govern corporate and foundation giving.*

—Karen DeWitt  
The New York Times  
June 24, 1979

member agency. These standards require that any agency seeking admission must have been in operation for at least two years and not be severely limited by fiscal indebtedness. In other words, like getting a bank loan, you first have to prove you don't need one.

Houston's United Way, which also serves much of the Texas Gulf Coast area, is no exception to the general rule. Local executive director Frank Cleaver admits that the NCRP charge of monopoly workplace solicitation is "essentially true." He reiterates that United Way grew out of Community Chest, which was established to remedy the situation of separate and numerous fund drives in businesses.

His answer is consistent with the 1976 comment of a Santa Clara, California, United Way executive: "United Way didn't want a monopoly, the employers did."

Although both United Way and the NCRP agree that it is impossible for one umbrella agency to represent all charities, NCRP's Bothwell contends that, because United Way funds so few charities, "it is extraordinarily unfair for United Way to have a virtual monopoly over the most efficient technology for raising money ever devised: on-the-job solicitation of employees."

Last year, in Houston, a dispute arose between the National Association of Letter Carriers and U.S. Postal Service officials over new prohibitions against collecting for charities other than United Way on the workroom floor.

The union letter carriers wanted to collect donations from co-workers for muscular dystrophy and sickle cell anemia, but were prohibited by postal service officials, because it felt that too many charity collections would interfere with work.

Bothwell believes that businesses should allow their employees "a choice of charities to support through the convenient and lucrative method of payroll deduction."

He cites surveys showing that people want this choice, and that given the choice people will give more of their salary dollar. So, Bothwell contends, open workplace solicitation would benefit all charities, not just those currently excluded from United Way.

To demonstrate his point, Bothwell recalls what happened in five of six cities in which United Ways competed with other groups from the Combined Health Agencies Drives (CHADs) which are federations of charities like American Cancer Society and American Heart Association.

"In those five cities, while giving to the health agency drives increased dramatically, giving to the United Way also increased at a rate equal to the national

average for all United Ways. In other words, just as true competition is healthy in the marketplace, so too would it be healthy in the charity community."

Locally United Way funds 55, or less than one fourth, of the approximately 230 charitable organizations in Houston.

"It's all a matter of logistics," explains a Houston United Way volunteer. "There are many worthy agencies, [but] simply not enough money to divert to new agencies."

Qualifying for United Way support is tough in Houston, as it is elsewhere. Thirty-four agencies asked for new funding this year.

Twenty-four of those were ineligible. Some were national in scope, without a local unit, others duplicated services provided by other United Way funded agencies or offered services that could be funded by the public sector.

Of the remaining 10 agencies, four withdrew voluntarily during the initial phases of the admissions process. Three were eventually funded. Only 1.5 new agencies a year are funded, on the average, by 294 of the largest United Way organizations. Last year only one new agency was admitted to Houston's United Way.

Two of the three new local agencies are women's organizations—the Houston Area Women's Center and the Recovery Center.

Existing member agencies serving women received the following support: Rogers St., \$19,643 (an intermediate residential recovery center for alcoholic women offered by Volunteers of America); ENCORE, \$10,000 (a post-mastectomy rehabilitation program offered by YWCA), and Women for Work, \$28,620 (a program to help women decide on and secure optimal employment, operated by Vocational Guidance Services, Inc.).

Although these newly funded programs represent an attempt to meet the needs of women, disparity in funding still exists: Allocations for Girl Scouts (\$385,816) equal half of that for Boy Scouts (\$731,264). Moreover, allocations for Campfire Girls (\$129,100) and Girl Scouts combined (\$514,916) equal not quite three fourths of those earmarked for Boy Scouts alone. The gift to YWCA (\$712,510) still lags slightly behind that of YMCA (\$760,503).

A United Way information sheet on services to women reports that "of the agencies supported by the United Way only two are devoted exclusively or primarily to males. Nine are devoted to the needs of females. All other agencies serve both males and females. In fact," the summary continues, "beneficiary data show that well over half of those served by United Way funded agencies are female."

In fact, the nine exclusively female agencies collectively receive 11.4 percent of the allocations budget of \$15.3 million.

Only three agencies among the 55 members of Houston's United Way are identifiable as minority agencies—the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, Houston Area Urban League and La Clinica de Consulta Familiar. None are among the 10 highest funded agencies. They receive a combined total of \$406,000 or 2.6 percent of the allocations for fiscal year 1979-80.

Madgelean Bush, director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center calls the United Way funding "discriminative," adding "It does not relate to the needs of the low-income agencies. . ."

Pluria Marshall, executive director of Houston's Operation Breadbasket, aired strong objections to both United Way's minority funding practices and restrictions imposed on member agencies. "The United Way is an agency that simply does not give a damn about the minority community . . . most of its money goes to what we call 'safe programs.'"

"The money they give is to recreation programs and social service programs that target the effects of the problem—not the problem. We [Operation Breadbasket] try to eliminate the problem by getting people jobs and business contracts. We put pressure on folks to make them treat all Americans the same."

"That one activity would disqualify us. We would have to be dealing against some of the very people who run the United Way. There are probably several members on the United Way Board who we've either put a picket line up on or a boycott against."

Rev. Ray Martin, general director of the Progressive Amateur Boxing Association (PABA), re-emphasizes what Bush and Marshall say about minority admission to United Way: "I don't think they're just and fair toward black organizations. I don't think they're fair toward minorities or any organization that hasn't traditionally been part of it."

In May, 1975, one local paper reported that a two-year-old conflict between United Way and the Eliza Johnson Center for the Aged had come to a head when the Center rejected what they called a "humiliating" offer of \$11,000, a mere 1.7 percent of their \$645,000 operating budget.

Board members for the center accused United Way of discrimination and of yielding to pressures from the center's commercial competitors in order to drive the center out of business.

United Way claimed the center was overstaffed and wasteful. They denied racial discrimination charges, noting that many blacks receive help through funded agencies and that blacks participated in United Way's decisions about the center.

In 1975, there were reports of clashes between United Way and the Mexican-American community. Mexican-American leaders charged that United Way failed to respond to the needs of their community and suggested a community boycott against contributions to United Way.

State Rep. Ben T. Reyes noted several Mexican-American organizations that had applied to the United Way for membership were turned down—the Chicano Training Center, the Mexican-American Education Council and the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, which United Way now funds on a non-member affiliate basis.

Soon after the announcement of the boycott, Frederico Souflee Jr., executive director of the Chicano Training Center, told the *Post* that Houston's United Way funding was lagging 25 years behind that

HOUSTON'S "FAIR SHARE"—THE TOP 10

MEMBER AGENCY	1978-79 ALLOCATION	1979-80 ALLOCATION	PERCENT OF INCREASE (DECREASE)
1) Neighborhood Center Day Care Association	\$1,229,233	\$1,360,513	10.7
2) DePelchin Faith Home	1,329,100	1,237,448	(6.9)
3) Family Service Center	935,026	1,060,226	13.4
4) YMCA	680,130	760,503	11.8
5) Boy Scouts	651,264	731,264	12.2
6) Sheltering Arms	561,321	722,787	28.8
7) YWCA	636,396	712,510	12.0
8) Center for the Retarded	551,768	579,680	5.0
9) Catholic Charities	476,400	524,040	10.0
10) Visiting Nurse Association	399,360	500,605	25.3

Planned Parenthood leaves fund after bishop calls for boycott

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Planned Parenthood withdrew as an agency of the United Way Friday after the Roman Catholic hierarchy urged a boycott of the fund because some of the money would go to the family planning group. Bishop Thomas Drury had said Catholics should not contribute to the community fund-raising agency because Planned Parenthood — which offers abortion referrals — joined Corpus Christi United Way in June. United Way officials had said the boycott could result in a loss of \$800,000 from their goal of \$2.4 mil-

lion. Planned Parenthood would have received about \$2,500. More than 25,000 Catholic families — about a third of the area's population — live in this midsection of the Texas Gulf coast. The board of South Texas Planned Parenthood of Corpus Christi voted Friday to withdraw membership "so that the position of the Catholic leadership will not injure the many people who receive the valuable services of the United Way agency," said Paula Campbell, board chairman. She said her agency

"will continue to meet the needs of the community by providing multiple family life services." Monsignor William T. Thompson, vicar general of the Coastal Bend Diocese, said Drury "was very pleased with the news" and would urge Catholics to support United Way. This week marks the beginning of the 1979 fund-raising effort by the more than 2,200 United Way campaigns across the country. Last year, they raised a record \$1.3 billion and supported 37,000 local agencies.

of Los Angeles in the area of social services to Mexican Americans. United Way, denying any lack of responsiveness, said it was continuing an extensive study of the needs and quality of services provided by agencies to Mexican Americans. Cleaver, speaking for United Way in Houston, insists that "we've been funding minority agencies for a long time . . . we've had a big push for them in the last five years." He adds that, "what we know about the people we're serving through the agencies today is that we have a higher percentage of blacks being served by Fund agencies and a higher percentage of Mexican Americans being served by Fund agencies." If the claims of unfairness in funding are true, then where does the money go? This year 10 agencies alone will receive 53 percent of the \$15,333,560 budget. Only one of these agencies, The DePelchin Faith Home, had its allocation decreased from last year.

The average increase in funding for the remaining nine agencies is 15.3 percent. Conversely, the highest funded of the three newly accepted applicants (The Houston Area Women's Center's shelter for battered women) will receive \$33,000, or .2 percent of the total pie. Although this amount only covers 25 percent of the program's costs, Director Nikki Van Hightower is not disgruntled over the center's allocation. "United Way really encouraged us to apply," she explains. "We applied for that amount and got it. We have no gripes about the application process." However, as Bothwell of NCRP notes, "With the same [or greater] amounts of money going to the same agencies year after year, it's not surprising that precious few new agencies are admitted." Until recently, United Way in Houston operated without any real competition and only passive dissent. But a rival coalition of charities, the Black United

Fund, is being organized by a predominantly female group of black citizens. It is supported by leaders of minority agencies who feel cut off from United Way funding. "It's still very much in the organizational stages, . . . but the idea is to initiate fundraising programs to support some of the black organizations that aren't being supported by United Way," explains Joan Edwards, Director of Houston's Fair Housing Division and a member of the steering committee for the Black United Fund. Reluctant to make a general statement about United Way's minority funding practices, Edwards states "We're still in the process of gathering statistics and data on just what extent local United Way does fund black organizations." Progress is being made around the country in breaking the solicitation monopoly of United Way. Five state legislatures have passed laws opening up workplace solicitation of state

employees to all charities which receive tax deductible contributions or to diverse charitable fundraising federations. Numerous local governmental units (cities, counties, school districts) have also allowed federations other than United Way to solicit employees and make payroll deductions. While only three major businesses are known to permit most charities to participate in their employee contributions programs, many more businesses have decided to expand their employees' charitable gift options by allowing at least one other charity than United Way to solicit at the workplace. Bothwell would like to see the United Way "confront the facts" and criticisms and try to make the system more flexible and responsive to the constant changes in society. "Emerging social trends having to do with women's groups, ethnic groups, older Americans and social change groups are now part of the Ameri-

(Continued on page 21)

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\*(plōō pur'fikt) *adj.* more than perfect

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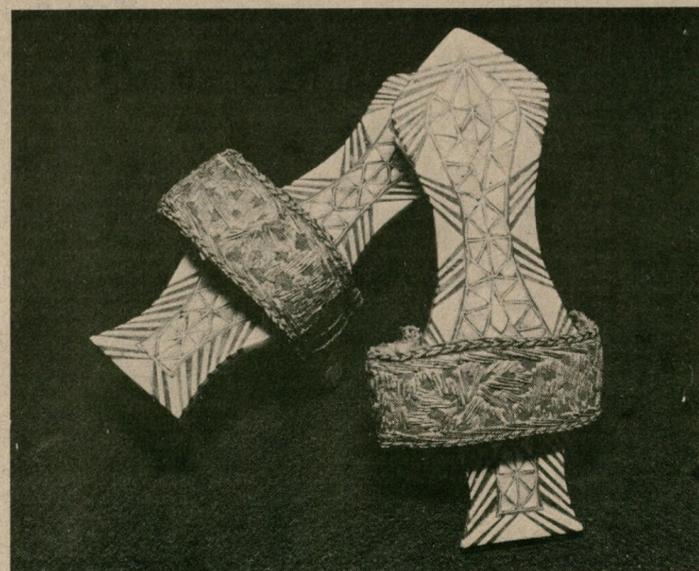
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Clockwise (lower left to lower right): *Qab Qab*, bride's wedding shoes from Syria, late 19th century; *Thob*, a Palestine wedding dress from Bethlehem, introduced in the 19th century; *Yelek*, a coat from Aleppo, Syria, circa 1850; *Jillayeb* from Galilee region Palestine, circa 1860; a Tunisian wedding garment worn under a gold mesh tunic, early 20th century; a *Thob* from upper Egypt, 20th century; *Kirdan*, a Saudi choker, early 20th century.

# Costumes of the Arab World

by Barbara Karkabi



Gold and greens, rich reds, dramatic blacks, those are the colors that abound in the exhibit, *Costumes of the Arab World*, which opened recently at Rice University's Sewell Gallery.

Organized by Sheryl Saunders and Nabila Cronfel, two Arab-Americans who spent months gathering the 80 pieces from collections around the U.S., the exhibit represents costumes from 22 Arab countries.

"Not only is the exhibit unique in Houston, it is a first for the U.S. as well," Saunders says, "There have been no other exhibits that show the variety of traditional Arab costumes."

Saunders and Cronfel, local art consultants, got the idea for the exhibit two years ago when Saunders was compiling a kit documenting Arab culture.

The kit is actually a large box which contains audio-visual material on the Arab world—pamphlets, pictures and instructional materials such as an Arab coffee pot and costumes.

Saunders has compiled six kits and they are currently being used in classroom situations by both the Houston and Spring Branch Independent School Districts.

"I realized then how little documentation there was on the Arab world," Saunders recalls. "The kit was compiled for that reason. But this (exhibit) should be more of an eye-opener. I don't think anybody realizes what they will be seeing. That's why we have a picture of one of the Palestinian dresses on the invitation."

Some of the unusual pieces in the exhibit include a Tunisian wedding dress with ornamental gold pants and a gold mesh tunic and a multi-colored embroidered undergarments, a Palestinian peasant dress with freeform applique designs and antique Bedouin jewelry made of hand-crafted silver.

Also in the exhibit is a pair of the world's first platform shoes, *QabQab*. They are made of wood inlaid with mother-of-pearl mosaics. According to Cronfel, the shoes, popular in Syria, were often used in wedding ceremonies so the bride would stand out in the crowd.

"Most people don't think this type of folk art is a valid art form," Saunders says. "But, we both feel it is. Not only that, it is a dying art form which should be documented and preserved."

One of Saunders' personal favorites in the exhibit is a Syrian coat from Aleppo, a picture of which appears on the cover of the exhibit's catalogue. Made in 1850, Saunders considers the coat to be one of the finest pieces in the exhibit. The fabric's black background is enriched by intricate and colorful embroidery work.

"I can't say I have a personal favorite," Cronfel says, "I'm in love with all of them. I love the Bedouin jewelry and the Palestinian dresses. The typical Bethlehem costume is just beautiful."

The two women started working on the exhibit six months ago when they learned Sewell Gallery would be available.

"The exhibit is entirely funded by contributions from 22 companies in Houston and a substantial grant that came from the Cultural Arts Council of Houston," Saunders added.

"People really loved the idea of the exhibit, and had things to contribute to the exhibit. So many of them had lived in the Middle East."

The bulk of the exhibit is on loan from the Smithsonian Institution, the Santa Fe Museum of International Folk

Art and the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

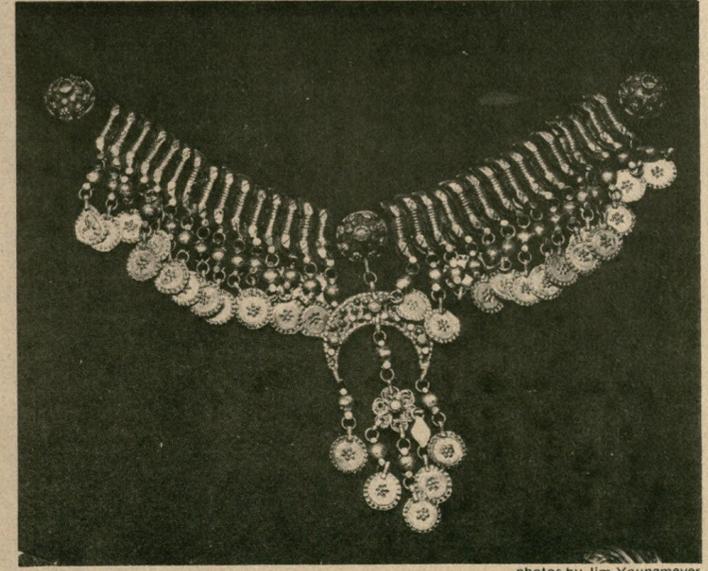
The Santa Fe Museum has one of the largest collections of Palestinian costumes in the world, Cronfel says. The costumes were left to the museum by an American missionary who lived in the Middle East for years.

Cronfel feels that Houston is the logical place to host an exhibit of this type because of its connection with the Middle East.

"Houston has the strong economic ties to the Arab world and a greater understanding of Middle East culture than other parts of the country," Cronfel says. "We really want to inform the American public about Arabic art to show them how rich and varied the culture is."

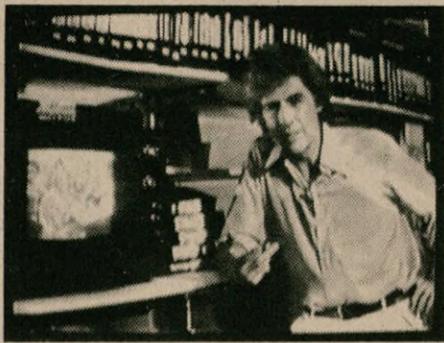
Earlier this year, the two women presented an exhibit of Middle East prints by the 19th century British artist David Roberts; at the First City Bank in downtown Houston.

"We hope both these exhibits will be the springboard for other shows of this type," Saunders says, "And we hope that the response to this exhibit will indicate an interest in Houston."



photos by Jim Youngmeyer

# THE INVISIBLE CITY



**James Blue:** Those are video cassettes. There are almost 180 on these shelves—75 hours of programming. On each one, someone in Houston has shown us or told us about an aspect of the city that is invisible to many of us. I thought that if we could probe through all of this material, finding the pieces and putting them together somehow, we could make the invisible city visible. Now let me show you what I mean. Here is a piece of raw material from one of the cassettes.

**Osci Johnson, Fifth Ward tenant:** So you just can't imagine with 10 or 12 people living in one house.

**Adele Santos:** So how many people live in this house?

**Johnson:** Nine.

**Santos:** Nine of you live in this house?

**Johnson:** Mmm-hmm.

**Santos:** Well, how big is it?

**Johnson:** Two bedrooms.

**Santos:** Where do you sleep?

**Johnson:** On the floor, on couches, on chairs.

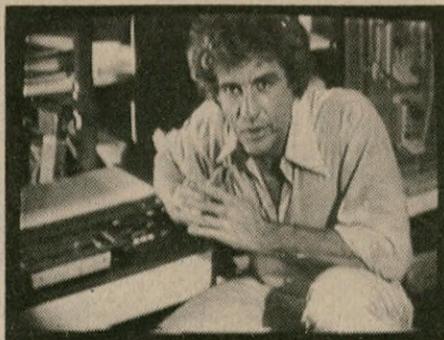
**Blue:** Or, for instance, this one.

**Hispanic female:** No nos han querido rentar una buena casa. (They've not wanted to rent us a good house.)

**Jesse Alaniz, A.C.O.R.N., Second Ward:** This poor lady here. She don't have no bathroom. She lives in a garage and she don't have no restroom. She have no bathtub. And she's a poor lady. And she pay \$17 a week.

**HF:** \$17 dollars a week. No water, no gas, no nothing.

**Alaniz:** It's so bad that there's even people that sleep here in this car. And sometimes she has to feed some of these people.



**Blue:** And now what you've been looking at are just documents—just the raw material—and they don't always tell the whole story. Quite often you have to look at the key issues which underlie the situation. So we asked a number of people who are skilled at looking at the problems of society to watch these tapes with us and to sort out what are the key issues. At the end of this series they will have chosen one issue of primary importance to Houston on which you, the television audience, will have a chance to vote. We're attempting an experiment. We're making a documentary about Houston's housing crisis, but we're not going to present you with a finished product. Instead, we're going to show you roughly edited sequences from the material that we have here. We're asking you to tell us what needs to be add-

ed—what needs to be changed. And then your suggestions, as many as possible, will be incorporated in the following program. And at the end of the series, we will present a documentary we have all made together about a problem which affects all of us. (*Speaking to the advisors*). So this

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is a work session. And what you have to do during this 4-week series is process out the essential questions. What do we have to decide? And what are the consequences of those decisions? Now this all began when Adele Santos came to me and said . . .



**Santos:** I perceive a real crisis that exists here. And a worse crisis, if that is possible, is going to occur unless something's done about it. And the affected people are the low- and moderate-income group, for whom there seems to be a no-win situation. And then I described to him what we'd been doing in my studio at Rice University, where we'd been looking at the facts and the figures. We'd been driving the neighborhoods. The first thing that I discovered was that the problem was endless . . . which astonished me only because this is a new city. How can we have such a large inventory of substandard housing when most of the city is post-1940? So that is where it really all began. We spent a semester looking at the housing problem. We had a lot of facts, information, etc., which we've used to back up this film. So we will be visiting many of these communities in the process of looking at this film. Approximately one half the city lives in these areas. It sounds somewhat alarming and it is. Indeed, there are people on Navigation telling us that people are living in automobiles. They're living nine or 10 to a room. People are living in attics. People are living in garages. People are living in tin sheds without any running water.

**Alaniz:** Yes sir, there's people living in them damned little old tin sheds. The landlords, they rent 'em out and they ain't got no running water or any kind of

services.

**Santos:** The housing authority is accommodating families. At least one family in particular, who have been living in their automobile for three weeks.

**Cindy Rheinhardt, Asst. Director, Houston Housing Authority (H.H.A):** I had a call at my house one night about three weeks ago from a director of a community service agency here in town, and he said, "I'm going crazy, I just found this family and they've got 10 kids. The guy is a skilled carpenter, he can't find a job, he's got tools and everything. Can you put him up in one of the projects somewhere? They've been sleeping in their car for three weeks."

**Santos:** From this, we then moved to a series of people in positions of authority in the city who are telling the facts and figures.

**Ken Austin, Mayor's Office Planning Coordinator:** There are about 190,000 households needing assistance by the standards of the Housing Assistance Plan in the city of Houston. People who make less than, I guess, about +13,500-\$14,000 a year for a household of 3 or 4 people or more. In Houston, that tends to be people who live in the inner city inside the loop. And they tend to be mostly minorities and the elderly.



**Mrs. Willie Shelton, Fidelity home-owner:** I'm scared to use the air conditioner. In June my bill was \$40. July—\$60. August it was \$80. September it was \$125. For one unit! And I know I wasn't using that much electricity. Wasn't nothing I could do but pay it.

**Blue:** You haven't got that kind of money.

**Shelton:** No sir, I had to miss paying somebody else to pay the light bill.

**Austin:** A great many minority households are large. And there is a great shortage of rental units, which, of course, is the need of a low-income group because they can't afford the down payments or the cost of upkeep on it.



**Mrs. Saldana, Denver Harbor tenant:** The main problem is that we don't have no water, no connections to our bathrooms or to our faucets. We have to get the water through the window that he put in. We have just that one faucet outside. We don't have no hot water neither in the bathroom or shower. Our roof, when it rains, it leaks all the water to the floor. The floor is already falling down—the whole house, you know, is falling all to pieces.

**Santos:** How much do you pay for this?

**Saldana:** We pay \$50 a week.

**Santos:** How many of you are there?

**Saldana:** We got eight kids, me and my husband. And we're expecting another, so that'd be 11. So, it's kind of hard. About four years ago, a rat bit my little girl and she was in the hospital at Memorial for about a week. We're here because we can't find housing. If we could find another place, we'd move.



**Joan Edwards, Fair Housing Administrator:** We have a whole file of calls from blacks and Hispanics who tell us they are paying \$70, sometimes \$80 a week, for a unit that, in some cases, we have found later was substandard.

**Minnie Torres, Northside tenant:** The porch broke and I fell down and I had to go to the hospital. He (the landlord) wasn't going to fix the porch. He just tore it down more and left it like that so we could move out.

**Santos:** Why do you think he doesn't fix it up?

**Torres:** He thinks he can get the rent anyway. People are so hard up finding houses—people from Mexico and everywhere. And they just go in like that. They can't find no place else to go, so they just move in like that. That's why they're taking advantage and they don't fix it up. They know that they rent it anyway.



**Maria Martinez, Magnolia resident:** You can see that most of these houses have garages or utility sheds in the back. They don't have any tools or anything in the back. They have nothing but illegal people staying in the back. See it? Right there is the house. \$55 a week for one bedroom. And these people are used to having illegals. They come and they live about 20 people, you know, in one room. Well, when somebody from here goes to look for a house, they expect us to take the same thing. These people have no alternative. They have to live in this

manner. They live in terrible conditions. But I don't want to live like that. Maria-Luisa Urdaneta, advisor: I have a question. Is there housing available? Santos: Very little. Urdaneta: How much of it is racism? Douglas Uzzell, advisor: A big piece of it. Santos: I think this surprised me. I'll be quite honest. I didn't really believe prejudice was quite as heavy as it appears to be. Edwards: It's not getting any better, which makes us so pessimistic. The U of H did a study and their projections for 1990 are that Houston will still be just as segregated as it is now. That means what we're doing isn't doing a bit of good. William McClellan, Director, Housing Authority: We're still struggling to meet the need that existed in the late 50's and early 60's. You know, simply because nothing occurred here for 20 years. And we're playing catch-up, which we'll never do. We probably will build or commit to build this year some 750 new units of new housing. While that doesn't sound like a lot, for us it's a tremendous step forward.



**Roberta Burroughs, City Planning Dept.:** We found that overcrowding in the low- and moderate-income areas is substantially higher than that in other parts of the city. So Houston has a higher overcrowding rate than, say, New York City. And then you've got even higher overcrowding in the low- and moderate-income areas. We discovered that, in those areas, six out of 10 of the housing units are experiencing structural damage.



**Edith Clark, Sunnyside resident:** See these homes in this area, they are not even 30 years old. And they are falling apart. And they are not old enough to be falling apart. I think that when these people built these houses out here, we were ripped off.

**Burroughs:** I'm very afraid that if there is not an accelerated effort to create new housing for low-income people, and to rehabilitate the units in which low-income people now live, I'm very afraid that we're headed for a deplorable situation. A deplorable housing situation.

**Santos:** You know, one of the things that struck me in your report is that a lot of the housing is relatively new. It's post-1940 and yet it's deteriorated.

**Burroughs:** In many instances we are talking about a unit that was built for a low income person. And it was not a unit that was intended to last for a long time. And it was not a unit into which a lot of time and solid materials were placed.

**Carrie Jackson, South Lawn homeowner:** I moved into the house on March 28th of 1947.

**Blue:** You bought the house new?

**Jackson:** Right, I bought the house new. It rains in the den, bathroom, kitchen and

my bedroom. In the bathroom here, it has a hole in the top. We tried to fix it, but it still won't stop raining through here. And I can sit on the stool or take a bath and I have a shower either way I go. I just really don't care. I've just really given up everything.

**Burroughs:** We're talking about nearly half the units. Forty-six percent are experiencing major problems. We're talking about half the population of the city. (1970 census.) And talking about 27% of the land area. If this process is not reversed, I'm very afraid that people will be forced to abandon these units. And we'll have a more severe problem with overcrowding and a more severe problem with the condition of units because the more people that you pile into a unit, the more it's going to deteriorate.

**Santos:** How many abandoned units are there in the city?



**Dave Johnson, Administrator, Housing Code Enforcement:** Today, we have approximately 4,000 on our books. And there are some that we're not even aware that they've been abandoned. Some were abandoned last night. There were fires last night.

**Santos:** What is the rate of abandonment? **Johnson:** If I were asked to give a figure, I would say an average of three to five a day in Houston.

**Santos:** How many units have you pulled down to date?

**Johnson:** To date? We started in '68. And buildings demolished? We've demolished a total of 6,490.

**Santos:** and this year you intend to tear down even more?

**Johnson:** To give you an idea of how we've increased, we've already demolished at least 278 in 1979. And this is what, the seventh month of the year? Last year we demolished 596. That's just too many. We're losing too many structures. Now we would say that of the ones we've demolished, more than 60% of those houses could be saved with an investment of anywhere from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

**Santos:** That's crazy because we can't build housing for that. You know, we can barely build a unit for \$40,000.

**Johnson:** I would say that \$20,000 would renovate almost any single-family dwelling that we've demolished.



**William Simon, advisor:** Before we go on, I'd like to get this on the record. I found that the statistics are depressing, additionally depressing because the comparison is always made to other cities, usually northern cities. But we forget that most northern cities have had almost all of their new construction occurring outside of their city limits. We're talking about a city that's had all its new construction basically within the city limits. So when

we talk about this proportion of this city's housing being substandard, it's really even more dramatic than the comparisons suggest.

**Santos:** We're going to call this film "The Invisible City" because we don't believe that people know what's out there.

**Hazel Patten, Third Ward resident:** They don't. They really don't. And that's a fact. Then you go to Third Ward, Fourth Ward, or Fifth Ward, or Acres Homes. You just don't think you're living in the same place.

*(Shots of Santos and Blue driving through deteriorated areas.)*



**Santos:** This was James and I driving around really for the first time. We covered several hundred square miles and we kept saying the same things—I don't believe it's ever going to end. And, oh my God, it seems to be going on forever.

**Blue:** We kept saying, "My God, my God." *(Rapid succession of shots of deteriorated houses from all sections of the city.)*

**Simon:** These could be pictures describing poverty in rural America.

**Santos:** Isn't it amazing? It's very rural.



**Alaniz:** Like I say, the mayor of this city, he goes gallivanting and jetsetting all over the country, Washington, and what have you, and he's giving the image of this city as the showcase of the nation. But he never tells them what's on the other side of the fence.

**Mary Brown, Director, Houston Urban Bunch:** What most newcomers to Houston see is what has just been developed. One Shell Plaza, the Galleria, Greenway Plaza. They don't know what's up in Fourth Ward.

**Shelton:** They don't know what's in Fifth Ward. They don't never bring them back this way. They always carry them back over there where all the finery is.

*(A cut from the film: Houston by the Chamber of Commerce is shown with the following dialog.)*

**Announcer:** Houston gives its people lots of room to move. And there's a stunning array of neighborhoods to live in. The standard of living is high in Houston, while the cost of living is low. One reason is that local government is efficient and taxes are kept low. There is no state, corporate or personal income tax. It has been said that Houston does not tick, it spins. It spins with people—1,000 new people a week. *(End excerpt.)*

**Louie Welch, President, Houston Chamber of Commerce, former mayor:** We have the greatest potential for personal opportunity and personal freedom in Houston of any place in the world.

**Reporter:** Is it the land of opportunity, say, for people like the ones who live in that slum housing in the Fourth Ward?

**Welch:** Yes it is. And the only limitation is their ambition, their talent and their



desire to get with it. It's tougher for the guy that starts on the bottom; but if he has the education, the desire, motivation and the talent, he can make it in Houston. One of the reasons given by the minority population in Houston, why Houston didn't burn when other cities were burning, why there was no long continued periods of militancy, was the attitude of the black in Houston. Now, if you can't make it in Houston, Texas, you can't make it anywhere because Houston is there. It's yours if you want to conquer it.

*(Cut to old car pulling camper entering Houston—it has a New York license plate.)*  
**Blue:** Where you coming from?



**Dave Page:** New York.

**Blue:** What cha' doing down here? You visiting?

**Page:** No, we came down looking for a job.

**Blue:** How long you been traveling?

**Page:** Just from San Antonio to here, this would be our third day. We came down, it took us four days from New York to San Antonio.

**Blue:** How come you didn't stop in San Antonio?

**Page:** Well they didn't offer us much—the money, the rent was way high. We couldn't afford it. The opportunities are great here. A friend said I could get a good job.



**Edira Page:** I told him let's see if maybe we can get lucky and find a place to rent right now, you know. And we stopped at about six places, and the first place said that every child had to have its own room and they don't have more than three bedrooms. So like, I mean, if every child has to have its own bedroom we have to have a five bedroom place. Then the next one we went to was infested with cockroaches. And if you're downstairs every time it rained, it went right into the apartment. It just flooded you out. And then all the toilets would back up every time it rained. And, I mean, to get anything decent, you'd have to pay \$350 or more a month. And when you're making \$5.00 an hour, by the time what you bring home, it's gonna take almost two paychecks just to get an apartment, and that's without utilities.

**Blue:** What, then, are you going to do

right now? What do you plan?  
**Dave Page:** Oh, we're going to park our camper and sleep in it. And we're going to stay in it until we find a spot we can stay. If we don't have to pay too much. The thing is, I'd like to get an apartment and a job just like that (finger snap) if I can. But if we can't stay . . . we're done. We're sunk.  
**Blue:** So what'll you do?  
**Edria Page:** We don't know. We're hoping we won't have to find out.



**Sandra Adams:** Well, I got down here. I was broke. I didn't have no place to go and I didn't know nobody. We left Freeport because he (her husband) couldn't get no kind of work there. And he got a part-time paint job, but that wasn't paying enough. He couldn't get no regular job, so we came down here to see if we could get a job and stay with some people. But we couldn't find one. We only had enough for one bus fare, so I came by bus to keep from walking in the sun with the baby and my husband hitchhiked.  
**Rubicella Salazar, Traveller's Aid:** I see. Did you have any difficulty finding work?

**Adams:** No, ma'm. He found a job two days after he was here.

**Salazar:** So what has been your most difficult problem?

**Adams:** Getting an apartment.

**Santos:** We have been told repeatedly by everybody in the establishment that in fact there wasn't a housing problem. Why? Because the people coming into Houston are white, affluent, well-educated, young, aggressive, and they can buy the housing that exists. Who is moving to Houston? What kinds of people are coming?



**Skip Kasdorf, Research, Chamber of Commerce:** Generally, the survey data that are available indicate that the immigrants to Houston are disproportionately young singles and young couples, disproportionately well-educated, disproportionately in the white-collar occupations and given their age they have disproportionately good earning prospects.



**Rheinhardt:** There is a misconception in

the city that all of the people moving in, this great influx we've been experiencing over the past several years, are all upper-middle class people. We're finding more and more from our waiting list that poor people are moving into the city because of the vast opportunities here. The people we run across here are recent immigrants and they are certainly low-income.  
**Santos:** Are some of them going back when they find that housing is so bad?



**Felix Fraga, Director, Ripley House:** No. Because I think that they feel if they can't make it in Houston right now they can't make it anywhere else.



**Virginia Curvillier, Director, Traveler's Aid Society:** I suspect we would rather not face some of the problems that this group brings to a city, the lower-economic group. I mean we're going to have more health problems, we're going to need more health facilities at the hospitals, at the public housing, at the welfare, and it's better to say that only those that are middle-income and above are coming into Houston rather than really face up to some of the problems we're going to be looking at very shortly.

**Santos:** (To Sally Rowland, newly arrived in Houston with four children, little money, no job, no place to live.) Why did you come to Houston?

**Rowland:** For the opportunity of employment and better living conditions.

**Santos:** What kinds of places did you find?



**Rowland:** Well, the kind of apartment that I would have like to have had would be so far out of reach and the apartment that I could afford would be something like \$30 to \$35 a week. That would be about \$120 to \$150 a month but the first one that I looked at had only one vacancy and when I looked at it the apartment was flooded. So at my own expense I would have to clean the water, get the water out of there, and I told the manager there was no way in this world I could afford to. You know, I had no money to do that. I had enough to pay the rent and deposit and a little bit for food and that was it.

We have just been from one place to

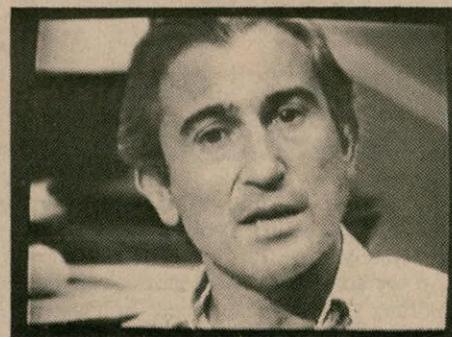
another to another to another. So I went back to the housing authority and she spoke to me and asked me if there were any problems and I told her someplace to stay, desperately. That's what I told her.

For my family and myself I think the main thing I would like to have would be a house, a car, some furniture, a fence around my house, naturally. I would like to have a swimming pool and a color TV. I would like to have all the things that everyone else has—the way they live in America today. I would like to live that way, I really would.

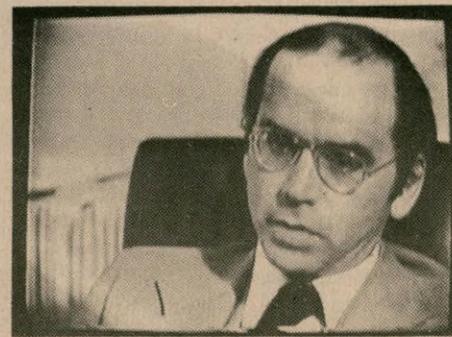
**Santos:** Well, are there lots of people like Sally?

**Wanda Darby, Director, Resident Services, H.H.A.:** I'd say at the present time, today, there are probably 100 people like Sally who have come to Houston to really be able to live. There is so much talk about Houston being a boom town, about being the place to go. Whereas we know that the economic situation is the same all over the U.S. Sometimes I wonder if our pr is not too good for Houston because so many people are coming thinking there will be no more problems.

**Blue:** Suburbia 1979:

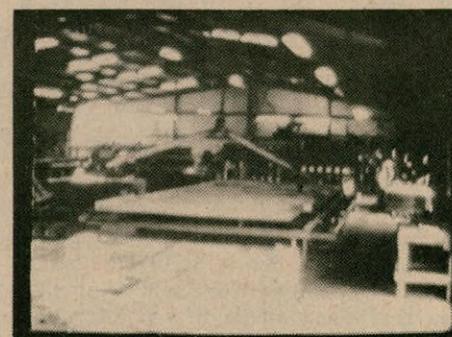


**David Sawyer, Sawyer Development Co.:** The American family still wants to live, if at all possible, in the suburban setting. That is evidenced I think by what you see going on beyond Highway 6 towards Katy, up Highway 6 towards Spencer Road and beyond.



**Michael Inselman, Houston Metro Study:** But the problem is qualifying people for the loans they want to buy a house. They make pretty good money. The wife and husband both work. They'd like to buy a house and every time the cost of a house goes up \$1000 it means they're going to have to earn \$250 to \$300 more a year to qualify for the loan. So it's a little bit scary when you think about what it's going to take in the way of income to buy the very lowest price house, say even by the end of 1979.

The only people who are able to provide a good quality living unit at a low price in a nice subdivision is going to be the volume builder.



**Blue:** How long does it take to make the elements of a house?

**Phil Warnick, plant manager, Fox & Jacobs:** Approximately 45 minutes for the whole house.



**Mac McKinney, manager, Fox & Jacobs:** We build one home right after the other. It's much more efficient. If we delay completing that home one day it costs the person who's going to buy that home.



Our construction time on a home from start of foundation to completion is 45 workdays. We have the work process divided into 45 steps so that each step gets completed on the proper day it's supposed to be completed on.

**Ron Morris, planner, Fox & Jacobs:** The cost of housing in the last 5 years has risen 144%. During that same period the median family income has gone up 51% so what's happened is that housing has risen 3 times as fast as a person's ability to buy that housing. During that period about 200,000 families have dropped out of the housing market, are no longer able to afford a new house.

**Sawyer:** Young America is going to have to accept the townhouse and increasingly the condo as an acceptable home.

**Blue:** Why?

**Sawyer:** Because we can't afford to build housing that even the middle income folks can afford—that is, housing that meets their expectations. Not only because of the enormous growth in costs of land and land development, but things that people really bypass day to day and that is the tremendous increase in what I call the after costs, the costs of operating that home once you've got it.



**Bart Smith, economist:** In 1970, just a decade ago, there was very little difference between the price of housing in the urban fringe and the prices in close. Where the absurd inflation occurred has been in close. Why? People don't want to commute. They would rather live in their home than in their car, stuck bumper-to-bumper on I-45 or the Katy freeway.

**Barry Klein, realtor (speaking of the Sixth Ward):** You can see here the brown lots colored which is where people have gone in, purchased houses, restored them

or rehabilitated them or have those plans. There are about 15 of those. There are also some tracts which have been purchased by people who plan to put in townhouses, four here, 10 there. They'll sell for \$250,000 up.

**Santos:** And what happens to the tenants when these new people purchase?

**Klein:** Well, the tenants have to go. It turns out in a couple of recent cases they've had enough means to purchase their own homes. They've been forced to make that intelligent decision. The others will just have to find new quarters.

**Santos:** There's a real dilemma. There is displacement. On the other hand, if the middle income did not come in, the housing might not be saved.

*(Shots of young man restoring an old house.)*

**Bill McDugald, new owner in Sixth Ward:** These houses are so much better constructed than those being built today. They're hard to work on. It takes a lot longer to fix one of the old ones up but you have a lot more when you're finished.



It's worth it up to a certain point. I wouldn't do as much as I did on this house again ever. But somebody who hadn't done it before might have the energy to do it. I feel really proud of this. I've had this dream of what it looked like 100 years ago when it was built and I think it looks almost like that now and there's something very beautiful about that. It's a very honest house.

**Leonard Duncan, prospective inner city home buyer:** I'd classify myself as a middle income wage earner and I'd think I'd be able to afford a house. But it's almost impossible. Right now money is tight. You can't go to a mortgage company, they just say you don't make enough. Just survival is getting harder and harder now. You know we're not talking about the American dream anymore, it's getting a little beyond that.

**Santos:** So, one day James and I were driving down the street in Montrose and we noted some very strange-looking houses. They were much smaller than anywhere else—a different quality altogether and we wondered where it came from?

**Blue:** And we found exact duplicates elsewhere in the wards. We've put the two shots together here just to give you the idea.

*(Shots of the same house—first deteriorated in the wards, then spruced up, in Montrose.)*

**Blue:** Mr. Steven Rudy of Creative Restorations:



**Santos:** Steve, I believe you're moving buildings from one area to another?

**Steven Rudy:** Yes, we have gone out to used house lots just like a used car lot and we have bought used houses, moved them

onsite. You can buy them anywhere. The cheapest one we bought was \$90,000. Some are old tract houses. It just varies with what day of the week it is—a lot of shot gun houses. Those are the ones with the clapboard. You buy those for \$90 - \$200. We move 'em on site and we upgrade 'em. And then you have got a house where, say, you pay \$5000 for the lot, or excuse me, \$50,000 for the lot, that means you can usually, it's a 10,000 foot lot at \$5 a foot. You can put four houses on it. You can spend a lot of money on renovation. You end up spending \$20,000 if you want. You end up with a \$35,000 investment. You can sell it for \$40,000 to \$45,000, make a reasonable profit and the person made a very good investment, because in Montrose today to buy a one-story house, unrenovated, you can pay \$50,000 to \$75,000.

**Santos:** Steve, where do these houses come from?

**Rudy:** They come from all over. They do come from the ward areas where they are clearing land.

**John Mixon, UH Law Professor:** So long as the present trends are extended, the middle-income groups are going to continually engage in reverse block-busting, are going to move into low-income areas, buy the houses, paint them, put up burglar bars and squeeze out the current low-income occupants. The housing stock for low-income people is going to diminish year by year. Their units are going to be boarded up because of housing code violations, they're going to burn because of the natural fire incidence that occurs in the inner part of the city and their stock is simply going to dwindle. Additional subsidized units are not going to be provided in nearly enough quantity to take care of the existing number of people who need the housing and they're simply going to double or triple up in existing housing stock. That is going to continue until the point is reached where the pressure from those groups is sufficient that they require some sort of governmental response. When that crisis level is reached then the government will come up with a program that looks as if it's going to respond but which probably will not. I think lower income people cannot be accommodated given this governmental structure that we are part of now.

**Blue (to advisors):** What are, in your mind, the principle issues?

**Simon:** Well, some kind of either creative response of an evacuation plan. I mean that quite seriously. If you're listening to what has been said, what they're really saying is that in one of the richest cities in the country, in a very rich country itself, a city built on the most modern of technologies is incapable of adequately housing its own population. A half century ago, with the New Deal, this society committed itself to having no American citizen ill-housed. And here we are a half-century later in the midst of this abundance and affluence, saying we cannot adequately and humanely house our own citizenry? I simply refuse to believe it.



**Stephen Klineburg, Rice U. Chair, Dept. of Sociology:** I think part of what we have to ask is why have these problems been so invisible? Why has this city for so many years been able to pretend that these things weren't happening? Why were we able to have a Chamber of Commerce able to make the kind of state-

ments we heard at the beginning of this program?



**Naomi Lede, T.S.U. Director of Research, Urban Resources Center:** The invisibility of it, perhaps, lies in the indifference that our institutional sectors tend to adopt. These individuals (become) victims of institutional inadequacy. And (these individuals) become totally invisible to the extent that we only know them as a statistic, not as human beings. And once this occurs then the whole city in essence can become invisible by virtue of neglect.



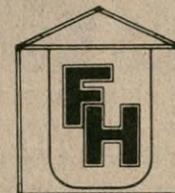
**Blue:** What you're seeing so far is not a finished documentary. We've only got part of this story. Call us or write us. Tell us what you think should be included in the final documentary. Call 523-4682 or write to S.W.A.M.P., 1506½ Branard, Houston TX 77006.

*Special thanks to Juliet Clarke and Karen Spearman for transcribing the 60-minute taped program of The Invisible City.*

## We're working to make Houston a city of neighbors!



If you feel you have received different treatment in any aspect of housing because of your race, sex, national origin or religion, contact the City of Houston's Fair Housing Division at 222-5411.



# Women of Faith sponsor ENERGY CONSERVATION DAY

by Helen Wils

I am one of those people who, until recently, spent very little time thinking about the energy crisis and energy alternatives such as solar, nuclear and geothermal power. As long as my HL&P bill did not tax my budget, and as long as my car, a foreign economy type got good mileage (even with all its California emission control devices intact), I was happy.

It was with mild curiosity that I read about the energy crisis or noted a poll showing that only 54% of the American public believed that our country even had one. This spring, however, I became an avid reader of government, industry, business, and environmental reports on energy. It started when I got involved with Energy Conservation Awareness Day an event planned for September 19 with guest speakers Lola Redford, founder and president of Consumer Action Now, and Dr. John McKetta, a professor of chemical engineering from the University of Texas. What follows is an account of how this grassroots effort of concerned Houston women, came into being.

The idea for the day came one morning when some members of the Council of Jewish Sisterhoods met to discuss future programming plans. The women from the sisterhoods were interested in a seminar on energy. They saw it as an issue affecting future generations that the present generation must deal with. They also saw it as a way to revive the ideals of the Interfaith Workshops, a past ecumenical women's organization. They formed a new group called *Women of Faith*.

Millie Cowen a community leader active in the Jewish Family Service, Temple Emmanuel El and TRIMS, and organizer *par excellence*, helped get together women who would be interested in the project and contacted Shirley Warshaw, Council member and on the board of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and president of Jewish Family Service; Frances Swartsfager, former presi-

dent of Church Women United; Dot Hines, Houston Metropolitan Ministries vice-president; Rita Metyko of Thereseans of Houston and Virginia Nelson, chair of the League of Women Voters' Energy Committee.

The ADL agreed to be a co-sponsor of the yet shapeless event and to help handle the paperwork from our offices. I work with the ADL and I was told the project would be in my sphere, if I wanted it. I agreed.

Women of Faith had its first meeting at the Rothko Chapel last May.

What followed then was a series of "first" meetings. At each meeting, the participants changed. Millie served as program's chair.

"We knew that we wanted the day to be informative and not political, that we wanted to come to the program with open minds and leave with enough information to begin to make intelligent energy decisions," commented Millie. "We also thought we should have some sort of follow-up program so that the day wasn't merely a one shot deal."

Gradually we began to come across names of people who could help. Someone told us about solar expert Andy Sansom of the Texas Energy Extension Service. He volunteered his help and that of the service's director, Barbara Barbera. We heard about Gloria de Leon, a woman in the governor's office who was knowledgeable about residential conservation. We met with people from the Mayor's office and the Future Studies Center at University of Houston Clear Lake. Laura Walton, HL&P's Supervisor for Conservation, was most interested in our concepts and arranged for HL&P to do our printing. We talked to people from Shell and Arco and Lucas Petroleum, Mitchell Energy and Solar International and Panhandle Eastern, and the Crumman Corporation and the League of Women Voters and scores of other companies and agencies. We wrote to the Interfaith Coalition for Energy Conservation in Washington. We collected literature.

Dot Hines kept reminding us that we needed a focal point since we could not possibly hope to cover all there was to

cover in a program that would run from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Finally, we decided that it was most important to convince people that there really was a crisis, that it was not just a figment of the collective imaginations of government and oil industry executives. It was felt the program should *educate* the participants about energy alternatives and conservation measures.

"Furthermore," remarked Millie Cowen, "we're talking about our progress as women into the mainroads of American life. If there are economic slowdowns as a result of energy shortages,

dent of Consumer Action Now, a New York based organization whose purpose is to activate women in energy programming and to promote the use of solar power, appeared on the *Today* show.

"Did you see the *Today* show," Millie asked during our morning telephone discussion. I hadn't. "Lola Redford was on. She mentioned many of the things we've discussed. Maybe she'll come to Houston."

We placed a call to New York. Redford said yes.

With two keynote speakers, we now planned workshops and selected seven



Some of the members of the planning committee for Energy Conservation Day are (front row, l to r) Rita Metyko, Claire O'Hare, and Helen Wils; (back row, l to r) Virginia Nelson, Millie Cowan, and Tina Reyes.

the first people to suffer will be the poor. Minority groups and women make up a large percentage of the poor, and they will bear the brunt of layoffs and job losses."

"They are the ones who least can tolerate increased heating, cooling and fuel costs," added Tina Reyes, the new head of HISD's Bilingual Education program. "But all of our lifestyles, not just those of the poor, are shaped by energy availability; it's a universal issue that touches all people in our society. We can no longer let someone else handle our problems."

We began to meet almost daily. It was a program in which I had become personally involved and a kind of camaraderie developed among planning committee members. We began to hold meetings in Millie's kitchen rather than my office, thinking that it would be a quieter place.

Frances Swartsfager contacted numerous churches before she found one that would be able to house our event. The Christian Women's Fellowship at First Christian Church agreed to help with arrangements. We needed a keynote speaker who would make believers of the assembled audience, and so we started hunting for someone who would be dynamic, erudite, and persuasive. The name of Dr. John McKetta, a chemical engineering professor at the University of Texas kept reappearing. We obtained a copy of one of the speeches he had given and decided to contact him. Accustomed to speaking to government and industry groups, McKetta liked the idea of a women-sponsored program and agreed to join us.

Shortly thereafter, Lola Redford, presi-

"experts" on solar energy, nuclear energy, energy myths and energy education, petro dollars and world economy, residential energy use, natural gas exploration and energy conservation in public buildings.

Keynote speakers, workshops, publicity, and mailings cost money. So began the arduous task of raising the necessary funds. We called corporations, businesses, social service and governmental agencies, church and synagogue groups, foundations, and individuals. We applied for grants with no success.

A few people thought it was a nice thing for us "girls" to do to occupy our spare time. Most were sympathetic and thought that there was a vital need for a program such as ours but could not help finance it. But some were impressed with the program we had put together. They came through.

The weeks of planning, anxiety, and doubt are drawing to a close. I keep saying that I can't wait for the program to be over, that I'm tired of thinking about, reading about, and talking about energy. Yet, I think I'm going to miss working with all of the women who labored so tirelessly for this venture, who went through reams of paper, wrote scores of letters, and made hundreds of phone calls to assure its success. A kind of communal bond has formed from our mutual concern and effort.

Helen Wils, an English instructor on sabbatical from American River College in Sacramento, California, is currently working as Assistant Director of the Anti-Defamation League.



Lola Redford (l), founder and president of Consumer Action Now, and Dr. John McKetta, a professor of engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, will be guest speakers on Energy Conservation Awareness Day, September 19. The event is open to the public and will take place at the First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For information call 627-3490.

Letters

(continued from page 2).

macho myth, the super-male. Others might see someone who believes what they are doing to be right, who keeps on with the struggle to reach that goal. Someone else might see the activist, willing to shake up an organization that is so overwhelmed in getting the form correct that it forgets the purpose it serves (Wayne might kill a lot of people in battle, but could you hear him try and pass it off with that disclaimer of responsibility, "I was only following orders?")

Marion (Michael) Morrison stood for many things I don't accept. But he did stand for them; and paid the price when he was both right and wrong. So while I can't honor what he stood up for, in every case, I can honor the fact that he stood up, and took both the good and the bad. He didn't sit back in his film lot, but talked out for what he believed in.

Robert K. Roulston, Jr.

"Looking forward to more."

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed the issue of *Breakthrough* I picked up at the Galleria! I just moved here from Arkansas, there the feminist paper is called *OURS* and has just started. It is small, but well put together. Am sending a copy of *Breakthrough* to a friend in Little Rock. I'm sure she will enjoy it!

I'm looking forward to more interesting issues! Especially read with interest the stress article ("Houston Women Talk About Stress," April 1979).

Fran Alsbrook

"Thank you, Nikki, for giving the age-beauty issue space."

This is a "fan letter" (to Nikki Van Hightower) from a near-fifty yr. old woman! Thanks so much for helping me think through your column ("On Turning 40, July/August 1979). Thanks for giving the age-beauty issue space. . . Conditioned as we are—we all face the same realities but usually without real thought. It was a great help. I always read your column first and think the whole paper is wonderful! So glad we still have it. I miss you on radio KTRH—even though it was my husband who listened to you. Your objective approach was so influential and helpful to me indirectly. Thanks!

Joyce Terry

"All kinds of doors have opened for me."

A couple of months ago I started working in the Public Relations Department at the Houston Convention Council and one of my jobs is editing and writing the enclosed newsletter.

As you may remember, my degree was in nursing and I never could have gotten this kind of job without being able to show published work as a writer. Because of the start I had with *Breakthrough*, all kinds of doors have opened for me. I wanted you to know that and I wanted to thank you for the help and encouragement you gave me.

Beverly Hebert

United Way

(continued from page 13)

can social fabric," he says in a *New York Times* story.

To this end, a national conference entitled *Fundraising in the Workplace: Exploring Alternatives to United Way* was held this past spring to coincide with the United Way's annual conference. NCRP sponsored the meeting along with more than 40 other organizations ranging from the Gray Panthers to Zero Population Growth.

Conference participants arrived at six recommendations for local committees concerning responsive philanthropy.

1) Make payroll deduction contributions available to all individual charities.

2) Repeal United Way policies which foster a monopoly in workplace solicitation.

3) Organize alternative fundraising federations at the local level to include a wide variety of organizations.

4) When access is denied to legitimate, deserving organizations, boycott the United Way fundraising campaigns.

5) Establish programs by employers for matching of employee gifts for the benefit of all non-profit, tax-exempt organizations which can receive tax deductible gifts.

6) Organize local coalitions for philanthropic change by groups which receive little support from United Ways or other traditional funding institutions. These committees should study the patterns of local philanthropy; evaluate how well local philanthropic funding meets critical needs of the area; report on these matters

to local leaders and to the public, and report periodically to the public on the overall progress or lack of progress of philanthropy in responding to the issues raised in the above studies.

"Responsive Philanthropy officials feel that donations could become a source of support for groups addressing emerging social problems, for individuals with new ideas, for alternative approaches to problems still too new or untested to receive government funding, and for supporting community organizations that have active citizen involvement," writes Karen DeWitt in her *Times* story.

The NCRP recommendations represent the first step toward restructuring organized fundraising in the workplace. The Black United Fund is an alternative for Houston which may spur further change locally. As Bothwell stresses, however, United Ways themselves and the business community can do the most to promote the diversity that makes "private giving beautiful."

*Christine LeLaurin is a recent graduate of the University of St. Thomas, where she studied journalism.*

*The Ford Foundation has just released the first comprehensive study of private foundation and government funding of women's programs. The NCRP has prepared a summary of the Ford study and it is available for \$.88 from NCRP, 810-18th Street, N. W., Suite 408, Washington, D. C. 20006 The Ford study is available from the Ford Foundation, P. O. Box 559, Naugatuk, CN 06770 for \$3.95.*

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### Guilty

(continued from page 9)

treated from the first moment as if I were guilty and I would begin paying for it now."

Bennett says the hardest thing for all four defendants were the legal expenses involved in each case. \$5,000 is the going retainer for a second and third degree felony defense and \$2,500 to \$5,000 extra if cases go to trial.

Bond opted for a county attorney, Kellogg turned to his family for help, and Lucario and Bennett received help from friends.

All of the people involved in the case felt the D.A.'s office would see the absurdity of the charges and drop the whole case, Bennett says.

"It appears to me that the D.A.'s office in this city is completely unethical," Kellogg says. "I was raised under the naive assumption that they play fair, but they don't. They are the District Attorneys and it is their job to prosecute and get an indictment. They don't get promoted unless they get an indictment."

The four defendants waited a long time for the charges against them to be acquitted or dropped—Lucario three months, Bond four, Kellogg six and Bennett nine.

Bennett went through five postponements, was passed around to three prosecutors and spent three weeks on one-hour call under three different visiting judges before actually going to trial.

"The horrifying thing about being under indictment is that it's always with you," Kellogg says. "I kept waking up in the middle of the night and I couldn't go back to sleep. My work performance was awful. I was so humiliated."

During the nine months, the Sue Bennett Fund committee worked to raise the necessary funds for Bennett's defense. The committee included feminists, lesbian feminists, a lawyer, a social worker and three ministers.

"We decided to keep the fund-raising very low-key because of the accusations that were made," Bennett said. "So, we mostly used word-of-mouth."

To date, according to Linda Lovell, the committee's treasurer, the committee has raised \$6,087 from the community and \$2,500 from the Presbyterian church. This was the first time, Lovell says, that the Presbyterian church nationally had given money to fight gay discrimination.

Of the total legal and bail expenses amounting to \$11,029.50, \$4,000 was borrowed from a bank and \$4,326 from individuals. All that remains to be paid of these debts is \$2,441.52.

Much of the money was raised through donations of \$10 and \$25 from individuals, says Lovell. Houston Lesbians, a woman's support organization, gave its entire treasury of \$250, she adds.

"I think the women really rallied to Sue's support," Kellogg says. "I feel very bitter about the fact that the homosexual male community never even called to see if we had a lawyer. And they are supposed to be more organized."

Kellogg says that just one month previously, he had been at a town hall meeting where everybody had talked about "brotherhood."

"But the brotherhood was missing when we needed it most," he says.

Members of the Sue Bennett Fund committee say they had no doubt that the case was of political importance. Linda Lovell and Pat Corrigan, both active members on the committee, say they believe the four counselors were framed.

"We feel that the real issue involved is whether or not gay people have the right to work counseling children," Corrigan says. "We don't know of any other woman social worker that has ever been arrested on a same sex-abuse charge

in Houston."

Lovell and Corrigan and other members of the committee believed it was important to show Houston police that they could not send an innocent person to jail simply because they were gay.

"It's definitely part of the whole homosexual phobia," Bennett says. "People in political office make a big thing out of it. But I still believe that people on the street don't really care who your sex partner is."

Boaz says, "The arrests and related crises disrupted us so thoroughly that we could not submit our application to the state until November 1. After this delay we received pressure from Austin to fire Sue. I protested in writing and asked them to request her firing in writing, which they wouldn't."

"According to Texas Department of Human Resources (TDHR) regulations, a person whose moral character is in question may not work with children in a licensed home. So, we agreed that Sue would not work at the FC until she was exonerated. Then our application was approved and we opened December 15," he continued.

John Lucario was the first defendant to go on trial on December 5, 1978. Lucario was tried in Judge Jimmy James' court on one count of sexual indecency with a minor. This is a third degree felony for which the possible prison term is two to 10 years. The plaintiff, Boy No. 1, had charged that Lucario had fondled his penis through the boy's jeans for approximately two minutes, on the night of May 11th, at the F.C.

Both Lovell and Corrigan of the Bennett Committee sat in on the trials and took notes on the proceedings. According to the two women, earlier in his deposition to the police, the boy had said the incident occurred in June.

When Defense Attorney James Moriarty confronted him with this contradiction in dates, the boy said that he could not remember the exact date and his sentence trailed off with "so the police just told me to . . ."

The boy also stated under oath that two other residents of the Family Connection had interrupted Lucario in his alleged crime. But, defense council proved that one of the residents had a severe asthma attack on that date and was taken to the hospital.

When Carl Boaz was called on the witness stand, he was asked to explain his hiring policies.

Prosecutor Susan Spruce asked Boaz, "If you knew a prospective employee was gay, would you still hire him/her to work with young boys and girls?"

Boaz replied that if the person were well qualified for the job he would hire them regardless of sexual preferences.

After removing the jury from the room, James told Spruce that she could not ask Boaz in the presence of the jury if Lucario was a homosexual. James added that it was not a crime for a person to be a homosexual, and that a person should not be refused a job simply because he was a homosexual.

On December 7, the defense rested its case, after proving numerous contradictions in the boy's story. It took the eight woman-four man jury 45 minutes to determine that Lucario was innocent of the charges.

After the verdict, according to Lovell and Corrigan, the jurors lined up to shake Lucario's hand and wish him well.

On January 15, Lucario went to trial on the second charge, but Boy No. 2, the only witness, failed to appear for the trial. Judge Jimmy James denied a motion for a continuance and the prosecution was forced to request a dismissal of the charge on Lucario.

Bond's trial, which was to begin January 22, was postponed because Boy No. 2 again failed to appear. The D.A.'s office eventually located Boy

No. 2 and administered a polygraph trial. The test indicated the boy had been lying about Lucario's charges.

Assistant D.A. Robert Moens told the *Houston Post* that a "combination of the youth's age and background apparently caused him to lie about his involvement with Lucario."

Boy No. 2 appeared in Bond's trial, which began January 24, and said that his statements against Lucario, Kellogg and Bond were false.

"The boy said the police had forced him into making the accusations," said Kellogg. "They worked him over several hours and told him they wanted to get 'those people.' Apparently the police also told him that they knew he had been 'doing things' with the FC counselors."

The boy, who was the only witness against Kellogg, also said, "Richard Kellogg never abused me in any way," according to Lovell and Corrigan's notes.

Bond's trial was postponed until the following week. At that time, Assistant D.A. Moens was called to the stand as a witness. Under oath, Moens admitted that he and some other members of the D.A.'s office knew the statements against Bond, Kellogg and Lucario were almost totally false.

The eight woman-four man jury found Bond innocent of the charges of sexual abuse of a minor and Bond went free.

Richard Kellogg went to trial on January 18. The plaintiff, Boy No. 2, failed to appear and Kellogg's trial was postponed until March 5.

When the trial did begin, Kellogg says that Prosecutor Sue Krump tried to make a deal. Krump offered Kellogg a plea bargaining deal. If Kellogg would plead guilty to a lesser charge, the state would go easy on him, Krump said.

Kellogg refused because, as he says, "I hadn't done anything wrong." The prosecution finally requested that the charges against Kellogg be dropped and the case was dismissed.

On May 14, Sue Bennett finally went to trial on one charge of sexual abuse of a child. According to all observers, prosecutor Veronica Morgan relied solely on the story told by a 16-year-old girl. (She was 14 at the time of the alleged incident.)

The girl testified in what Bennett terms was a "flat, emotionless voice." She maintained that on March 19, 1978, she was a resident of Family Connection and that she was with Bennett on and off from 8 a.m. until after midnight.

According to notes taken by Lovell and Corrigan, she first accused Bennett of fondling her breasts and kissing her on the lips at noon on "hippie hill" in Hermann Park. Next she accused Bennett of having deviate sexual intercourse with her in the FC after Bennett came to work for the midnight to 8 a.m. shift.

"She didn't look at me once during the whole trial," Bennett recalls. "And that was hard to do because I purposely stared at her the whole time. I wanted to see where the girl that I had related to so well the year before had gone to."

Bennett says that although the girl was asked to leave the Connection, and was the most estranged 14-year-old girl she had ever seen, there was a strong bond between the two.

"I feel really sorry for the girl. She was used so terribly by the police and I believe that the person who will suffer the most from the whole trial will be her," Bennett says. "Everybody who had cared for her in the last five years was getting up and saying that she was not a truth-teller."

Bennett's lawyer, Stuart Kinard, asked the girl to explain why she did not resist Bennett. She said it was not in her nature to fight, she had nowhere else to live and that, never having had a gay sexual experience, she was curious.

Kinard produced 10 witnesses who testified that one or more of the reasons were not true. Eight of them had lived

or worked with the girl. Five witnesses, including the girl's foster mother, testified they would not expect the girl to tell the truth under oath.

"To me that was the most emotional part of the trial," Bennett recalls. "Her foster mother said she loved her, but that was the way she was. I think several people on the jury were very affected by the incidents."

Another dramatic moment occurred, according to Bennett, when Kinard asked the girl if she had written a letter to an FC counselor apologizing for all the trouble she had caused. The letter had apparently been written after the girl made her allegations to the juvenile division and the police.

The girl denied writing any letter. When Kinard produced the letter, written and signed in her own hand, she read it tearfully to the jury. Bennett says that this was the only time the girl showed any sign of emotion in her whole testimony.

In the letter, Lovell and Corrigan note, the girl said, "they made me do it," referring to the police and her statement against Bennett, and "I can't do anything about it now."

When Morgan asked the girl to explain that first sentence, she could not, but she said the police did not force her. The girl said she was "confused" now, but at the time she wrote those sentences, she "was mad at them (the police)."

The final witness that Kinard produced was the girl's foster mother, Mrs. Thompson. The FC staff maintained that the girl had left the home for the Thompson foster home early in March.

Mrs. Thompson testified that on the date of the alleged incident, the girl had spent the night at home in Barker, Texas, some 20 miles from Houston and could not possibly have been at FC. Thompson said she remembered the date specifically because it was the date of her own daughter's death.

Morgan apparently made no attempt to verify the details of the girl's statements and produced no witness to vouch for her credibility. The only motive Morgan suggested was that Bennett was possibly gay, say Corrigan and Lovell.

"In a recent issue of *Youth Alternative* magazine," Bennett says, "Morgan told the interviewer that if she had been able to put me on the stand she would have shown the jury what my 'character' was like."

In his closing statements, Bennett's attorney Kinard asked the jury to weigh the evidence without prejudice and beyond a reasonable doubt. After a three-day trial, the jury acquitted Bennett in 20 minutes.

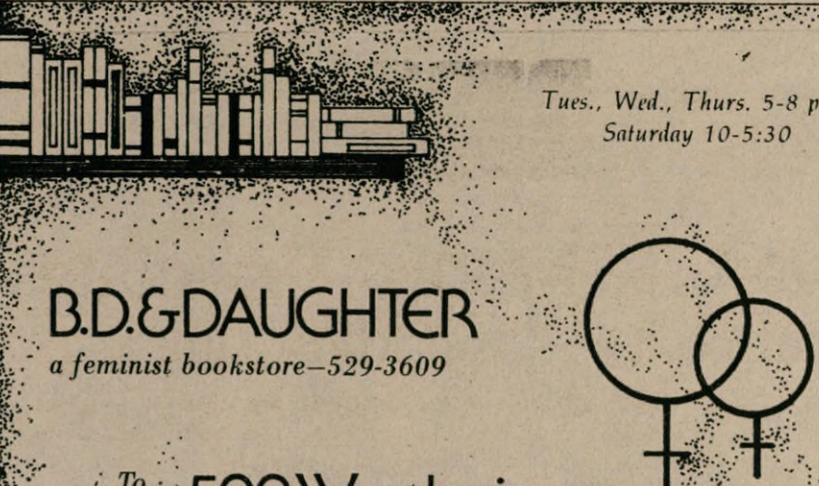
"I felt like the jury knew I was a homosexual woman but it didn't matter to them," Bennett says. "There were several women on the jury that didn't shudder at all at the word 'homosexual.' I think they realized that you would have to look far before you find abuse of a child by a lesbian."

Bennett says that she came out of the trial feeling hopeful about the possibilities of educating the public to the realities of homosexual life.

"The jury was a plus thing for me. I also came out of the experience with strong feelings that it is important for gay people to realize that we are subjected to being dragged off to jail and that is a real danger for us," Bennett says. "I never realized that someone could be arrested purely based on the accusation of being homosexual."

Both Kellogg and Bennett say that if the officers indeed had the welfare of the children in mind, they would never have forced them onto the witness stand.

"Those police officers forced the children to get on the stand and portray themselves as prostitutes," Kellogg says.



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## Commedienne Robin Tyler

by Claire Noonan

In early 1978, Robin Tyler and partner Patti Harrison were in the last year of a three-year contract with ABC-TV. The network was spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on several pilots, trying to transform the feisty feminist comedy team into a cute, all-female version of Donnie and Marie.

Tyler still lives in Hollywood and works regularly at the Comedy Store, but she is no longer with ABC. Dropping off the path toward commercial success on network television was an important change for Tyler. Like many comics, Tyler's material is based on her experience, but her lesbianism was off-limits in the eyes of the established media. "I was not allowed to talk about my own life. For a comic that's like being a

pianist and not being allowed to touch the keys," she says. "Once I decided to come out, I had a ton of new material."

Tyler's abundance of new material, from raucous personal anecdotes to sophisticated political insights, is smoothly presented on her first solo album, *Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Groom* (Olivia Records). Among the many outrageous incidents in Tyler's life is her unusual introduction to show business: "When I was 19, I was arrested in New York for being a female impersonator. They arrested 44 guys and me. The guys were all saying 'She's a girl, she's a girl!' and the cops were saying, 'That's what you all say.' They wouldn't send me in to be examined by a man, in case I was a woman, and they wouldn't send me

in to be examined by a woman in case I was a man, because they could get sued. So they allowed me one phone call—and you know who I called? *The New York Post*."

In the early days of her partnership with Patti Harrison, they braved public derision to publicize feminist causes. In 1970, they invaded the Rams-Raiders game in front of 65,000 people, demanding more sports scholarships for women. They brought the only anti-war USO show into Vietnam by hiding their feminist politics behind mini-skirts and cutesy tunes when they interviewed for the USO. They were booed off stage for kissing in front of 2,000 GI's, saying "Love is never having to say you're sorry."

They invaded I. Magnin's men-only room at Christmas time, dressed as the Good Fairy and Santa Claus, singing "Hark, the Herald Angels sing, women's liberation is the only thing; Peace on earth and mercy mild, day care centers for every child."

Tyler makes no apologies about her political commitment: "The women's movement has invented a new word—assertive. If you're assertive you take your own power. But if you're aggressive, you take power over someone. I'm aggressive because I plan to help take power back from the people who took power from me."

With that goal clearly stated, she says she would like to become president of a major TV network. "Then I would ban all commercials that make women look like imbeciles. That would mean 24 hours of uninterrupted programming."

For Tyler, comedy is a political weapon, something you turn around so you can laugh at the ludicrousness of the establishment that's oppressing you. Casting light on that truth can make people laugh.

To prove her point, Tyler thinks that the Democrats and Republicans should change their national emblem to a prophylactic. "It stands for inflation, halts production, protects a bunch of pricks, and gives a false sense of security when one is being screwed."

Tyler mocks the humor of the macho culture that gave us such anti-female

material as "Take my wife, please" and all those mother-in-law jokes. She advises the men, "If anyone gets insecure, just do a crotch check. It's still there."

Her well-placed one-liners demolish such targets as Anita Bryant ("who is to Christianity what paint-by-numbers is to art") and those right-to-lifers ("You have to agree with them. . . if you don't, they'll kill you."). And she puts her audience on notice: "I'd like to say that if I offended anyone, you needed it."

Though Tyler's politics are bold and confrontative, her delivery and style are professionally polished. She is hopeful that her album and her recent appearances on cable TV will reach an audience beyond the lesbian and feminist communities. "I think laughter transcends barriers," she says, "and I hope it will help transcend the barriers of who we are."

*Off the Wall Productions* will be presenting Robin Tyler in concert, Friday, October 5 at Agnes Arnold Auditorium, University of Houston/Main Campus at 8 p.m. The performance will be interpreted in American sign language and the auditorium is wheelchair accessible.

Also appearing will be Houston artist and singer Lee McCormick.

To complete a weekend of women's culture, *Off the Wall Productions* will also be presenting singer/songwriter Therese Edell (*From Women's Faces*) and Betsy Lippitt in concert on Sunday, October 7 at Fitzgerald's at 8 p.m. Also appearing will be Houston singer Rawslyn Ruffin.

Single tickets for both performances are available at BD & Daughter, The Bookstore, Wilde 'N' Stein, and at the University of Houston Ticket Center (Tyler only). The tickets are also available as part of the UH Fall Series package.

Tyler will be at BD & Daughter and Wilde 'N' Stein (both at 520 Westheimer) on Thursday, October 4 at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

There will also be a sound workshop on Monday, October 9 at Fitzgerald's.

For more information on these events call 524-0342.

Claire Noonan is with Off the Wall Productions.

## The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

by Sharman Petrie

*Fall into the ocean  
We all come from the Goddess  
And to her we shall return  
Like a drop of rain.*

As recording artist Therese Edell said, "This is not America. It's paradise. It's Womyn's land."

If you've ever dreamed of total womyn's space, the annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, held every new moon in August, is the place to go. Located on 200 acres of wooded farmland seven miles outside of the small town Hesperia, Michigan, it is the only all womyn's music festival of its kind.

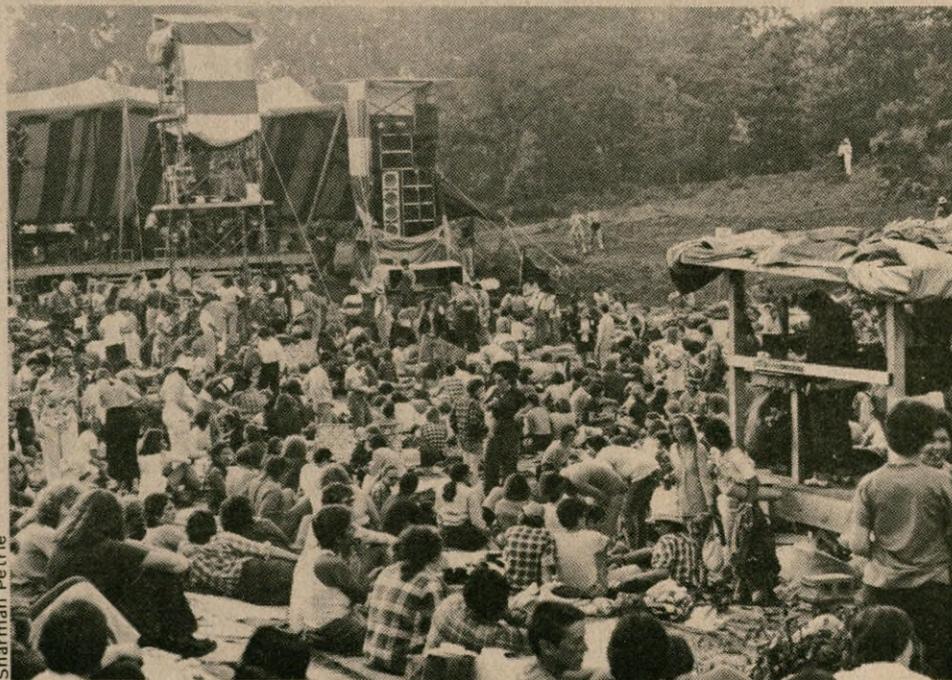
Close to 7000 womyn attended the Fourth Annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. The festival provided excellent music throughout each day from obscure to acclaimed performers that included Holly Near, Theresa Trull and Terry Garthwait. There were also numerous workshops on topics ranging from sound engineering to karate. Merchants and craftswomyn also came from coast to

coast to sell their goods.

As a first time viewer, I was in awe of the warmth, sharing, enthusiasm and smooth sailing that prevailed throughout the entire four days of the festival. Imagine an environment free of violence and crime—no thefts (I never worried about leaving my belongings unattended, including about \$800 worth of camera gear.). Also, all womyn shared the work load that ranged from sound and lighting to plumbing, as well as the conventional cooking and clean up.

The womyn that attended the MWMF felt freed from everyday inhibitions that they live with in a male society. Many wore little or loose clothing, and lesbian couples openly expressed their affection for each other. Not even male children were allowed in the area as this was totally a womyn's space—a womyn's experience.

There was an excitement in the cool crisp Michigan air and the energy spread to the performers. I have never seen Holly Near give such an electrifying perform-



ance. The musical themes reinforced the bonds that many womyn share—political struggles, violence against womyn, and feelings of warmth and love that womyn can have through the positive energy that we project among ourselves.

I will never forget my first images of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival as they are very dear to me and have given an added strength and purpose towards a better life for myself and all womyn. I'll be going next year and

every year that this event is held, if for no other reason than to recharge on this high energy output that 7000 womyn working harmoniously together can give.

Further information about the festival may be obtained by writing We Want the Music Collective, 1501 Lyons, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858.

Sharman Petrie is a freelance photographer and this is her first published story.

# Network

Don't miss this opportunity to share your ideas about communications issues with other radio and television consumers, local broadcasters, advertisers and members of community groups when the FCC's Consumer Assistance office comes to Houston on September 26. The *Public Participation Workshop* is scheduled to take place at the Marriott Astrodome, 2100 S. Braeswood. The one-day program is designed to encourage increased public participation in the FCC's rulemaking proceedings. FCC Commissioners and staff will answer questions and give guidance during the workshops. Registration is limited to 150 persons on a first come basis. To register, contact Houston FCC representatives Martha Williford or Angelmira Rodriguez at 226-5624.

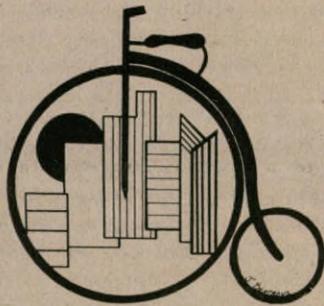


Did you know that the City of Houston, with the third largest amount of incorporated land mass in the nation now ranks 140th in park acreage, with only 6300 acres of park land. (Comparably, Dallas has 27,000 acres of park land.) *The Park People* a group of citizens working to increase the amount of park and open space in Houston/Harris County invites you or your organization to become a member and to take part in their programs. Call 228-0037 for membership information and make reservations for a canoe trip up and down Buffalo Bayou on October 20. View the arboretum grounds from a new vantage point. Bring a picnic lunch and stay for the Steering Committee meeting.

Raffle: win a trip for 2 to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. \$1.00 per ticket (no limit) 3 days and 4 nights at the Pacific coast resort, all air transportation and hotel paid. Drawing September 27. Tickets available at B. D. and Daughter, The Bookstore, House of Coleman, House of Coffee Beans, and Wilde 'n' Stein. Or order by mail from: The Sue Bennett Fund, 1330 W. Pierce, Houston, 77019. Please enclose SASE with your mail order. 527-8712 for more info.

To promote the use of the bicycle and to further the work of the non-profit group, Two Wheel Transit Authority, the TWTA will sponsor the Seventh Annual *Houston Moonlight Bicycle Ramble*. The Ramble is a leisurely paced two-hour bicycle ride around Houston. All cyclists are invited to participate. This is not a race.

Last year the Ramble attracted 1600 registrants. The Ramble this year will be on Sunday morning, October 7 at 2 a.m. Registration will begin 11 p.m. Saturday night, October 6, near the zoo entrance at Hermann Park. A variety of entertainment will precede the ride. The two-hour ride will end back at the park. Ride marshals will mark the route and sag wagons and a first aid crew will be available along the route if they are needed. There is a \$1.50 registration fee.



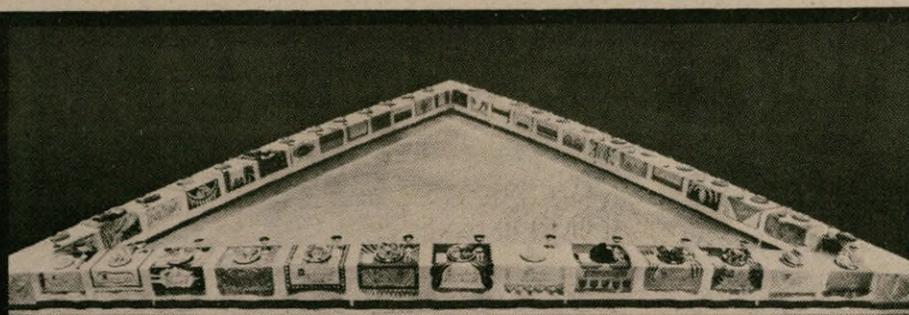
WEAL, the Women's Equity Action League, has started a new program for the fall meetings. On the 4th Thursday before each business meeting, an attorney will be available to answer questions and provide information about legal services in Houston. The next scheduled meeting is on September 27 at 7 p.m. at 4600 Main (upsatirs).



Lupus is a mysterious disease affecting over one million Americans, mainly women (80-90%), frequently of childbearing years. Many Lupus victims have been misdiagnosed as either neurotic or psychotic. Many women with lupus have been put in mental institutions because early detection is extremely difficult. National Lupus Week is September 16-22 and the Texas Lupus Erythematosus Society is anxious to promote an awareness of this disease and foster a greater understanding of the society's goals. To help achieve these ends, they are sponsoring the First Annual Texas Lupus Banquet Saturday, September

22 at the Whitehall Hotel, 1500 Jefferson, with cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a guest speaker. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. For reservations call 477-2411 or 449-1259 or write Texas Lupus Erythematosus Society, P. O. Box 33158, Houston, Texas 77033. Look for a story on lupus in an upcoming issue of *Breakthrough*.

Training sessions for Crisis Hotline Volunteers will be offered Monday through Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. during September. Crisis Hotline needs more volunteers to handle the 60,000 calls it receives each year. Volunteers are from all walks of life and all ages and need to be caring, non-judgemental and have the ability to listen. Training sessions will include simulated phone calls on topics such as family conflicts, suicide, rape and spouse abuse and drug problems. Volunteers work four hours per week at the 24-hour crisis center. To request an application or more information, call 228-1505. If the line is busy, keep trying. By increasing the number of volunteers, Crisis Hotline will be able to avoid the busy signal and handle more callers.



## Guess who's coming to Houston?

*Breakthrough* reported in June on artist Judy Chicago's monumental exhibition, *The Dinner Party*, which symbolizes the history of women in Western culture. At that time a Houston arts group, TACO, was trying to find a setting for the exhibition in the Houston area.

"We've been working since February to find a way to bring *The Dinner Party* here," said TACO representative Mary Ross Taylor. "We've had bad news and we've had no news, but we've got good news now.

"No contracts have been signed," Taylor added, "so this is strictly an informal progress report. But it appears that *The Dinner Party* will be shown in Houston by the University of Houston at Clear Lake City, thanks to the initiative of Dean Calvin Cannon and the support of Chancellor Alfred Neumann, whose daughter is feminist artist Kiki Neumann."

Dean Cannon called TACO after hearing about *The Dinner Party* from women at Clear Lake and reading about it in *Breakthrough*. His meeting with Judy Chicago and Diane Gelon on the west coast went extremely well, and it is hoped a contract will make the arrangements formal very soon.

Tentative plans call for the show to be housed at the Arena Theater on the Clear Lake campus. If the show opens March 5 as planned, it will be a featured event of the 1980 Houston Festival (Main Street). "There will be lots of help needed from the Houston community," said Taylor. "In addition to volunteers to work on installation and to staff the exhibition, we'll be needing money—about \$40,000—to defray the costs of shipping and showing the large and fragile exhibition.

"If the plans to bring the show work out, we'll move on to organizing a fund drive," Taylor told *Breakthrough*. The effort will probably be coordinated by the UH-CLC, TACO, and Houston Festival. Readers who would like to take part in this project can volunteer by writing to TACO at 4601 University Oaks, Houston, 77004, or by calling 527-8522 between 10 and 6 on weekdays.

*Three Days for Women Only* — Three Saturday workshops are planned by the Family Service Center: *Assertion Skills* on September 15, *Women and Stress* on November 3, and *Women and Management* on December 1. Pre-registration is required. To register or for a free brochure or more information call the Family Service Center at 524-3881. Tuition for each day is \$25.00.

The Greater Houston Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners will conduct a workshop *Women: Get down to business*, on Thursday, September 27 at the Summit Club. Marsha Elefant will head the workshop which will include an in-depth study of personal business and financial problems as they affect all business-people with special emphasis on women's problems in these areas. (Cocktails at 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the program at 7:30 p.m.) Reservations must be made by Wednesday noon, September 26, with Betsy Flack, BFBC, 2640 Fountainview, Ste. 106, Houston, TX 77057, or call 977-6710. Price \$15 member; \$30 non-members.



To commemorate the Conferencia Plastica Chicana, a Chicano/Latino visual arts exhibition will be held in Austin's Galeria Tonantzin (715 East 1st Street) from September 14 through October 12. The exhibit will feature the works of Chicano/Latino artists as well as artists from Mexico and will reflect the visual artist's deep-rooted expressions of her or his culture, lifestyle and ideology. A total of 33 workshops will be led by some recognized artists such as: Raquel Tibol, art historian and author of *Frida Khalo's* biography; Mario Orozco Rivera, Mexican muralist; Amado Maurilio Pena, well known Chicano serigrapher; Carmen Lomas Garza, well known for her etchings and lithographs; and Leo Tanguma, recognized as one of the first Chicano muralists. Chicano filmmakers will be showing films and conducting workshops. Adan Medrano, coordinator of the Chicano film festival, Jesus Trevino and Susana Racho recognized Chicano filmmakers will be leading the workshops. For further information, contact the Centro Cultural de LUCha, at 512/478-6532.



Dr. Oonagh McDonald (second from left), one of 19 women Members of Parliament and a Labor Party spokesperson on economic and financial issues and women's rights, met recently with area political leaders (l to r): Billie Carr, Democratic National Committeewoman; Joyce Cragg, past chair of the Harris County Women's Political Caucus (HCWPC); and Benegene Kring (far right), the new HCWPC chair.

Dr. McDonald has written about the women's movement in the U. S. for British journals. She expressed a special interest in learning more about the role of women in politics, and the status of women employed in industry, government and labor unions.

The Institute of International Education arranged her Houston visit and asked Breakthrough to plan her meetings with area women's rights activists.

While in Houston, Dr. McDonald addressed members of the HCWPC, met with leaders of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Harris County Democrats, and talked with Sally Carlson, a spokeswoman for the 60 women — the Cleaning Crew at Plant B — fired by the Dow Chemical Company in Brazosport.

Dr. McDonald and her husband, Richard Whitehouse, met socially with other area feminists. They attended Nikki Van Hightower's 40th birthday party and she caught ADD-LIB, the all women's jazz group, during a summer engagement.

WIRES, The Women's Information Referral and Exchange Service, has a new address (6905 Bertner, Room E435) and a new phone number (792-4664) after October 1. WIRES has been an on-going program of Women in Action. It was established to develop an information center to serve the needs of all women and to serve as a clearinghouse for referrals and information of special interest to women, including location of health agencies, women's organizations and housing. The current number is 527-0718.

All woman jazz band — ADD LIB — will play a concert on behalf of the Family Connection and The Sue Bennett Fund on Thursday, September 27 at 8 p.m. at FITZGERALD'S in the Heights, 2706 White Oak at Studewood. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at B. D. & Daughter, The Bookstore, House of Coleman, House of Coffee Beans, and Wilde 'n' Stein. Or order by mail from: The Sue Bennett Fund, 1330 W. Pierce, Houston 77019. Please enclose SASE with mail order. A raffle drawing will be held at the concert. Phone 527-8712 for more info.

Women Against Violence Against Women — Sharon Fertitta, a representative from the national office of W.A.V.A.W., will be in Houston to present a slide show on Monday, September 17, at B. D. and Daughter, 520 Westheimer, (529-3609). The presentation is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., and there will be no charge. All women will be able to relate to this experience.



A rehearsal scene (above) from Main Street Theater's Houston premiere of Wendy Wasserstein's *Uncommon Women and Others*. The play is set in a restaurant, where six years after graduation, some classmates reunite and reflect on their four years at Mt. Holyoke College. This production of *Uncommon Women and Others* is being directed by Rebecca Greene Udden. The play has twice aired on the PBS network. In 1978, *Uncommon Women and Others* was among 11 plays written by women nominated for Houston's Susan Smith Blackburn Prize.

The Main Street cast members include Kathleen Layman as Muffet; Ellen Horr as Holly; Jennifer Bryant as Kate; Nan Charpiot as Samantha; Jeannine Pasini Beekman as Rita; Patti Bean as Susie Friend; Abbe Garfinkle as Carter; Mary Galligan as Leilah; and Rita Oldham as Mrs. Plumm.

A new service, provided by The Women's Action Alliance, is available to women's groups seeking professional advice on the writing of their funding proposals, aiming "to improve the quality of proposals from women's groups as well as to increase the visibility of proposals for women's programs in the funding world".

Those using the service should submit a copy of the proposal draft with any background information (brochures, fact sheets, press releases), a completed Funding History Form, and a check or money order for \$5.00 (covering postage and handling) to the Alliance. The proposal draft will then be turned over to a volunteer critic with a similar interest area and/or in geographic proximity for review.

For application or more information, write: Proposal Critique Service, Women's Action Alliance, Inc., 370 Lexington Avenue, Room 603, New York, NY 10017 (212) 532-8330.



Folk Fest salutes the end of world hunger by the year 1997 in this *Year of the Child* with an all day festival of music, dance and special events at the Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. It will be held from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, September 22. There will be ethnic music and dance (from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.) featuring Mariachis, Gypsies, Bagpipers, Jazz Ballet, and Greek, Irish, Hawaiian, Czech, Indian, Ukrainian, German and Tahitian folk numbers. Later in the day (4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) there will be puppet shows, craft exhibits, and even strolling musicians. Around 6 p.m. the Country/Gospel/Bluegrass music comes on and so does the square dancing. More international music from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

KPFT-FM 90.1, Houston's Pacifica Radio Station, is presenting another *Meet the Candidate* series Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Opportunity for participation by the listeners will be provided during the call-in segment of the show at 526-4000. Candidates and persons interested in reserving time or wanting information, may contact Margie Glaser, Public Affairs Director at 526-4000.

A group of Women In Action volunteers has now completed the first preservice training course on the legal problems which confront the pregnant teenager who has come in conflict with the law. The course is required for assignment as "advocate-friends" to adolescents who are under the jurisdiction of juvenile authorities and agencies. Women interested in participating in the training course through the Florence Crittendon Services must be members of Women In Action. For more information call Edna T. (Tommie) Anderson at Women In Action, 527-0718.

PARA, People Against Rape and Abuse, Is Concerned With Your Safety. If you are interested in educating the public in rape and abuse prevention or in counseling victims of rape and/or sexual abuse in the Bay Area, PARA is now accepting applications for their October 1 training classes. For additional information write: PARA, P. O. Box 57535, Webster TX 77598 or call 334-2752 or 534-2619. Class size is limited.

An ole *New Orleans Dance Party* will be held Saturday, September 22, at the Dance City Ballroom, 5134 Richmond in Windsor Plaza, Beginning at 8 p.m. It will be a great evening of fine jazz music and dancing. There will be door prices, plenty of free parking, and snacks. The Holistic Health Association, a non-profit service organization, is the sponsor. So, the admission is tax-deductible: a \$10.00 per person donation. Proceeds will benefit the Holistic Health Association Education Fund. Tickets can be purchased at the Dance City Box Office, Monday through Saturday.



YWCA regular classes include Yoga, jogging, swimnastics, aerobic dancing, fitness and figure control. The Cora Root Peden YWCA branch (723-4752) continues to hold Encore, a support group for mastectomy patients, a Woman in Crisis Sharing Group, and a special support program for victims of incest. Membership is required for participation in activities and dues (women 17 and over, \$10.00) include the services and use of facilities in the five Houston YWCA branches.

Reserve exhibit space now at the *Woman's Money Expo '80*, February 7-10, 1980, in the New York City Coliseum. Over 100 exhibits will be organized around women's money: how to earn, invest, save, protect, spend, and enjoy it. The exposition will provide a marketplace for women's products and services. Speakers and seminars will highlight women's financial progress and contemporary money concerns. More than 50,000 people are expected to attend. For further exhibit information contact Janet Jamar, Director of Woman's Money Expo '80, The Money Show, 875 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10001, (212) 244-3355.

The National NOW conference will be held in Los Angeles October 5-7. For information locally call Evie Whitsett at 488-1777. The convention will be a major collection point for Susan B. Anthony dollars in a new campaign to raise funds for ratification of the ERA. Each NOW member is urged to donate 15 Susan B. Anthony dollars—one for each of the unratified states. Prizes will be given to the four chapters who bring in the largest amount of money for the ERA fundraiser. Contribute through your local NOW Chapter.

Family of Sisters is a new support movement for lesbians in Harris County. The organization hopes to be a voice for lesbian concerns and a lesbian arm to help push for specific and mutual concerns working with the other organizations. Physical support will be given in the form of referral lists, professional advice, seminars and workshops geared to lesbian problems, and various other activities. Emotional support will be in the form of entertainment, consciousness raising and being an ear to lesbian problems. Political support will be activities such as working with the MGC, MAC, NOW, DOB, and other political groups to present a solid lesbian voice and support any candidates favorable to our lifestyles. New members are invited to meetings each Friday evening from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Montrose Activity Center, unless otherwise specified via gay newspapers or fliers.

# classified ads

Research Survey of married women who choose to stay home and NOT have children. Send for strictly confidential questionnaire. Flare Deegan, P. O. Box 1165, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042.

Greenhouse Plants turn your livingroom into a Greenhouse. Increase all plant production 91%. Free Report. Binger, 1413 DeBoll, Houston, Texas 77022.

*A Home Study Course in the New Nutrition* by Ruth Yale Long, Ph. D., president, Nutrition Education Association, Inc. Free brochure. P. O. Box 20301, Houston TX 77025. 713/665-2946.

Mature, professional woman with ten years of General Office experience, looking for position as Office Manager or Executive Secretary in the Southwest area. Please call 776-2966 after 6 p.m.

Meeting room available. Contact B. D. and Daughter (529-3609) or Wilde 'n' Stein (529-7014).

Friendly help wanted in cheese and wine shop; related retail or gourmet food experience preferred, not necessary. Approximately 30 hours weekly, including Saturday. The Village Cheese Shop, 527-0398.

Writing book on alternative printing, publishing and distributing. WANTED: WOMAN IDENTIFIED INPUT to compile *complete* directory of alternative print shops and book distributors. Please send names and addresses to: Jim Dandy, Rt. 3, Box 550, Siletz, OR 97380. All input much appreciated.

Women's Music—Discover the Difference . . . Music for making love, revolutions, or just merry. Written, engineered and distributed by women for women. Available in Houston at The Bookstore, Wilde 'N' Stein, Cactus Records, Pam's Records, and B.D. & Daughter (520 Westheimer, 529-3609).

Secretary wanted for the Law Office of two female attorneys. No experience necessary, but strong typist a must (60 wpm+). Work hours are Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Salary starts at \$5.75 per hour, plus downtown parking paid. Call 236-0225 or 228-3912.

Be an Advocate! Join the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition. Send \$5.00 to P. O. Box 4157, Houston TX 77210.

Do you need a loan? Help with your financial planning? Help obtaining credit? Your credit union is open to serve you: Monday through Friday 9-5, except Thursday 11-7 p.m. Call 522-1702, Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union, 4600 Main Street, Suite 217.

Problem pregnancy? Do not call the *Abortion Abuse Advice and Information Service*, listed as 961-7500 in the Yellow Pages. This is an anti-choice service.

We are soliciting manuscripts for a collection of women's poems and prose focusing on our experiences with incest. We don't want sociological or political tracts; or interviews. Aside from these limitations, we are open to all forms—letters, short stories, poetry, journal entries, prose-poems. As incest victims we have conceived this project out of our own and other women's work. Please send manuscripts to: Linda McDonnell and Toni McNaron, 2533 Lyndale Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405. If you wish your copy returned, enclose a SASE. Our deadline is February 1, 1980.

**Wanted: Women's Sports Manuscripts, Photos, Drawings** — *New Women's Times*, a national bi-weekly feminist newspaper, wants manuscripts, photos and drawings for its Sports Section. News items or brief accounts of women's events: up to 600 words. Feminist analysis of amateur or professional women's sports, biographies, personal experiences, book reviews: up to 1200 words. Please type, double-spaced. Photos (5 x 7 or 8 x 10) and drawings should be black and white. Please enclose SASE.

For the CALENDAR: send us information about competitions or meetings, and pass along our address to organizers so we can receive their press releases. All suggestions welcome. *New Women's Times*, 1357 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.

We are planning a *Radical Third World Feminists' Anthology: A Woman to Woman Dialogue* of essays by women of color on their perspectives of the feminist movement. We want to express to all women—and especially white middle-class women—the experiences which divide us as feminists; we want to examine incidents of intolerance, prejudice, and denial of differences within the feminist movement. We intend to explore these conditions to begin to come to terms with the silence among us and to eventually dissolve the divisions. We want to create a definition that expands what "feminist" means to us. Third World women will be the *only* ones that will edit and make the selections for this anthology.

Please submit your essays to us by October 15. An ideal length would be 7 to 10 pages double-spaced or 2,000 to 3,000 words, but articles as short as two pages will be considered. Mail essays and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Gloria Anzaldua, 948 Nce Street, San Francisco, California 94114 or Cher'rie Moraga Lawrence, 2435 Jefferson Avenue, Apt. H, Berkeley, California 94703.

## BREAKTHROUGH ON THE AIR

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Join host Nancy Lane Fleming and *Breakthrough* reporters and newsmakers in the weekly radio program continuing our newspaper tradition, *where women are news!* Call 526-4000 to add your comments and questions to our weekly conversation.

## help wanted

Breakthrough needs your help. Our full-time staff of one needs bolstering to continue our service of getting the paper out to you each month. We especially need people with typesetting and layout skills and always need good writers and photographers. Shirley Bryson, our advertising director, and Debra Thornton, our circulation manager, would love to talk to you about the business areas. You can earn good commissions as a sales account executive or you can have your own paper route — delivering Breakthrough to retail outlets in your area. Won't you please help us, if you can? Call Janice Blue at 526-6686.

### MOVING?

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE BREAKTHROUGH WITH YOU!

When you plan to move, let us know *six weeks* in advance, so that *Breakthrough* will get there with you. This will also lower our postage costs. *The post office charges us 25 cents each time they notify us of your change of address. Each year this costs us almost \$200. Please help us put this money to better use.*

Just jot your new address below. Attach your current address label in the space provided and send it to: *Breakthrough*, P.O. Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004.

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