

Houston  
**Breakthrough**

Where Women Are News  
April 1979 \$1



# Houston women: coping with stress

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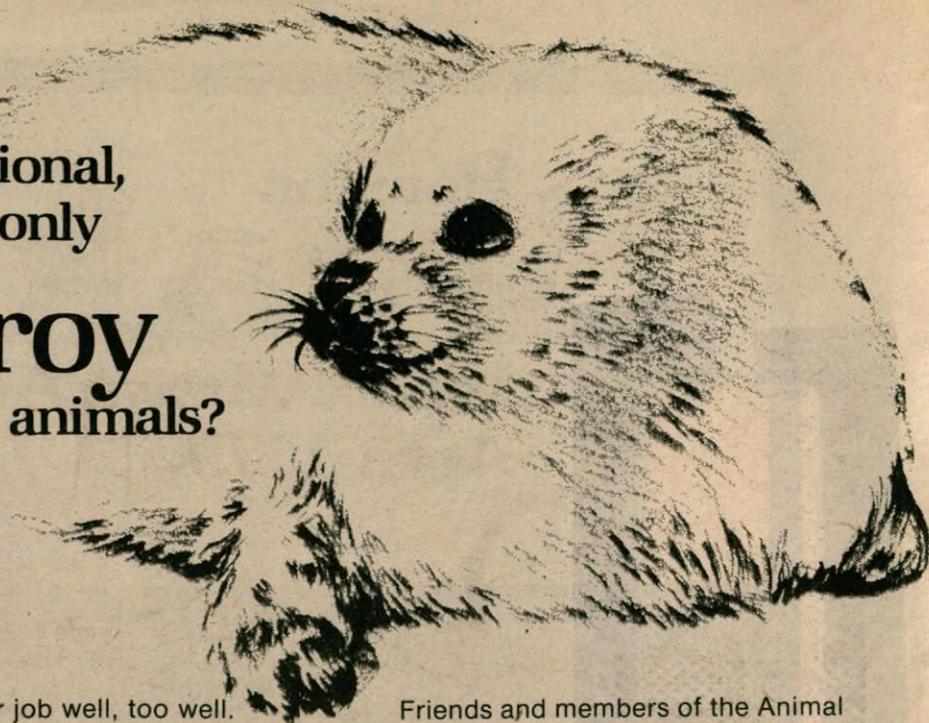
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*Also*

The Failure of  
Barbara Jordan's  
Success

Islam and the  
Iranian women

# Why does man, an intelligent, rational, essentially good being, wantonly destroy these magnificent animals?



## The answer is purely economic.

Ironically, the newborn seal's soft, "white" fur is of great value in the fashion market. It is considered to be a 'perfect' lining and trim for coats, boots and gloves; it so appeals to man's vanity.

Plus, inside these little creatures are

ingredients for margarine, cosmetics, and lubricants (all items that can be obtained from vegetable or synthetic sources, but which mean extra profits for the sealers).

And knowing the value and demand for harp seal products, the sealers

do their job well, too well.

**From 1951 to 1960, for example, the harp seal population was reduced from approximately 3,300,000 to 1,250,000. Since then, tens, even hundreds of thousands have been slaughtered each year.**

Friends and members of the Animal Protection Institute and myself find this situation tragic and unnecessary. For the past 8 years, we have worked diligently to protect the harp seal. This year, however, we have tripled our efforts because...

## The Seal Slaughter must be Stopped for All Time in 1979!

**We believe the harp seals to be mysterious and beautiful creatures—whose very existence can tell us much about the miracle of life.**

**TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THEIR BREATHING CAPACITY.** With lungs no larger than ours, these mammals can dive at least 600 feet and remain underwater for about 30 minutes. Scientists, however, have yet to figure out why this is physiologically possible...

**THE SEAL PUP'S SOFT NEW FUR IS AMAZING, TOO!** Although it appears to be white, researchers have recently discovered that it is completely *transparent*, allowing

the skin to absorb and retain the sun's rays as heat. Without this fur, the pup, who has not yet built up an insulating layer of blubber, would die of the cold...

**During these last few weeks,** herds of harp seals have migrated south from the Arctic to their winter breeding grounds on the ice floes off the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador (commonly called "The Front").

**As you read this,** female harp seals are giving birth to furry pups, weighing about 15 pounds each. These newborn pups will be able to toddle around the ice, but they will

not be able to swim (the harp seal's sole means of defense) for about 3 weeks.

**But later this week and next,** while the pup is still weak and defenseless, while the baby's fur is still shiny and "white," the annual harvest-by-clubbing will begin.

...Canadian and Norwegian "hunters" will invade the silent world of "The Front" with their clubs and hakapiks. Cruelly and relentlessly, they'll aim their deadly instruments at the terrorized pup. After the blow, as the pup is skinned, the ice will turn crimson...Thousands of seal carcasses will crowd the floes.

And, as in previous years, this year's slaughter could well mean the destruction of an entire generation of pups. Consequently, the 800,000 or so remaining seals could very well be in imminent danger of **EXTINCTION**.

We must continue to besiege the Canadian and Norwegian governments with protests. We must augment our already massive communication and education program. We must rally the support of many more millions of caring protectionists. Because despite our years of sweat and toil, our success thus far has been bittersweet.

## We cannot rest until we know the Harp Seals are safe from Man.

To succeed, we need your support and your participation. We need you to join API's fight for all animals everywhere...for the ocean mammals, for domesticated livestock, for pets, and for exotic and native wildlife.

As the struggle to save the harp seal continues round the clock, our personal energy remains unflagging. However, our financial resources are almost exhausted. And that's why we are writing to you today. We need your help desperately...before it is too late.

First, we are asking you to give \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 - or more if you're able - to help us continue our work to educate on behalf of the harp seals and other threatened creatures. As an added benefit, this contribution will entitle you to a full membership in the Animal Protection Institute. Second, if you feel as strongly as we do about the plight of the baby seal, *please!* - write your feelings, **RIGHT NOW**, to The Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, Office of the Prime Minister, Ottawa, Canada K1A0A2. And, if possible, send API a copy for forwarding to tourist offi-

cialists in Canada who need to be aware of the kind of mail Mr. Trudeau is receiving. Yes, we do wish to make you into an effective campaigner for animal rights - the kind of people who are finally turning around the battle for animal lives!

- You will receive our quarterly magazine, **MAINSTREAM**, which has been recognized as the best and most authoritative publication in the humane/conservation field.
- You will be kept up-to-date on national legislation and current events concerning wildlife and habitat.
- You, and over 100,000 other animal protectionists like you, will have representation, through the Institute, at governmental hearings and other public forums.
- You will have the satisfaction of knowing you are helping animals and stopping unnecessary suffering.

Join us today - and work with us in these emergency campaigns to save the harp seals and other threatened creatures.

Join us today - and work with us for the benefit of all animals.

You see, there is still much to do.

You will be helping to keep all the magnificent creatures of the earth **ALIVE!**

Most sincerely,  
Belton P. Mouras  
President



**YES—I WANT TO HELP!**  
Please Mail Immediately to:  
The Animal Protection Institute of America  
P.O. Box 22505  
5894 South Land Park Drive  
Sacramento, California 95822

My TAX DEDUCTIBLE contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed to aid you in your fight to:

- (1) Show the Canadian people the truth about the hunt and continue to press their government to establish sanctuaries for the protection of these international creatures, the harp seals.
- (2) Campaign for an end to AMERICAN SEAL-CLUBBING IN THE PRIBILOFS.
- (3) Inform others about this and other cases of ECOLOGICAL MURDER so that the public outcry will be heard and heeded.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: Your contribution of \$10 or more entitles you to a year's subscription to the animal rights quarterly **MAINSTREAM**; a giant **WILDLIFE UNDER ATTACK** poster on 10 threatened species; and to full membership in The Animal Protection Institute. And we'll send you the special report on seal-clubbing we'd like to put before millions of Canadians.

**ANIMAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE of America**

5894 South Land Park Drive, P.O. Box 22505, Sacramento, California 95822—916/422-1921  
Member: World Federation for the Protection of Animals, Zurich, Switzerland



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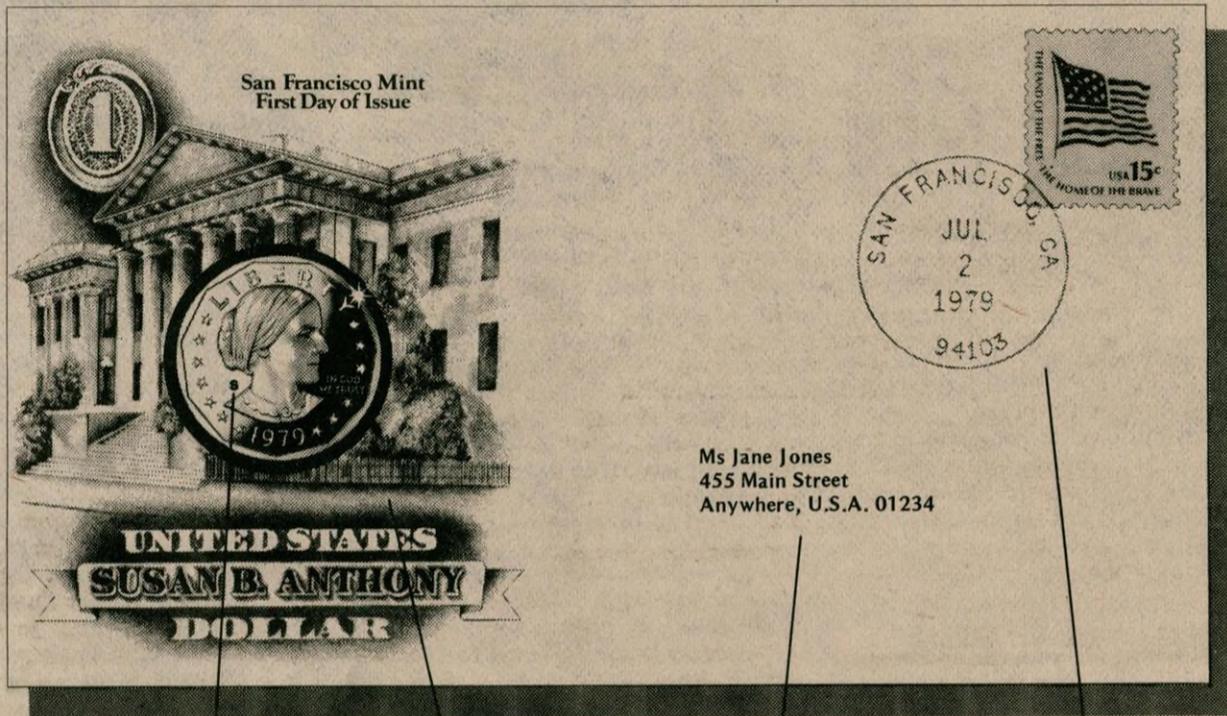
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Cover/photograph of Chere Lott by Tony Bullard. See cover story page 18.

Announcing the limited availability of  
First Day of Issue Specimens

# The United States of America New Dollar Coin Honoring Susan B. Anthony

Cover enlarged for illustrative purposes.



Mint-condition Susan B. Anthony dollar protectively encased and bearing the official mint-mark of the U.S. Mint where it was struck.

Steel-engraved cachet depicting the U.S. Mint where the new dollar was struck.

Personalized with your name and address, if desired.

Official U.S. postmark applied on the exact date the new dollar was first issued—in the city where it was minted.

Reservations are now being accepted for First Day of Issue Specimens of this new dollar coin, sealed in First Day of Issue Commemoratives, to be postmarked at each of the three U.S. Mint cities (Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Denver) which will produce this historic new U.S. dollar.

On July 2, 1979, the United States Treasury Department will release, through the Federal Reserve Banks, a new U.S. dollar coin honoring Susan B. Anthony. While the issuance of any new U.S. coinage or currency is always a notable event, this particular new issue will be of special interest because of two unique aspects:

- The first resizing of the dollar coin since the introduction of the Liberty Head dollar more than a century ago.
- The first time that U.S. coinage has ever carried the portrait of an American woman.

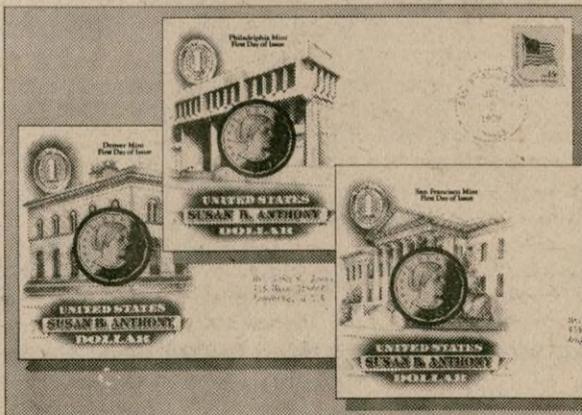
So that families throughout our great nation may obtain a permanent commemoration of this historic event, special arrangements will be made to obtain First Day of Issue specimens of the new dollar, seal them inside special collector's covers, and postmark them the exact date of first issue to forever certify their first-day status.

marked on the exact day of issue in each of the Mint cities. These First Day Covers may be reserved individually or in complete sets to include all three Mints.

### Reservation Procedure

Reservations may be forwarded now for First Day of Issue specimens. While every effort will be made to meet collector demand, there may be limitations on the number of First Day specimens which can be obtained. Accordingly, all reservations are subject to acceptance, and will be filled on a priority system based on date received.

The processing and fulfillment of these First Day of Issue Commemoratives for the Susan B. Anthony Dollar will be handled by the Postal Commemorative Society, a private agency which is not affiliated with the U.S. Mint or any other government agency. Allow 8 to 10 weeks from issue date for shipment.



### Three First Day Specimens

The Susan B. Anthony Dollar will be minted at the Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Denver Mints. Coins from each Mint will carry the appropriate mint-mark (P, S, or D), permitting collector verification.

First-day specimens for each of the three Mints will be available, involving Numismatic Philatelic Covers post-

### ADVANCE RESERVATION FORM

#### THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY DOLLAR FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Postal Commemorative Society  
47 Richards Avenue  
Norwalk, Conn. 06857

Please reserve First Day of Issue specimens of the Susan B. Anthony Dollar, sealed and authenticated in a special commemorative cover postmarked on First Day of Issue at the appropriate Mint city, as follows:

# Ordered	Mint	Price*
_____	Philadelphia Mint	\$5.50 (+\$ .50 shipping & handling)
_____	San Francisco	\$5.50 (+\$ .50 shipping & handling)
_____	Denver Mint	\$5.50 (+\$ .50 shipping & handling)
_____	Complete set - all 3 Mints	\$15.00 (+\$1.00 shipping & handling)

I would like my cover(s)  Personalized as below  Unaddressed

\$\_\_\_\_\_ check or money order enclosed. (Make payable to Postal Comm. Soc.)

Mr., Mrs., Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

All orders are subject to acceptance.

\*Conn. residents add 7% sales tax (\$.42 per cover or \$1.12 per set)

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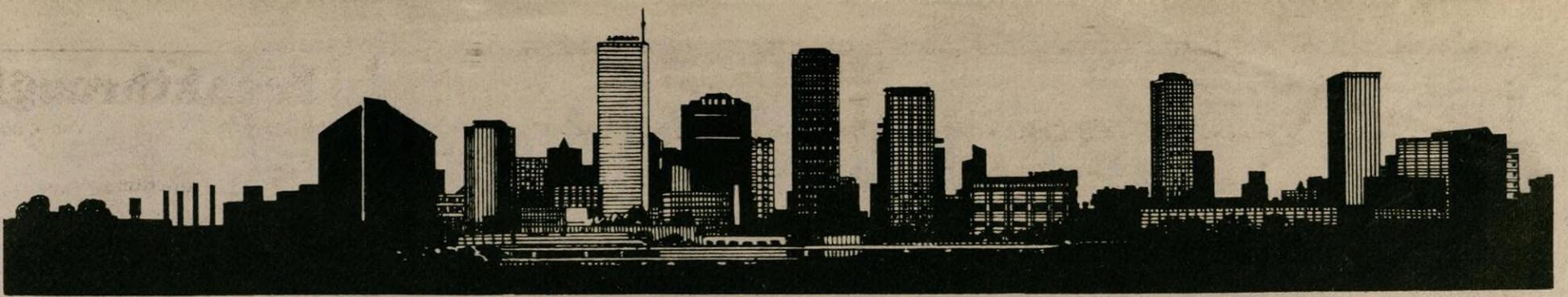
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Second-class postage paid at Houston, Texas.

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



Bill Narum

# COMMENTARIES

by nikki VAN HIGHTOWER

## Norma Rae Lives in Brazosport

I had the pleasure of seeing the movie *Norma Rae* the other night. Set in a mill town in the South, it told the story of one woman's struggle to improve primitive and unsafe working conditions by unionizing a cotton mill. I left the movie feeling inspired. Just a few days later I encountered what appears to be a similar situation right on the perimeters of Houston, in Brazosport, Texas.

I addressed a women's conference at Brazosport College. A woman stopped me as I was about to leave. She said she had heard of me through the Houston papers and hoped that I could help. The story she told me was of an all-woman cleaning crew at Dow Chemical Plant "B".

The cleaning crew did not work directly for Dow, but rather for a firm called U. S. Contractors which held a janitorial service contract with Dow. The women didn't pay much attention to that arrangement at first, but they soon learned that they were doing the same work at half the wages of regular Dow janitors. The all-male Dow crew made \$7.86 per hour, and the all-woman crew received \$3.80 to \$4.25 per hour.

The women had no benefits. Dow employees got paid holidays but the Plant "B" cleaning crew got none. Sally Carlsen, a spokeswoman for the crew, reported that some of them were required to work in extremely hazardous areas without proper safety equipment.

When conditions became intolerable they decided to try to talk to their employer to see if they could get improvements in their working conditions. They formed a club named "Workers for Better Conditions" and circulated a petition asking for an improvement in working conditions. They soon learned that the Dow contractor did not look kindly on such activities. Harassment and intimidation started. Those who were involved in getting the petition circulated were either fired or forced to quit.

When the cleaning crew realized what was happening to members of their organization, they sought the help of the Operating Engineers, Local 564. Through the efforts of the Local 564, charges were filed with the National Labor Relations Board and those employees who had been fired or forced to quit got their jobs back.

On February 12, 1979, the cleaning crew, who had voted to be represented by Local 564, got U. S. Contractors to meet with them to discuss their working conditions, but as it turned out there was to be no negotiation over the problems. After the vote to unionize, Dow had cancelled its contract with U. S. Contractors. On March 16, 1979, all members of the cleaning crew at Plant "B" were discharged. Dow has now contracted with another non-union firm which pays even lower hourly wages.

The questions the cleaning crew are asking themselves these days are, do they not have the right to talk to employers about improving conditions? Should the penalty for questioning be the loss of their jobs? Are benefits such as paid holidays, vacations or safer working con-

ditions such outrageous requests?

The question I would like to ask is how much of their treatment was related to the fact that they were all women, most of them minorities, many single heads of household. Some of these women had been working on the cleaning crew for five years. Obviously their work must have been satisfactory. However, as soon as they made any demands for better conditions and unionized, the contract for their services was cancelled. The recipient of the new contract refused to hire any of them.

The former cleaning crew has been unable to get any of the Brazosport media to cover their plight. That's life in a company town. If you would like to offer your help to the former cleaning crew at Plant "B" you can call Sally Carlsen at 297-1375 or Bobbie Smith at 233-5283 in Brazosport. They could really use your support.

## AFDC: A Decade Behind

The term welfare, it seems, has become virtually synonymous with fraud. The media, and therefore the public, have gotten so caught up in a few cases of welfare rip-off artists, that we sometimes forget all the others—the poor and the needy, and the helpless—for whom welfare is the survival link.

A report on welfare published by the League of Women Voters reveals that in 1975, 12 percent of the nation's population had incomes below the "official" poverty line, set at \$5,500 for an urban family of four.

The poor are mainly blacks, the elderly, families headed by women and persons of Spanish origin. While one out of every 11 whites lives in poverty, one out of every three blacks and one out of every four persons of Spanish origin live in poverty.

Poverty is increasingly becoming a problem of women and children. In 1975 nearly half of all poor families were headed by women. While only six percent of households headed by men lived below the poverty level, nearly one-third of families headed by women had incomes below the poverty line.

It is a cruel myth that the poor are simply those who will not work. The League of Women Voters reports that half the heads of poor families did work in 1974—and almost half of those worked year round. But even if there were jobs available for everyone, which there are not, there are those who cannot be expected to work. These include the elderly, the chronically ill and disabled, those who care for young children and the children themselves.

I have often heard the statement that poor women have children just to collect more welfare money. This is highly unlikely considering the support system here in Texas. The average payment per child is \$32.58 per month to cover food, housing, utilities, personal care, clothing and transportation. Those payments have not been raised since 1969. Anyone with children will know how inadequate this sum is for providing a decent standard of living.

The fraud rate is extremely low in Texas. It ranks tenth out of ten largest states administering the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. On the other hand, Texas ranks 47th out of 50 states in the level of grant payments to children.

Representatives of ten church, civic, social welfare, business and labor groups recently testified before the Texas Senate Finance Committee and the Texas House Human Services Committee to recommend increasing the level of support for dependent children.

Members of the community should let their feelings on this matter be known to their state senators and representatives. After all, children are the products of our entire society and we will all pay the price for neglect.

## Alimony is For People

I applaud the recent Supreme Court decision making it unconstitutional for a state to allow women but not men to get alimony in divorce cases. The decision struck down an Alabama law restricting alimony to wives.

The decision had the predictable response from anti-division women's rights spokespersons. They viewed the decision as an assault on the division of responsibilities between men and women—*women are dependents and men are providers*. The Supreme Court acknowledged the reality of the times. Women are often providers. Men are sometimes dependent. More often, women and men are providers and women and men depend upon each other for support.

The Supreme Court decision regarding alimony seems so fair, so decent, so obvious. The decision does not even mean that William H. Orr of Santa Clara, California, the husband who brought the case, will receive alimony or, on the other hand, will not be required to pay alimony. The case merely goes back to the Alabama Courts for reconsideration in light of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Alabama law.

Once again the court did not expand its decision prohibiting sex discrimination beyond the case at hand. This means that other laws allowing different treatment for males and females will still have to be challenged on a case-by-case basis. It is a long, tedious, and expensive affair fighting these in the legal trenches. Although the decision in this case will probably be used as ammunition against the Equal Rights Amendment, it should really be used as evidence of the need for the federal amendment. Without it, impetus to remove discriminatory laws from the books will depend upon determined individuals who are willing to endure the long and expensive process.

This case should help wake men up to the fact that they have considerable investment in the movement for equal rights. Equal rights under the law is for people, not just women or just men.

## Have We Got a Deal for You!

"Have We Got A Deal For You!" is the title of the lead story in a recent issue of the

*Texas Observer* (March 16). The reference is to the efforts of some business lobbyists to gut Texas' 1973 Consumer Protection Act.

Texas has been a pioneer in the area of consumer protection. This might seem hard to believe given the iron-fisted grip of corporate control on the Texas legislature, but it is true. Through some quirk of political fate, the 63rd legislature approved a bill giving consumers considerable power to protect themselves.

The beauty of the present consumer law is that it doesn't depend on public regulators, but rather builds into the private sector a self-regulating mechanism that gives consumers incentive to defend themselves. For the trouble of going out and hiring a lawyer and filing suit, a consumer can collect triple damages for a business's unlawful activity. As a backup measure in the law, the state attorney general's office can seek civil penalties against firms engaged in "widespread, massive abuses."

Does this sound too good to be true for consumers? Apparently a coalition of business lobbyists (made up of six former legislators now representing the Texas Association of Business) think so. They have plans to bring the consumer back down to their idea of appropriate size.

The *Observer* reports that the gist of the plans includes the deletion of the "breach of express or implied warranty" section. Noncompliance with the terms of warranties constitutes about 75 percent of all consumer actions. Second, recoverable damages would be limited to actual rather than triple damages. The allowance for triple damages makes for the self-regulating nature of the law. "It costs to cheat!" The proposed changes also include a limit on the actionable causes for which a consumer could bring charges. Further, abuses by landlords, debt collectors, door-to-door solicitors, and mobile home sellers would be exempted from prosecution. The above list does not fully cover all the mutations in store for the Consumer Protection Act, but I'm sure you get the idea.

You probably have already guessed that this is not strictly an outside job. Working closely and cooperatively with our former public servants, the lobbyists, are the insiders—Senator Bill Meier and Representative Danny Hill. According to the *Observer*, nine of the 11 House sponsors of the gutting amendments received campaign contributions from the major interests behind the bill. As they put it, Senator Bill Meier's campaign contribution list for 1978 reads like a who's who of the lobbies pushing for the bill.

There is still some hope for salvaging the Consumer Protection Act from its voracious predators. Consumers and responsible businesspeople should immediately let their state legislators know where they stand on this matter. Ignorance and apathy are, as usual, on the side of the special interest lobbyists, but just a little public attention on their treacherous bill might be enough to turn the tide.

*Dr. Nikki Van Hightower is president of the Houston Area Women's Center and a former radio commentator.*

# Media Matters

by gabrielle cosgriff

Before Nikki Van Hightower went on the air March 20 to host her daily call-in talk show on KTRH Radio, station manager Hal Kemp congratulated her on the dramatic improvement in her audience ratings. (The new figures had just been released.) After the show, he fired her, telling her the station had decided to go to another format in that time period.

"I felt wounded," said Van Hightower, "even though I was anticipating it. Rejection isn't pleasant and it doesn't do much for your ego."

Van Hightower was hired by the station in March 1978, just after Mayor Jim McConn had fired her from her job as women's advocate for the City of Houston. She shared a two-hour talk show with Ed Brandon, Channel 13 TV meteorologist, until he left the station in the summer of 1978, and did a daily commentary for several months.

Pressure from advertisers and city officials contributed to her firing, believes Van Hightower, "I was told by a station employee that Blue Cross would not advertise in my segment because of a commentary I did on the rights of homosexuals." Other advertisers, including a hotel and a grocery chain, had refused to advertise in that time slot, said a source at the station.

When a *Breakthrough* reporter called the sales department at KTRH, the information was volunteered that advertisers had refused to advertise on her show, and had put pressure on management. Van Hightower's was not the only show on which clients refused to advertise. Sears withdrew their advertising from Jim Bell's call-in show. Bell left the station recently.

Van Hightower told *Breakthrough* that after she did a particular commentary, critical of city council, station manager Kemp called her into his office. Kemp told her that "upper management" at the station had received a call from a city council member. "He didn't tell me to cool it, or anything like that," said Van Hightower. "He merely said they had received a call. After that he started reviewing my commentaries before they went on the air."

Van Hightower had been doing a daily commentary for about three months at that time. Three months later she found a memo in her box telling her that her commentaries had been cancelled. No reason was given. Kemp later announced that more advertising time per hour was needed. The cancellation came a few days after Van Hightower broadcast what she considers one of her strongest commentaries—a criticism of city officials and police chief Harry Caldwell for their handling of Iranian student demonstrations.

Kemp denied there had been any pressure from city officials or advertisers. In a story by Erna Smith in the *Houston Post* (Mar. 23) Kemp said that Van Hightower did not develop as a "broad-based" program commentator. Although the call-in show had high ratings during the last rating period, he believed they should have been higher, said Kemp.

Van Hightower joined Brandon on the air in March 1978. The Arbitron ratings for Brandon's show in October-

November 1977 (before Van Hightower joined him) showed a total of 30,800 listeners from 2-3 p.m., and a 6.7 percent share of all metropolitan listeners. Brandon left the show in the summer of 1978, and by the October-November ratings of that year, Van Hightower's total audience was down to 17,700, with a 3.4 percent share.

It was then that management decided to make a change, according to a station employee, and Van Hightower would have been fired at that time if a replacement could have been found. Van Hightower was given no specific information on those ratings, and was told by Kemp only that she "did very poorly" and "we'll have to talk."

When the talk did not materialize, Van Hightower requested a meeting with Kemp to discuss any problems. Kemp made an appointment, later cancelled it, and never mentioned it again. "I knew then," said Van Hightower, "that he didn't want to talk."

Ironically, on the same day that

But this case was somewhat different from the firing of just another talk-show host. Van Hightower was, and is, a highly visible public figure and had been fired before because of her outspokenness.

The *Houston Post* story of March 23 was the first public acknowledgment that Van Hightower had been fired (a rare instance of the media covering the media). It gave rise to a question at the mayor's press conference that morning, which in turn led to a report on KTRH's midday news show.

Referring to that story, *Post* reporter Tom Kennedy asked Mayor McConn at his press conference, "Will she (Van Hightower) be your p.r. man?" "Well, it would be p.r. person," smiled McConn, to laughter from reporters. McConn then went on to say that he had not put any pressure on KTRH to fire Van Hightower and that he never listened to her show.

The KTRH report carried only the mayor's "no pressure" remarks, and

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**"I think it's very difficult for management in media to take any risks. They run scared about ratings all the time."**

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Van Hightower was fired, the Arbitron ratings for January-February 1979 were released. They were the best the station had had in that time slot for the last two years. She had a total of 32,900 listeners and a 7.5 share of all metropolitan listeners. In three months, her audience had more than doubled. The January-February figures were higher than Ed Brandon's most favorable ratings.

"I think they brought on a very controversial person when they hired me," said Van Hightower. "They were hoping that with my past exposure it would skyrocket them to the top of the ratings (for that time period). When that didn't work out and it was a slow building process, they got very uneasy about me and about controversy and shifted back. I think it's very difficult for management in media, who run scared about ratings all the time, to take any risks. I sensed that they did (take a risk) but when it didn't have instantaneous results, they couldn't hold up."

KTRH airs no local commentary, which of its nature is more controversial than the national, syndicated type. Their only political commentator is Ronald Reagan, who is aired daily. Investigative reporter Jack Anderson has a daily syndicated commentary.

Whether the station is moving away from controversy in its programming or not, the management certainly took a dim view of any controversy over their action in firing Van Hightower.

"As a standard, when somebody leaves they go without mention," said KTRH talk-show producer Shane Fox.

ended with a comment from KTRH news director Ben Baldwin to the effect that Van Hightower's firing was a "programming decision."

Interestingly enough, Baldwin was in Corpus Christi that day, attending a conference on hurricanes. The station apparently reached him there to record his comments.

That Friday was also the first day since the firing that listeners were able to participate in an "open forum" call-in show. Host Bill Hazen invited listeners to talk about "anything that's on your mind." Well, almost anything, as it turned out. Callers who said that they wanted to talk about Van Hightower were informed that they would not be allowed to do so.

It is a valid argument that there is little to be gained by an "after-the-fact" popularity contest on the air, as producer Fox put it. But Fox refused to discuss the ethics of an "open forum" that is restricted without the listeners' knowledge. "You're asking me to second-guess management," he said. "The proper channel (for comments on the firing) is to write a letter."

On the Thursday morning, Janice Blue had followed that channel by delivering a letter to Hal Kemp, with copies to other station personnel, expressing her views on the firing. (She also sent a copy of the letter to the F. C. C., to Arthur L. Ginsburg, Chief of Complaints and Compliance, Broadcast Bureau Room 332, 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington D. C. 20554.)

Telephone receptionists at KTRH had told callers that Kemp would accept

opinions on the firing only in the form of letters—he would not discuss it on the phone. They said that in the few days after the firing they had received "a lot of calls. A lot."

When I called Kemp for a pre-arranged interview, he said he had changed his mind and would not grant me an interview.

Citing Blue's letter, he said he felt that since we worked for "the same organization" no useful purpose would be served. He objected to the fact that she had written the letter "castigating" him, without checking with him first, in spite of the fact that he had asked people to use this form of communication.

"I resent her letter being issued without asking me first," said Kemp. "I have no objection to a personal view. What I object to is . . . not even getting the original, just getting a copy of it like everybody else. I think that was in extremely poor taste." Blue says he received the original—the copies were Xeroxed.

When I asked Kemp what he felt about the station's accountability to its listeners in the matter of forbidding discussion of Van Hightower on an "open forum," he replied "That's neither here nor there and I have no comment for you."

"How do you suggest then that we communicate on this issue?" I asked. "If the *Houston Post* doesn't mind," said Kemp, "you're free to quote from the interview I gave the girl on Friday." "The girl?" I asked. "Ah-hmm," he affirmed.

The "girl" was Erna Smith, who wrote the *Post* story in which Kemp denied that any pressure had been applied to the station by advertisers or city officials.

Since Van Hightower and other sources at the station claim otherwise, it is unfortunate that the management chose not to clarify the matter.

It is also open to conjecture whether Van Hightower failed to develop as a "broad-based" commentator, as Kemp claimed. "I knew that there was a turnover," said Van Hightower. "You can just tell. You hear different voices. You hear different issues."

Obviously, she had lost many of Brandon's listeners in the first few months, and was quickly building a following of her own. In three months her audience had increased dramatically, to the point where she had the best ratings in that time slot in two years.

It looks as though the station lost a winner after all, since the ratings are the bottom line of commercial broadcasting. But the real losers were the listening public, who had finally been able to hear something of substance and integrity on a talk-show. "I don't agree with you much of the time," said one caller, "but I admire you for having the courage to say what you believe." That was a sentiment repeated often over the last year.

"At first, Nikki did abysmally," said producer Shane Fox, "but she improved and gained experience. Her strength was her intellect and her wit and the power of her convictions."

Van Hightower said that she plans to stay in Houston, and would like to go into lecturing, public education and writing. "I'm getting it into perspective now," she said of the firing, "but it's a shock for

me to be starting out on another career path. Even though I felt I was doing a good job, I'm not that secure a person that I do not question myself."

Her 2-4 p.m. time slot on KTRH is now filled by a man-and-woman team of "marriage, family and divorce counselors" on a program called *Guideline*. Callers are asked to identify themselves by age and a first name. The station has been preparing the changeover since last January.

There is a disclaimer aired several times daily on KTRH: "The opinions expressed on KTRH throughout the broadcast day are not necessarily those of the station management or KTRH advertisers."

Not necessarily, but KTRH seems to be working on it.

Several movie critics are offering scripts for sale to the very producers and directors whose films they review," claims Jeanie Kasindorf in an article published in *New West* and *New York* magazines (March 19).

"The result is that some critics have developed so many personal alliances that readers of film criticism in America may soon need a chart to tell them when a critic is reviewing a potential business partner or a best friend."

Kasindorf cites these, and several other, examples: "At *Time* magazine, Jay Cocks tried for at least two years to sell screenplays to studio executives whose films he was reviewing. Last year, editors at *Time* left Cocks's name off a cover story on a Paramount film (*Saturday Night Fever*). Cocks wrote the story the same month he was negotiating to sell a screenplay to Paramount.

"At *Newsweek* magazine, Charles Michener wrote a cover story on his friend Robert Altman's film *Nashville*. Several months later, Altman, as a wedding gift to Michener, helped pay for a trip for Michener and his fiancée to the Calgary, Alberta set of *Buffalo Bill and the Indians*.

"At *New West* magazine, Stephen Farber singled out his friend Philip Kaufman for praise as 'one of our most talented unknown directors' without mentioning the fact that Kaufman had helped Farber try to sell his screenplays."

Paul Zimmerman is a former critic who, during his five years at *Newsweek*, tried to sell two screenplays. Now a screenwriter, Zimmerman admits that he suggested a screenplay to producer David Picker while conducting a *Newsweek* interview. Zimmerman argues that he did nothing wrong. "You shouldn't be forbidden from approaching people," he says. He admits that friends talked him out of his objection to Alan Pakula's *Parallax View*. "If I didn't have a project with Pakula I would have been harder to talk out of it."

Kasindorf points out that many film critics have abstained from reviewing the films of people with whom they are working. "Often this practice simply means a critic can avoid having to pan a future business partner's film."

So what are the answers? "Should critics avoid all friendships with people in the industry? Should they stop reviewing the films of their friends? Should they stop reviewing films the day they start trying to sell a screenplay? If they acknowledge the connection, is it permissible to review the film of a potential business partner? In this complicated and incestuous world, are we to rely on the integrity of the critic alone? If so, why?"

"Until these issues are decided, film critics will continue to tell you that the one standard you can count on is: Trust me. In the incestuous world of film critics and filmmakers, they insist, they are the ones you can count on to act with integrity."

*New York* movie critic David Denby devoted his entire column the next week

to "an answer and some amplification" of Kasindorf's investigative piece.

Unfortunately, his answer wasn't an answer. "I find it impossible to give a definitive answer to the issues Kasindorf raises. Yes, it would be best for critics to stop reviewing movies as soon as they begin to market their screenplays, but if they write their reviews with scrupulous honesty, I see nothing inherently corrupt in their continuing."

Nor did his "amplification" amplify much, except his pomposity. "The job (movie criticism) requires people with the strength and shrewdness to avoid compromising themselves."

Denby reasons that the more harsh a reviewer, the less the possibility of corruption. He quotes a *Variety* survey that showed Paul Zimmerman the toughest of the 26 critics rated. "While Zimmerman was trying to sell his screenplays all over Hollywood, he was also panning Hollywood's most commercial pictures. How corrupt could he have been?" Jay Cocks finished ninth in that poll, "so how corrupt could he have been?"

Denby the film critic concludes with a romantic salute to the film critic as screenplay writer: "A few critics do remain independent, upholding the tattered honor of the profession, and if they were to write screenplays, they could probably do a lot better than the authors of most of the movies we see now."

Which leads straight back to Kasindorf's original premise: "Trust me" says the critic.

Houston has amongst its many blessings, a mayor with the common touch, one who "eats at exclusive restaurants like Tony's or Rudi's, but will be just as apt to go to McDonald's or to Otto's Barbecue or John's Barbecue..."

Reporter Tom Kennedy (*Houston Post* March 11) paints such a wholesome picture of Mayor Jim McConn that one is tempted to look for the "paid political advertisement" at the bottom of the page.

The story, ostensibly about Doyal LeCour and J. C. Mosier, McConn's two bodyguards, opens "on a crisp Sunday morning last fall" when "the reverence of a church service was suddenly interrupted" by LeCour's beeper.

"Tiptoeing out of the Baptist church" LeCour reached a phone and learned there had been a threat on the mayor's life. LeCour says he doesn't understand why anyone would want to shoot at a mayor who seemed to get favorable reactions from a majority of people... whether at a black-tie banquet at the River Oaks Country Club or downing hot-dogs at James Coney Island.

Either McConn or reporter Kennedy has a food fixation. As well as the aforementioned Tony's, Rudi's, McDonald's, Otto's Barbecue, John's Barbecue, River Oaks Country Club and James Coney Island, we follow McConn and his bodyguards to the Avalon Drug Store (where a 12-year-old boy... "couldn't believe that the mayor eats at places where everybody else does,") and to the Avenue Grill for breakfast with police chief Harry Caldwell.

LeCour, who describes McConn as a down-to-earth family man, more like a friend than a boss, also worked as a mayoral guard for Fred Hofheinz. He recalls that Hofheinz had many speaking engagements, but rarely stopped to eat hamburgers and barbecue at out-of-the-way places like his successor.

The bodyguards say that McConn's toughest questioners are elementary and junior high school students. City Hall reporters, take note.

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

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# Mexican national seeks U.S. asylum

by Shirley Kowitz

Women have taken the lead in an effort to win political asylum for Hector Marroquin, a 25-year-old Mexican national who is accused of being a murderer and terrorist in his native land.

In the U.S., Marroquin is an undocumented worker who faces deportation, a prospect which he and many others are convinced will cost him his life.

Deportation hearings began April 3 at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (I.N.S.) in Houston with Margaret "Peggy" Winters acting as Marroquin's defense counsel.

In an exclusive *Breakthrough* interview three women involved in the case, Jane Roland, National Director for the Defense of Hector Marroquin; Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, founder of the National Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, Fugitives and Exiles; and Delia Duarte, a co-leader with Ibarra de Piedra, talked of the upcoming trial and their conviction that the continuing struggle for human rights would suffer a great setback if Marroquin is forced to return to Mexico.

"The case is airtight," Roland said, "but it is a precedent-setting case in that the United States has never granted political asylum to someone from a non-communist country."

Marroquin's troubles began in his last year at the University of Nuevo Leon when he and three other politically active students, who had helped organize marches for democratic rights, were accused by Mexican officials of committing a terrorist assault, and the newspapers implicated him in a murder case.

Two of the three accused were assassinated by police and the other kidnapped. Marroquin, after consulting with lawyers, decided to leave the country and crossed into the United States at Eagle Pass on April 9, 1974.

Although he has worked in the United States for the past four and a half years, the Mexican government has also accused Marroquin of being wounded in a gun battle and participating in a guerilla raid in Monterrey.

"Marroquin's employer will testify that he was at work here in Houston the day of the gun battle and we have medical records proving he was in a hip-to-toe cast at a Galveston hospital from an automobile accident the day of the guerilla raid," Roland said.

Marroquin's list of supporters is long. Chief among them is Ibarra de Piedra who flew in from Monterrey to testify at the trial.

Ibarra de Piedra spent most of her adult life making a home for her physician husband and their four children. Then, four years ago, her 21-year-old son Jesus was kidnapped by Mexican officials. She has not seen him since.

After long months of talking to police chiefs, politicians and even the President of Mexico in an effort to find her son, Ibarra de Piedra founded the National Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, Fugitives, and Exiles, which is now the focal point of a campaign for nationwide political amnesty.

"We have records on 451 persons in Mexico who have been 'kidnapped' and

sent to military camps," Ibarra de Piedra said. "There is political repression in Mexico but no one hears about it here."

In talking about her "mothers' movement" Ibarra de Piedra said that the government did not consider her efforts to mobilize the mothers of missing children a threat in the beginning. Now an internationally known figure, Ibarra de Piedra considers her chief protection to be the fact that she is well-known in the U.S. and other countries.

"If we can win political asylum for Hector, then the political repression in Mexico will be publicly acknowledged and, perhaps, the government will consider granting asylum to all our children or at least giving them a fair trial," she said.

The effort to win political asylum for Marroquin has been a long one, involving over two years work on the part of hundreds of defense committee volunteers.

A rally at the University of Houston was attended by more than 200 persons Saturday, March 31. A picket at the I.N.S. was held the day the deportation hearing began on Tuesday, April 3. Leaflets and posters were distributed throughout the city.

"The offers of support we have had is very gratifying," Roland said. "It has come from everywhere."

The list of active supporters includes among others, Gloria Steinem, Edward Asner, Jules Feiffer, Kate Millett and U.S. Representatives Mickey Leland, John Conyers and Ronald V. Dellum.

"Gertrude Barnstone of the Women's Equity Action League has been a tremendous help," Roland added.

"The hearing is different from other court cases because in any appeals process no new evidence can be added. The I.N.S. judge can end the hearing at any time, so it is important that all of our defense witnesses get to testify. Because of the public interest that has been shown, I feel that we will get a full hearing," she explained.

Roland said that if they do not win the hearing, they would appeal to the immigration courts and then to the federal courts, if necessary.

Among those scheduled to testify are Robert Goldman, Dean of the American University Law School and the author of a report issued by the International League for Human Rights detailing repression in Mexico. Amnesty International has presented a statement for the hearing and the National Education Association is sending an official to testify. Several victims of torture in Mexico will also attend.

When asked how Marroquin felt about the fact that women are in the forefront leading his struggle, Roland smiled and replied, "He has stated that he is very grateful for the women who have fought for him."

"If we win this case, it opens the door of political asylum to be granted to victims in Chili, Venezuela, Haiti and other repressive non-communist regimes," Roland said. "It would be a victory for human rights."

Shirley Kowitz is a freelance writer and a reporter for the Fort Bend Mirror.

# Search and arrest

by Andrea Bowen



TRISH HERRERA

**"I signed a court summons for a speeding violation. When I was told to strip, I just couldn't believe it. I thought, 'this is totally ridiculous.'"**

Verbal and physical abuse and a strip search by the police for a minor traffic violation does not happen in Houston, or does it?

Trish Herrera, a 25-year-old Houston businesswoman, says it does.

On March 5, 1978 while traveling along the Gulf Freeway near the Scott Street overpass, Herrera was stopped by two patrol cars. She knew that she had been driving 60 in a 50 miles per hour zone.

Four Houston police officers approached her car, ordered her from it and when she hesitated, she says, they verbally and physically abused her as they dragged her into one of the patrol cars. "When so many officers approached my car, the only thing I thought was 'Oh, God, I'm going to be raped,'" explained the longtime Houston resident.

"I had heard of girls being raped by policemen and not having any recourse. I just kept thinking this cannot be happening," she continued.

"The officers shoved me into the patrol car. They pushed so hard that I hit my head on the car. By that time, I knew I was going to jail," the local hair salon owner recalled. She had never had any previous confrontation with police nor had she ever been inside a jail.

When she arrived at the jail, she was told to sit on a bench while the officers completed their paperwork. Moments later, Officer C. A. Lawrence ordered her to sign a court summons for a speeding violation.

Finally, Herrera was subjected to a "humiliating" strip search by a police-woman.

"When they put me into that empty room and I was told to strip, I just couldn't believe it. I thought, 'this is totally ridiculous,'" she emphasized.

"I suppose I was luckier than other girls this has happened to because I did not have a cavity search. All the woman officer did was a patdown."

After the strip search, Herrera was informed that she was being charged with changing lanes without a signal. She did not have sufficient funds with her to post bond.

Almost two hours after entering the jail, she was permitted to make a phone call. An hour and a half later Herrera was released, after a friend paid \$23.59 for the bond.

"When it was all over I was a nervous wreck. I went home and slept for two days," she stated.

During the ordeal, Herrera kept thinking that the officers were really going to get in trouble for their actions. "I guess it was my thoughts and strong feelings

against these actions that did not allow me to break up," she recollected.

She was afraid to worry her parents about the incident, but knew she should seek help to keep this from happening to other Houston women.

"A friend suggested that I call *Breakthrough* and the newspaper's editor, in turn, told me to call the local American Civil Liberties Union if I wanted to take action against the officers," Herrera explained.

The ACLU workers, aware of such practices in the past, have gone to bat for Herrera. Her attorney, Matthew Horowitz has filed a petition against the City of Houston, Police Chief Harry Caldwell, Officers Lawrence and R. G. Piel, two unknown male officers and an unknown female officer for violating Herrera's rights under the fourth, eighth and 14th amendments of the United States Constitution and under Article 1, Section 9 of the Texas Constitution.

These amendments pertain to "the defendant (Herrera) having been subjected to needless physical brutality and to an illegal custodial arrest and an illegal search."

"We have not set an amount on the lawsuit. It is not the money that I care about. I just want this type of action by the police to stop. I'm not the first person this has happened to in Houston. If such practices are allowed to continue I certainly will not be the last," offered Herrera.

Horowitz said that the ACLU had been contacted by other women several years ago, but none would press charges.

One girl was searched so roughly (a cavity search) by a matron that she began to bleed.

The night Herrera was arrested, another young woman also had been apprehended, not for a traffic violation, but for not having any identification when entering a nightclub.

"That girl really was scared. She was crying and shaking. I tried to help her by telling her they (the police) can't get away with this," Herrera explained.

"Hopefully with this suit, the policemen will think twice before subjecting another girl to a similar search and arrest. Sometimes when you give men the power to kill, the power goes to their heads and they cannot control it," she said.

When asked if she felt bitter toward the police, she simply replied, "Against the officers who arrested me, I feel bitter, but not to policemen in general. There are good and bad policemen like there are good and not-so-good people."

Herrera's story has received national attention. Soon after an article appeared in *Time* (March 19) she was stopped by a Houston police officer for an inspection sticker check and because, "He said he thought I was a little kid driving the car. A crazy reason," she says.

"Sometimes, I feel that I will continue to be harassed by the police because of the lawsuit, but I don't care," she shrugged.

In March, the ACLU filed a class-action suit asking the U. S. district court to restrict police from conducting strip searches of women accused of minor violations.

According to *Time* magazine, a warrant would have to be obtained for such a search and any cavity searches would have to be done by a physician. The suit also asks \$125,000 in damages for each victim.

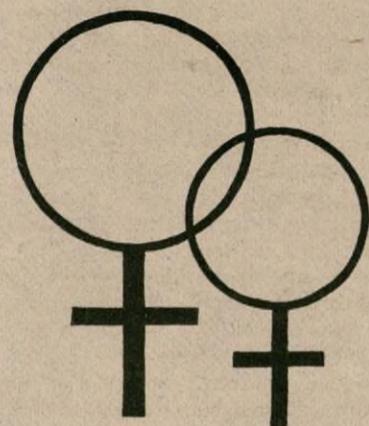
Recently a woman has filed a suit against the Brazoria County (Texas) Sheriff's Department for conducting a strip search. This woman was forced to strip before she was allowed to see her sons who were in jail. She was told the officers were looking for marijuana.

Courts and high law enforcement officials across the nation gradually are setting guidelines that police must follow while searching a woman. In California, *Time* reported, no woman can be searched unless she is going to be held in a jail. That state also has detailed regulations to guard against the casual jailing of a person for a misdemeanor.

Washington, D. C., is another city that has detailed regulations about such searches.

Whether Houston or the State of Texas will ever have such legislation or rules remains to be seen. Perhaps Herrera's case will be the precedent for such action.

*Andrea Bowen is a former reporter for the Orange Leader and is now a staff writer at the Houston Westside Reporter.*



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## How to lobby

by Debra Danburg

Policy making, goal setting, and sharpening issue positions are the proper concerns of our feminist organizations. And we can be as democratic, as informal, and as non-hierarchical or as non-manipulative as is humanly possible in our internal deliberations. But if our group decision is to influence the legislative process, we must secure people who can play the "good ole' gals" game, and we must trust their judgment and cooperate with them to the fullest extent.

We are not the average lobby, with the average lobbyists. Possibly 98 per cent of the influence peddlers who haunt the halls, restaurants, and bars of the Capitol are middle-aged men in three-piece suits and western boots. Many are former legislators, and most are being paid over \$20,000 per client, with several accounts per session. Their idea of "grassroots support" is the \$500 or \$1,000 campaign contributions that their clients paid to each legislator. They would be embarrassed to ask for an appointment without the security of these "door-opening," attention-gaining contributions.

By contrast, the public interest contact person . . . the "people's lobbyist," is often young, a woman, and outrageously underpaid.

This one paid staff person is often required to train the hiring support groups in lobbying techniques, coordinate constituent response through the organizational "network," and choreograph all committee hearings which affect their organizations' interests.

The most important resource available to a public-interest or an issue-oriented lobbyist is the people who support their issue(s). Without money and favors to attract a legislator's interest, the only remaining lever is popularity.

Public opinion is an abstract commodity by comparison, but legislators can be made to respond to their constituents, provided that the pressure strategically placed on the official is in a manner which cannot be ignored or overshadowed.

Knowing who needs pressure, when, and in what form is the most important function of the lobbyist. Targeting swing votes, focusing support energies, and providing "problem" legislators with just the right "excuse" to vote with us are the most important things our lobbyist can do. For all legislators to receive random letters is far less impressive and influential than to have the four "swing votes" on a critical committee receive all 2,000 pieces of mail on an issue.

For that mail to be influential, it should be in the form of personal letters, especially when sent to one's own representative. The most ineffective thing that one can do to influence a legislator is to send him/her a random form letter or petition.

Suggestions for an effective personal letter include:

- State that you are a constituent/voter/supporter (if true).
- Cite specific bill numbers, so that staff members can better find and trace them.
- Give personal examples and creative arguments that might lend new light to an old subject, but keep it short and concise.
- Ask for a response. This insures that the letter will be read and filed. Make the responses available to your lobbyist when your correspondent is committed or remains a swing vote.
- If you plan to visit your legislator, state your intentions.

Another real attention getter is carefully timed and targeted telegrams. Few people can help but yield to the pressure of 50 to 75 telegrams from local constituents, especially when they all come the morning of the vote.

A personal visit to the Capitol is best. It demonstrates dedication, and the sort of commitment that is irresistible to most elected people. Clearly, anyone who would go to that trouble also stays abreast of issues, follows voting records, votes in almost all elections, and probably would be a likely volunteer in the future. Grassroots supporters can provide what no amount of lobbyists' money can buy, and that is dedication and fervent support.

If you plan to visit the capitol, here are some tips to make your visit effective and positive.

● Dress as if you were going to court or to a job interview. Your issue is more important to you than your freedom of attire.

● Study the voting record of those whom you will visit. Be informed.

● Be polite and friendly with administrative aides. They read your letters and are informed on the issues and their employer's position. If they like what you have to say, they can insure an audience with the elected official, and can even call him/her off the floor to meet you. They will communicate how well-informed and active you are.

● Represent your organization, when possible. Go with the power and influence implied in the numbers of a well-informed membership.

● Stick to your one issue. Do not allow a person to ignore you simply because you disagree on another unrelated or even collateral issue. Do not debate, argue, intimidate, or threaten. Do not get offended by ignorance on your issue, or by sexist language. The only way to handle such a comment without being detrimental to the primary goal of vote-securing is to politely and quickly change the subject.

● Lobby with a realistic time frame. Often the time of a hearing changes. Be prepared. Be realistic. Plan an overnight stay in Austin.

● Beyond a doubt, the most influential way to lobby is to produce personal visits by a major contributor, known campaign volunteer, or personal friend of the legislator. Naturally these people will just make more sense and seem more rational than others, because they have already established points of credibility and agreement.

We must play by the rules. The "rules" represent 100 years of pink granite "good ole' boy" tradition that no one group or issue can topple in one legislative session. Remember, the rules are not the issue, the ISSUE is. Stay focused. Keep targeted. Subrogate all collateral concerns to the issue. We cannot fight on all fronts, if we want to win.

*Debra Danburg is a third-year law student and is currently in Austin serving her second legislative session as Administrative Aide to State Representative Ron Waters.*

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# Abortion under attack

"You cannot tell me the anti-abortion groups are pro-life. They are not and neither are the men who are proposing such bills. These same legislators are not voting pro-life on bills pertaining to nutrition programs or funding programs for the lower income groups."

by Andrea Bowen

Twelve bills now pending before the Texas legislature would limit or prohibit all abortions.

All of the bills are currently in different committees, but if one of the bills gets out of committee onto the Texas House or Senate floor, passage is almost certain, according to Karen Mulhauser, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

"Statistics have shown that 60 percent of all Americans support abortions or at least 'freedom of choice,'" explained Mulhauser.

The main problem, as she views the situation, is that the majority who favor the abortion issue do not voice their opinion. Legislators, she feels, will hurry to explain that their mail is running 100 letters against abortion to every one letter favoring freedom of choice.

"If every woman that has had an abortion would stand up on the same day, the legislators would have to listen. But, we

have found that most of the majority are silent. Congressmen are voting the way they believe most of their constituents feel. If they receive more anti-letters than favorable ones, naturally they are going to vote against abortions," she stressed.

Mulhauser, here for a meeting with members of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League (TARAL), urged women and men who are pro freedom of choice not to hesitate, but to contact their legislators and tell them their views.

Three state legislators from the Houston area have been the ones introducing some of the key anti-abortion bills. They are Senators Walter Mengden and Jack Ogg and Representative Gene Green.

One of the bills which is viewed by Mulhauser and NARAL as being among the worst is one proposed by Mengden. This bill would prohibit hospitals, clinics or any other medical facilities, supported by any form of taxes, from using its

services or facilities for the performance of abortions, except to save the life of the woman or in cases of rape or incest. A resident of the county in which the facility is located may sue to enjoin or prohibit the facility.

"We feel this would be a serious and dangerous bill. That means that none of the birth control clinics where abortions also can be obtained would be able to perform the procedure. What we will see is more self-induced abortions which have much more serious consequences," commented Joan Glantz of the Houston American Civil Liberties Union.

The worst of the pending legislation, by far, Mulhauser stressed is the House bill by Representative Bill Ceverha of Dallas. This bill is the infamous "Akron Ordinance" which repeatedly has been struck down by the courts.

The bill defines the "unborn child" as a person from the moment of conception; requires second trimester abortions to be performed only in a hospital and all abortion facilities to meet surgical standards; requires the physician to dispose of the fetus in a manner consistent with "human dignity;" requires the filing of reports and records for the purpose of gathering statistical data. It would also require the physician to counsel the woman seeking an abortion, with her husband if she is married or with her parents if she is under 18 years. This consultation concerning consequences of the abortion to her or her "unborn child" would take place 24 hours prior to the procedure.

The woman, husband or parents also would be told that the state recognizes the "unborn child" as an individual human being and encourages the woman to continue her pregnancy. The doctor also would have to explain the physical characteristics of the fetus at the time of the abortion, including mobility, tactile sensitivity, response to pain, brain and heart function, development of external members and internal organs. Photographs and other visual materials must be used.

"This bill clearly is unconstitutional, imposing on a person's rights and it is inaccurate in that it explains the complications and serious physical after-effects of abortions without telling the complications and problems of carrying the fetus to full term," Mulhauser pointed out.

"This bill neglects the fact that abortions are much safer than carrying a child to full term," she emphasized.

The Akron Ordinance has never gone into effect in any area where it was passed. The courts always have enjoined such a law. This type of legislation was first passed as a city ordinance in Akron, Ohio, some counties adopted it in New York and Kentucky and, finally, it became a state law in Louisiana.

"It is not enough that the courts strike down these laws. We are not sure what the Supreme Court will decide; however, we must, in the future, have legislation passed that would grant a woman the power to control her own body," Mulhauser emphasized.

Abortion is an issue that officials like to shy away from. Mulhauser and other proponents of the right to choose abortion have found that oftentimes even if a legislator, in his mind, approves of abortion, he will vote against it because of political pressure.

"If any of these bills is made into law, the women who are going to be hurt the

most will be the low-income ones and teenagers. Now, they are seeking legal means for abortions. These laws would make them turn to illegal means and into the back alley butcher clinics," she stressed.

"Lately, more and more hospitals in Houston and other cities have seen a rise in the number of girls who have tried coathanger abortions because they do not know that an abortion is legal in Texas. There is so much publicity and voice from the anti-factions that the majority's views never are heard," Glantz informed.

The local doctors have not seen so many coathanger abortions since 1973. These bills, Glantz emphasized, would encourage damage to women.

"You cannot tell me the anti-abortion groups are pro-life. They are not and neither are the men who are proposing such bills. These same legislators certainly are not voting pro-life on bills pertaining to nutrition programs or funding programs for lower-income groups. They are not convincing me that they are pro-life," Mulhauser adamantly stated.

If the Akron-type bill is passed, the cost of an abortion would almost be prohibitive since it requires a physician to counsel with the patient and family rather than a trained counselor, as is now the procedure.

Mulhauser and Glantz feel that the anti-abortion legislators and "pro-life" factions are the same groups that are so outspoken against the Equal Rights Amendment.

"These men think that the woman's place is in the home and that's where she should stay. If a woman wants to be a homemaker, I have the highest respect for her, but it should be her choice," Mulhauser explained.

She pointed out that states and countries that have passed liberal abortion laws have done so only after improving the status of women.

"The only countries that have antiquated laws in regard to women are the Latin American and Moslem ones. In both cases women have no status outside the home. None of these countries has legalized abortions in spite of the fact that one out of every two beds in the hospitals is filled with maternity patients, either pregnant or for self-induced abortions," Mulhauser stressed.

"I want to make women and men mad enough about the pending legislation that they will contact their elected officials. I want the women to be angry about the laws that will have so much bearing on their lives. I also want them to be more assertive about the types of legislation that are passed," she stated.

Mulhauser claims NARAL, ACLU and TARAL have plans to get more organized before the national and state elections in 1980.

"I would like the effort to be three-pronged—public education about the serious threat to freedom of choice, a lobbying effort in the Texas legislature and getting more persons involved in what their elected officials are doing," Mulhauser said.

When asked why she felt the current legislature had so many anti-abortion bills, Mulhauser said, "We do not have people like Sarah Weddington who will stand up for women's rights in office anymore.

"Until women truly are able to control their reproductive lives, they do not have control over the other aspects of their lives. To prohibit abortions is to take away the element of freedom of choice and a woman's respect," she expressed.

"How can these legislators value a fetus above the life of a woman or of other children who may not receive sufficient care if another baby is born? This is an hypocrisy, making unborn children paramount," she concluded.



JOAN GLANTZ (L) and KAREN MULHAUSER

# Islam and Iranian women

by Barbara Farrar Karkabi

As the ship docked in Alexandria, Egypt, three women came down the gangplank, took off their veils and walked—barefaced—towards the waiting crowd.

There was a moment of silence, then the crowd began to react. They seemed about to turn on the three women when, one by one, all the women in the crowd tore off their veils in a dramatic sign of support.

The year was 1923. The three had just returned from a conference in Rome on women's rights, which had inspired them to get rid of the veil back home. Within five years of their dockside demonstration, the use of the veil had largely disappeared in Egypt.

Over the years, the veil slowly began to disappear in many other Middle Eastern countries — although its use has not yet been eradicated. But in countries like Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iran it has come to be thought of as a thing of the past.

The veil goes by many names in the Middle East—it is the milayah in Egypt, the abayah in Iraq, the chador in Iran, the yashmak in Turkey, the burqa in Afghanistan and the djellabah and the haik in North Africa. But, whatever it is called, it comes down to the same thing—the total concealment of a woman under a full-length cotton veil.

In Islam, the Koranic verse that calls for the barrier between men and women says: "Prophet, enjoin your wives, your daughters and the wives of believers to draw their veils close round them. That is more proper, so that they may be recognized and not molested. Allah is forgiving and merciful."

To American and western feminists, the veil stirs up strong emotions. Elizabeth Fernea, an American writer who has lived for many years in the Middle East, says in her article, "A Look Behind the Veil," (*Human Nature*, January 79) "The veil triggers western reaction simply because it is the dramatic, visible sign of vexing questions, questions that are still being debated, problems that have still not been solved in the Middle East or in Western societies."

She also says that the veil has sexual connotations. It proclaims that women should cover up the evil, enticing parts of their bodies. Marge Randall, a PhD candidate in anthropology, disagrees. She feels the veil is a way of telling women they're not people. "It's just another way men have of controlling women," she says.

Whatever the answer, the veil has been a hotly debated subject, and as French ethnologist Germaine Tillion says, "The feminine veil has become a symbol: that of the slavery of one portion of humanity."

But have we, in fact, focused too much attention on the veil and ignored other equally important issues? Many Middle Eastern women seem to think so. And the question becomes especially valid in light of recent events in Iran.

One month ago, Iranian women took to the streets of Tehran and demonstrated against certain edicts of the Ayatollah Khomeini's government. "In the dawn of freedom, there is no freedom," they chanted.

Some of the edicts were, according to reports by western press, a return to "modest" dressing and even perhaps a return to the chador; a change of the family laws affecting divorce, and abolishment of coeducational schools.

Newspaper reports focused on the re-introduction of the veil, or the chador, as the focal and most emotional of the issues.

The press and especially the American media indicated that since the Shah was the son of the man who had officially abolished the chador in 1935, he was the savior of Iranian women.

So much of the progress made by Iranian women under the Shah was going to be totally reversed by the Moslem regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini, the reports all said. But, in reality, how good was the Shah for Iranian women?

Certainly his image falters somewhat in a quote taken from a December, 1973 interview with Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci. "I am the son of the man who removed women's veils. But I wouldn't be sincere if I asserted that I'd been influenced by a single one of them. Nobody can influence me . . . and a woman still less," the Shah said.

Nancy Hormachea, a Houston lawyer who has defended hundreds of Iranian students over the past four years, says she does not understand the attitude of American feminists.

"They think because women did not wear the veil under the Shah that they were liberated? How free could women be, when literally thousands of them were being arrested by SAVAK (the Shah's Secret Police) and tortured in the Shah's prisons?"

Referring to Kate Millett's participation in the Iranian demonstrations, she asks, "Where were American feminists in those days of torture and repression? Where were they last September 8 when 400 women were killed in a demonstration in Tehran?"

In a recent article in *Majority Report* Myrna Hill quotes a woman writer who traveled extensively in Iran before the revolution and who interviewed many women.

"The writer said she could only assess the Shah's reforms on women's rights as a total sham . . . A women's rights organization sponsored by the Shah's government consisted of upper-class women who took no political stand and merely provided some harmless services such as sewing lessons for the less fortunate women.

"The basic ownership of a woman by her male relatives went unchallenged and most women did not have the cultural freedom to exercise their 'theoretical' right to vote."

The reporter added that she was shadowed daily by SAVAK spies all through her trip—even in the supermarket.

In an effort to find out what the future will be for Iranian women and what role—if any—American feminists can play in assisting them, *Breakthrough* spoke with several Iranian women in Houston.

Feresh Sadeghr, dressed with her hair modestly covered by a scarf, is representative of the religious Moslem woman. She came to the U.S. in 1975, and got her PhD in educational administration from the University of Texas.

*Breakthrough* spoke to her at the Islamic Center on Richmond Avenue, where religious Iranians gather every Thursday to worship.

Sadeghr believes strongly in the new Islamic Republic of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Along with many of the Ayatollah's followers, she points to the fact that a true Islamic Republic has never

existed.

"The Shah and others have practiced a distortion of Islam. What resulted was an Islam that was twisted by dictatorship and colonialism," she says.

Women will have more freedom in the new regime than under the Shah, she says. They will be respected for the "intellect" and not for their "physical" appearance. "The days of designer dresses are finished for Iran," she says.

Confusion arises, Sadeghr says, because women have not been told of their rights as they exist in the Koran—they only know them as they have been "falsely" interpreted through the years.

"Although I don't accuse the media of lying," she says, "I do believe they focus on one issue and exclude others." Sadeghr insists that the Ayatollah did not call for a return to the chador, but only that women be dressed "modestly" and specifically those women who work in governmental offices.

Sadeghr's interpretation of dressing modestly excludes mini-skirts, too much make-up, open-neck and sleeveless dresses.

"But," she says, "women in the streets can dress as they like—as acceptable to public opinion. In the last 50 years, that standard hasn't changed. If a woman wore a bikini on the street during the Shah's rule, the people wouldn't have liked it either."

As far as family law is concerned, Sadeghr maintains that women are entitled to the right of divorce, under the law of the Koran. She says they may include the right to divorce in the marital contract, which is signed between families before marriage. Even if it is not, a woman is allowed to go before a court of imams (or priests) and request a divorce, Sadeghr says.

She adds that at least half the rural population doesn't know these things because they have been living in a non-Islamic country. "When you have corruption in a country, it sifts down to all levels," she says. "Islam believes in freedom for everyone."

Sadeghr's views are strongly questioned by Fahimeh Ahia, a 26-year-old electronics student at Texas Southern University. Strongly political, Ahia was jailed in Houston in 1976, for taking part in an anti-Shah demonstration in front of the French Consulate.

"I don't think there is any freedom for women in the Koran," she says. "Where are the examples of this freedom in Iran? Just try and go before a court of imams and get a divorce—impossible. And it was the same under the Shah, too."

Ahia says that 80 percent of the people fought to remove the Shah because they were poor and hungry. They didn't fight for religion. She believes religion and government should be separated.

As Nancy Hormachea says, "What is Islamic government? We don't know what it is. Certainly as it exists in Saudi Arabia, it is terrible. If the Islamic government continues for any length of time in Iran, I believe that women will be in for a hard time."

Both Ahia and Hormachea resent American feminists picking up the chador and making it the most significant issue. "American feminists make too much of the veil. There are other more significant issues in Iran today,"

Hormachea says.

She is not alone in her claim. Fernea quotes an Iraqi feminist as saying, "Compared to the real issues that are involved between men and women in the Middle East today, the veil is unimportant."

Fernea also quotes a Moroccan linguist who says "My mother wears a djellabah and a veil. I have never worn them. But, so what? I still cannot get divorced as easily as a man and I am still a member of my family group and responsible to them for everything I do. What is the veil? A piece of cloth."

Hormachea explains that before the revolution, the women's movement existed only in Iran's upper classes. But the massive move to oust the Shah united upper, middle and lower class women for the first time.

"Some of the most revolutionary women I knew wore the chador and hid their machine guns and grenades under it. It became a symbol of the resistance against the Shah and an ethnic symbol as well. Also, many of these women, although they were participating in a revolution, were still semi-feudal in mentality."

For these women, she says, the veil is a divisive issue—because upper-class women were able to travel and see another way of life. They had the luxury to choose not to wear the veil. Lower-class women never had the opportunity, she points out.

"Lower-class women not only could not choose, they don't know how to read or even what the concept of freedom is. They have been exploited by the Shah, their husbands and the upper classes. Because they don't understand what it's like not to wear the veil and all it represents, they would resent any woman telling them not to wear it," says Hormachea.

Ahia adds that while she would never want to be forced to wear the veil—she believes every woman should make her own personal choice.

"My grandmother told me of the days when the Shah's father abolished the veil. He had police stationed at streetcorners ripping off veils—that is not freedom either," she says.

If wearing the chador is the only way to raise women's consciousness and enlighten them to their rights—Ahia says that she would do it. She believes that once the women become aware of their rights, the chador will die a natural death.

So, what are the significant issues to Hormachea and Ahia? Both of them stress the importance of women working outside the home. As Ahia says, "If you take away the chador and the women stay at home, what good is that?"

Women should be encouraged to take jobs as teachers and nurses, jobs that involve them in running the country—although Hormachea adds, not necessarily in the provisional Khomeini government because, "it is not in the best interests of women."

Women are still considered only half a person, Ahia says. To marry or divorce they need their family's permission. A woman cannot leave the country without her husband's permission. Women are excluded from many jobs, such as work in the oil fields. All this must be changed, she says.

In the wake of the recent fighting, Hormachea says a group was formed called the "Zans-e-Mobarez," or the

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What is the veil? A... before the... movement

Low-class women not only could... know how to lead... freedom is

to their... of their... to

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Photo by Julie Heifetz

# The Failure of Barbara Jordan's Success

In a very short span of time Barbara Jordan had become a genuine national superstar, a household name, and one of the most admired people in America. She was a symbol, in the most uplifting sort of way, of how far blacks and women had come in this country. And yet...

by Joseph Nocera

You could see her every day from the press galleries, sitting in the same place, doing the same things. It didn't seem to matter whether the debate was over some sweeping national concern or whether it was a minor parochial dispute, whether there were hundreds of people milling around or whether the chamber was deserted. Barbara Jordan would be there on the floor of the House of Representatives in her self-appointed seat, three rows back near the middle aisle. "You can hear better on the center aisle," she writes in her new book, *Barbara Jordan: A Self-Portrait*, (Doubleday), "and you can catch the eye of the presiding officer better on the center aisle, as you are in his direct line of vision. So I decided that is where I would always sit, leaving one seat next to me on the aisle vacant for those people who might want to stop and visit from time to time."

As it turns out, Barbara Jordan didn't have much need for catching the eye of the presiding officer. In the six years she was in Congress—until she retired last year—Jordan rarely spoke out on the floor, preferring instead to spend her time reading her correspondence and briefing papers, or listening to the often deadly-dull debates. On the other hand, having the extra seat on the aisle turned out to be quite a prescient move, for Jordan was often visited by her colleagues, particularly fellow Texans and Southerners, many of them the hard-rock conservatives who throughout her political career have felt most comfortable with her.

According to the legend of Barbara Jordan (and it is a part of the legend she nurtures in the book), this seat is where she spun a lot of her special magic. Jordan has always insisted in interviews that she was a professional politician first and foremost (as opposed to being, say, a "professional" black or liberal or woman), and it is from that seat that she did most of her politicking. The men who sat next to her loved it when she joshed with them, and listened when she counseled them. Her political instincts are supposed to be superb, and when she argued one-on-one, she may well have been the most persuasive person in Congress. "She used to like to regale folks with stories about how she talked someone like Omar Bureleson (until he retired, one of the real arch-conservatives of the Texas congressional delegation) into switching his vote on something after a little nudge from her," says one person who has heard her tell some of those stories (and who, like most of the people interviewed for this article, agreed to talk about her only if guaranteed anonymity). Rep. Charles Wilson of Texas, purportedly her closest friend in Congress, once told *Texas Monthly* that she was "the most influential member of Congress. I mean if

you're talking about the one person who is able to get just anybody to stop and listen to what she has to say and convince them that she's right, then you're talking about Barbara."

For all of us who have heard her—and that probably includes a majority of Americans—the idea of her being especially influential undoubtedly rings true. When, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, she talked about impeaching Richard Nixon, she electrified and stunned us with the eloquence of her words. ("My faith in the Constitution is whole. It is complete. It is total.")

Two years later, when she was a keynote speaker at the Democratic Convention, Jordan again was overpowering. Again, we listened in awe to the flights of her oratory. Then the rumors began that she would be the vice-presidential nominee, and later, that she would be a cabinet secretary or the next Supreme Court justice, and it wasn't too long before it became part of the conventional political wisdom that if a black or a woman was ever going to be elected president someday, it would surely be Barbara Jordan. In a very short span of time she had become a genuine national superstar, a household name, and one of the most admired people in America. She was a symbol, in the most uplifting sort of way, of how far blacks and women had come in this country.

And yet... since her retirement from Congress last year and the publication of her very revealing book last month, something nags, and it gets back to that seat in the middle aisle. When she first came to Congress, Jordan told her staff that she would be spending much of her time on the floor so she could familiarize herself with the intricacies of the rules and begin cultivating the people who had real power. By her last year in office she had another, more personal reason—painful calcium deposits on her knees made it difficult for her to get from place to place.

But taken in their entirety, six years is a long time to sit in one place. Indeed, one of the first lessons usually learned in Congress is that much of the time spent on the floor is time wasted; that is not where personal or national agendas are formed, not where the "issues" are framed, not where laws are written. The House floor is a reactive place, where one votes upon the work of others. Barbara Jordan was a reactive congresswoman, willing to vote with the liberals almost every time out (except on important oil and gas votes—she was, after all, from Houston), but unwilling to take initiatives herself. Her accomplishments in Congress, for someone of her stature, are consequently painfully thin.

So the question begs: what did she do



Barbara Jordan was a person who derived her greatest satisfactions from each additional honor, each new step on the way to stardom.

with all her gifts—her eloquence, her political abilities, her intelligence, her unquestioned powers to cajole and influence? The answer, implied throughout the book and borne out by talking to people who watched her or worked with her in Congress, seems to have been not very much at all.

## Rocking the Boat

*Barbara Jordan: A Self-Portrait* is going to disappoint a lot of the people who found her so inspiring during the impeachment hearings and at the Democratic Convention. It is not an inspiring book. It is, instead, her version of "making it" in a world dominated by white males. This she did in part by bestowing friendship ("Barbara never formed friendships, she bestowed them," said one longtime observer) in the Texas Senate and Congress. She made it a point to joke and work with those who had been around those institutions longer, to show them she was safe, that she

wasn't some wild-eyed radical out to do them in. She showed the kind of respect for their institutions that they appreciated and played the game by their rules. Her relations with the congressional black caucus were chilly at best, and with the women's caucus non-existent—she went to great lengths to disassociate herself from both groups—and this further endeared her to the congressional establishment. The people in those caucuses were boat-rockers, and Barbara Jordan didn't rock the boat.

If making friends with the right people is one part of this success story, then ambition is the other. It has never been any secret that Barbara Jordan was ambitious—she herself made no effort to hide it, telling reporters "off-the-record" for example, that she would have liked to run for the Senate if she thought she could have won. What comes through most strongly in this book, however, is how single-minded her ambition was, how overwhelmingly important a force it was in her life. The sense one gets upon finish-

ing this book is that Barbara Jordan was a person who derived her greatest satisfactions from each additional honor, each new step on the way to stardom.

"With all she had going against her, I don't think she would have ever gotten here if she hadn't been single-minded about it," says Rep. Bob Eckhardt, a fellow Texas liberal and generally an admirer of Jordan's. Perhaps. But like a lot of America's best and brightest, Barbara Jordan came to see Making It as its own reward; in her climb for the status and glory of being someone special, somewhere along the line she lost sight of what should have been more important. She forgot she had been elected to serve.

Once in the book she lets us know that she understands that the desire to serve is supposed to be the point of getting into politics in the first place. "Change continued to be incredibly slow," writes co-author Shelby Hearon (the book, by the way, is part autobiography, written by Jordan, and part biography, written by Hearon). "Barbara felt that from the time of the *Brown* decision to the *Ross* case nothing else had happened (to eliminate segregation). The only way to move things along, she concluded, was to get into a position where you could implement the laws. So, for the first time, she began to think seriously about politics."

But by the time she entered Congress years later, most vestiges of that kind of idealism had gone. As a freshman con-

gresswoman, Jordan came to Washington to interview potential staffers and asked them what they thought she should get involved in. When, once the session began, her new staff tried to push her in directions they thought she would be interested in, she would usually say, "I'll think about it," and the matter would never come up again.

Throughout her career, she gagged at being called a symbol yet she rarely made any effort to rise above her symbolic importance. That she could have done so—easily—was obvious to just about anyone who ever came into contact with her. Unlike so many of our other politicians similarly swept away by the glamor of their own stardom, Jordan was one who could make a difference when she wanted to. Those few times she did get involved in something—as during the debate over the Voting Rights extension, when she played a key role in getting Texas included under the act—she was, everyone agrees, brilliant, persuasive and forceful. And that is also why it seems to pain people to classify her as "just another ambitious politician," when in many ways that is an accurate description of her.

## 'Another Milestone'

Barbara Jordan's story begins in Houston's Fifth Ward, a large black section of the city, where she was born

and raised at a time when segregation was still the law, and where she realized, at some point during her high school years, that she had the ability to stand out. "I always liked to have some award or something," she says. At that age, this is a most natural reaction; the chance to be special, whether it's as an athlete, a scholar, or even a delinquent, is a key motivator, and Barbara Jordan was as susceptible as anyone. She remembers running for "Girl of the Year," because "all of the clubs and organizations give you a gift." Recognizing around that time that she had a gift for public speaking, she began participating in oratorical contests. Again, the motivation was to bring home the medals: "Then we would have a ceremony and a presentation of the trophies to the school. And we declaimers and debaters felt self-important with the little box of three-by-five-inch index cards on which we kept our notes. These were our badge of superiority over those others who could not do things like that." She wins an oratorical award and tells the local black newspaper: "It's just another milestone I've passed; it's just the beginning."

decided: That will be my campaign theme. Retrenchment and reform. And I began to work them into my campaign speeches after I had announced for the House of Representatives."

She was hustling: "I continued to go around to speak and meet people and testify before committees in the Texas Legislature on pending educational bills that would benefit blacks. All that whole bit in order to get my name well-known."

And dreaming: "One day I went to Austin to testify, and when I sat up in the House gallery and looked down at (one) desk I thought, 'I ought to be in his place. I deserve it.'"

And losing. Jordan lost races in 1962 and 1964, because in those days all candidates had to run countywide and no black in Texas was about to win an entire county. She became embittered, feeling she had been used because of her speaking prowess to help elect other Harris County Democrats, (including Eckhardt), and that they all secretly knew she would lose.

After the second loss, she says, "The first order of business was to decide: 'Is politics worth staying in for me?' It

Her relations with the congressional black caucus were chilly at best, and with the women's caucus non-existent—she went to great lengths to disassociate herself from both groups—and this further endeared her to the congressional establishment.

She graduates from Texas Southern University and later, Boston University Law School, where she finds that she can cope and succeed in the white world, and then it is time to decide what to do with her life. "I could have gotten a job at John Hancock Insurance Company (in Boston) as one of the hundreds of lawyers they have doing various claims and things. But when the personnel person said that I could have a job and took me down the hall to show me the office I could have had, it was one of a row of little cubbyholes all divided by plywood. So I thanked him very much and left. This required some reconsideration. I thought: Now, look—true the air is freer up here, true the opportunities are probably greater, but nobody in Boston, Massachusetts is interested in the advancement of Barbara Jordan (emphasis added). They don't know you... I decided maybe it makes more sense to go home where people will be interested in helping you." So that's what she did, setting up a small law office in Houston, where she began to dabble in politics.

She joined the Harris County Democrats, a group of Texas liberals who ran slates of candidates for public office (and usually lost). By 1962, she had become their best speaker, and that year she ran for public office for the first time as a candidate for the Texas House of Representatives.

This was an interesting time for Jordan; she was trying hard to be seen not as a black woman symbol but as a concerned citizen who cared about issues. Her issues, however, left something to be desired. "I don't remember in which era of Texas government it was, but some governor talked about *retrenchment and reform*, and I liked the sound of those words. I thought: Now here are two nice, fine words. I thought about them, and I

was, of course, and the rest is history. In 1965, Harris County was forced to reapportion its legislative districts after the Supreme Court ruled for "one-man, one-vote." Jordan this time ran as a black woman—"She would sell Barbara Jordan," Hearon writes—"and even though her opponent had impeccable liberal credentials, she crushed him by asking: 'CAN A WHITE MAN WIN? NO. NOT THIS TIME.'"

Of her time in the Texas Senate, William Broyles of *Texas Monthly* has written: "This first black state senator had not a single item in her platform designed to benefit blacks. She came out for traditional bread-and-butter liberal issues... She also strongly supported limits on oyster dredging, and played political expediency with welfare... It was a solid, traditional political platform. It was also a pale reflection of her extraordinary rhetoric and presence. Because of her charisma, she led people to expect that she would set things right, and they didn't have oyster dredging in mind."

Jordan was determined to make these white males like her, so she sat and watched, learned the rules, formed alliances with the most conservative of them, and generally spoke to them on their own terms. She was not unlike the converted Catholic who becomes more devout than the Pope. Having overcome obstacles to gain entrance in the club, she seemed to want nothing so badly as to be able to adapt to her new surroundings, to be accepted by the congregation. Once she wrote a bill to outlaw employment discrimination and it passed 30-1. There wasn't any reason for her colleagues to worry that it would actually do anything about employment discrimination, however. Her bill had no teeth.

And so, the white male club elected

her Outstanding Freshman Senator, and she, in turn, called them all her friends. Before leaving the Senate, she was named Governor for a Day, a purely symbolic title yet one, the book makes clear, in which she reveled. It was another milestone.

### The Quick Fix

Jordan came to Congress in 1973, and well before her last term, I'm told, she was a woman bored with her work. The glory days of impeachment had come and gone, as had the initial exhilaration of being elected to Congress. Quickly she had become a star—she was perhaps the best known person in Congress by the end of her first term—and it seemed difficult for her to keep motivated after that. She was easily frustrated by the workings of Congress, quickly annoyed at how long it took to get anywhere "... It was easy to become bogged down in the minutiae of committee meetings and settings and roll call votes and quorum calls and spend many hours doing things that you really had no interest in doing," she writes. Even in her first year, there were portents of this. A number of times, after particularly bad days, Jordan would storm into her office and announce to anyone within earshot: "I don't need this place, you know. I can leave any time."

While working in Congress can be an essentially thankless, anonymous task, the business of speechmaking brought with it an immediate gratification. She could always bring down the house, no matter what the audience or the topic. It was a quick-fix—a reaffirmation of her stardom.

During the heady days of impeachment, she had played an important role on the Judiciary Committee, for chairman Peter Rodino trusted her instincts and had consulted her practically daily. But later she would not go out of her way even to attend her subcommittee meetings, and when she did, she had nothing to offer. She just sat and listened.

By the end of her third year, she had all but stopped pushing for bills she wrote or offering amendments. Once in a while she would drop a bill into the congressional hopper and there it would die. She began spending more time than ever on the House floor. The last six months of her congressional career, even her staff had a hard time seeing her because her co-author, Hearon, had become a de-facto administrative assistant, practically running the office while the two of them wrote the book.

What Jordan never lost her taste for was the politics of the House. She may have been absent at subcommittee meetings, but she never missed a meeting of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, a group of Democrats who decide who is going to be on what committee and perform other "political" functions. (Here, too, the liberals soon became resigned to the fact that Barbara Jordan would invariably side with the conservatives.) She quietly made a few overtures to the House leadership in an effort to get on the House Rules Committee at a time when the leaders were trying to make the committee less independent and more subservient to their wishes. That would have been all right with Jordan, who would have liked working for the leadership, thus putting them in her political debt.

It is often said in her defense that Barbara Jordan was not the kind of person

willing to stretch herself too thin. She had only one legislative assistant, so she wouldn't have to feel badgered by a half-dozen assistants all pushing her in a half-dozen different directions, and she spent a lot of her time simply studying the various bills coming up on the floor.

That is also why she resented the black and women's caucuses. As with the Harris County Democrats, she felt they were trying to "use" her for their purposes. They were trying to stretch her too thin, she thought, always asking her to sign onto some letter to the president, or to join them in a press conference, or to speak out on something on their behalf. What she wouldn't see is that the caucuses, and the Harris County Democrats, were full of people working towards something, committed to some set of goals. All Jordan could see was that she, Barbara Jordan, was being asked to perform a favor, for which she personally would get nothing in return.

If that sounds a bit harsh, contrast it with her attitudes towards those who she believed could help her: "When Congressman (George) Mahon, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, interrupted her on another phone call to ask if she would sing with him at the West Texas Chamber of Commerce meeting, she was jocular and glad to oblige," writes Hearon. "Doing favors was part and parcel of the ongoing business of doing

business in the Congress..."

She granted a lot of those favors by doing what she did with Mahon—making appearances and speeches. While working in Congress can be an essentially thankless, anonymous task, the business of speechmaking brought with it an immediate gratification. She could always bring down the house, no matter what the audience or the topic. It was a quick fix—a reaffirmation of her stardom.

As such, it became something she did often (and profitably—Jordan usually made in the neighborhood of \$12,000 a year in honoraria). She campaigned for Carter at his request (another political chit), and recalled: "I don't know whether Carter ought to thank me for campaigning for him, or I ought to thank him for sending me to these places to campaign because I was having a ball. The reaction to me was what turned me on."

She made her famous speech at the Democratic Convention at the request of fellow Texan Robert Strauss (add another political chit) and glowed in the warmth of the nation's applause. Afterwards, there was a party in the VIP lounge, and Jordan was the star there too. "They were all kissing my ass, that's all I can say about that time."

After Carter was elected, Jordan began looking for new milestones. Congress had already lost its luster. There was a great deal of talk about her becoming a member of the cabinet, but most of it didn't interest her. To her, writes Hearon, "the idea of a cabinet post seemed to offer nothing more substantive than another First Time. More immediate, and therefore more real to her, was the campaign trail with its familiar thrill of bringing audiences to their feet." And Jordan adds: "I didn't want HEW: a black woman head of HEW couldn't do a thing

that would be of interest." What she did want was Attorney General. While it is never spelled out in the book, the sense one gets is that she felt HEW was the kind of cabinet post that a Pat Harris might be named to, but only Barbara Jordan could pull down Attorney General. Attorney General wouldn't be any First Time. Here would be another notch to her belt.

She was never seriously considered for the post, particularly after her one meeting with the Carter people turned into a debacle—they were stunned and angered by her refusal to even listen to any offers other than Attorney General.

Well after he was elected, and his Cabinet firmly in place, Carter again asked Jordan to campaign, this time for Brendan Byrne in New Jersey. She turned him down. "I had done my thing for Carter at the time of his campaigning and helping with the election," she writes. "And I hadn't called in any of those chits at that point. I decided: I don't need to stockpile favors at the White House, so I won't go to New Jersey. That's just politics."

### Collecting Pens

Jordan left Congress last year without looking back. Part of the reason is that she had gotten from it all she wanted—the fame and recognition. The milestone had been achieved; she had no further need for Congress. (Another part of the reason may well have been her health, which has been rumored for years to be worse than she will publicly admit.)

Before leaving Congress, she made one of her last major public appearances at a Harvard commencement, where she gave the address. Her description of the event reveals a lot about why Barbara Jordan was such a disappointment as a public official.

"And I had done a lot of those (commencement addresses); had been awarded, at that juncture, twenty-two doctoral degrees, including one at Boston and one scheduled at Princeton. So I was thinking: Well, maybe I don't need to do any more of those. How many commencement speeches do you give? How many honorary degrees do you want?"

"Then I got a letter from Harvard University. It had voted to give me an honorary doctoral degree at its June commencement. So I answered myself: Well, that's one you take. How many more? One more."

The speech that day, given in her usual ringing, inspiring tone, was about the lack of citizen participation in government. She spoke in particular about the regulatory agencies, how difficult it was for an ordinary citizen to poke his nose into the business of the Atomic Energy Commission, for example, how the rules were stacked against it, and the expenses were too high.

"The people want in," she said. "How much longer, how much longer will people tolerate a network of illusions and vacuous rhetoric? How much longer?" she said.

"We want to be in control of our lives. Whether we are jungle fighters, craftsmen, company men, gamesmen, we want to be in control. And when the government erodes that control, we are not comfortable," she said.

"The stakes are too high for government to be a spectator sport," she said.

The crowd, of course, was in awe, and what no one thought to ask was what had Barbara Jordan done to make government less a spectator sport? Why hadn't

she tried to make it easier for people to intervene in the proceedings of the Atomic Energy Commission if that is what she thought important; Why hadn't she done anything to help Americans take more control of their lives?

In her efforts to Make It, she had come to see life as a collection of awards, of milestones to be achieved and then abandoned for newer heights. Certainly she was bored by Congress (and certainly Congress can be a boring place), but it didn't help much that she looked at the passage of bills as a chance to collect pens from a President—which is precisely how she looked at it. ("How many times do you keep presenting a bill and getting it passed and getting a President to sign it? How many pens do you want?") Certainly, HEW would have been a difficult place to manage, but it didn't help that Barbara Jordan wasn't even willing to try. To her it didn't matter that HEW touches the lives of all of us; it just didn't sparkle with the right kind of First Time.

And certainly she had gone far, but for what purpose? The Voting Rights Act was a nice bit of work, but it didn't come close to tapping the immense potential of Barbara Jordan. If the minutiae of legislation bored her, there were plenty of other things she could have done. To name but one, Jordan was in a unique position in the House to bring some sense to the question of energy prices. As the congresswoman from oil-rich Houston, she had the trust and support of the oil and gas industry, who yearn for ever-higher prices. As the congresswoman from the largest ghetto in Texas, she was revered by the poor, whose need for cheap energy is just as pressing.

She was the one person both sides trusted; had she the inclination she could have helped cut through the hyperbole and the rhetoric surrounding the issue.

By talking to both sides, she could have brought some rationality to our energy mess. She had the talent to pull off something like that. But she never had the inclination.

### The One Speech Legacy

"What is different about tonight?" she asked the audience at the Democratic Convention. "It is that I, Barbara Jordan, am a keynote speaker." She needed to get beyond looking at herself as a symbol—"I, Barbara Jordan"—but she refused to do so. Ultimately, her vision was too limited; she never saw the potential for doing good with her talents. What's remarkable about her book, I suppose, is its underlying admission of that failure. By far the bulk of it is about making it—winning the oratorical awards and Girl of the Year, getting into the Texas Senate and being Governor for a Day, coming to Congress and making the famous impeachment speech, and the convention speech, and finally making that trip to Harvard.

I asked one Texas politico whether he thought she had left a legacy. "Surely," he said, "her impeachment speech will be recited by schoolchildren for generations to come." I tend to doubt that, but even if I'm wrong, that hardly seems enough. Barbara Jordan was a symbol and a hero at a time when America yearned for someone like her. *Barbara Jordan: A Self-Portrait* tells a lot about how she became that symbol, and almost nothing about what she did when she got there. And the reason for that, quite simply, is that Barbara Jordan never got around to doing very much.

Joseph Nocera is an editor of The Washington Monthly.  
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**DEAR ERICA**

I have eaten your words tasted your innards  
 replaced your Mother and become your breast  
 have basted blanched and blended your fears  
 aborted them through a straw  
 before they reached your heart  
 picked up the trappings of skin you shed  
 and grafted it into my own wounds  
 joined the daisy-chain of hands  
 flying the Universe  
 made a circle round to hold you together  
 offered you my shoulder, breasts, navel for a cushion  
 of distraction—sat up nights with you  
 fed you paregoric grappled with your Jacobs  
 and perspired the nightmares  
 blotted your tears with my long red hair

licked the mote from your eye  
 slept with your muse (who's unfaithful to us all)  
 examined the stains you left  
 on the chairs in graduate school  
 dusted the print of your symmetry  
 made a key and picked your locks  
 slid beneath your surface  
 grown with strawberry flesh  
 sprouts crisp lettuce head  
 and gorged myself on wild milk  
 I disperse you from the market Erica. . .Erica. . .  
 I have placed the crown of your head under my chin  
 and discovered that I loved butter  
 and I have danced around Keat's urn with you  
 grecian style

— Patricia Looker

*Patricia Looker's poem Dear Erica recently won the New York Poetry Most Outstanding Contemporary Poem, and was subsequently read at the New York Poetry Forum. This is the first publication of the poem.*

# Houston Women Talk About Stress

by Judith Richards

## STRESS: WORK

Editor Lee Spratling arrived at work recently 25 minutes late with a fierce headache and a crick in the neck. "The baby was crying, my five-year-old wanted help with his clothes, my husband couldn't find his keys. Then I had to stand in line for my reserved order at the Kolache Shoppe," she says.

"I feel rattled, get negative, lack patience and enthusiasm when clients don't pay on time," says freelance artist Maura Noga.

"I have trouble breathing," says attorney Chere Lott.

It's all part of stress.

"You'll have your own symptoms of stress," says Freeda Biggs, who recently led a seminar on working women's stress for the Women's Employment Forum. "You might show physical signs, like nail biting, itching, dry throat when you really want to say, 'Go to Hell!' Or you might react with uncomfortable feelings of disappointment, frustration, anger, helplessness, confusion, guilt."

We need stress to do our best. It's the extra adrenalin that adds spark to a speech or a sales pitch. As one woman's mentor put it, "Ahhh, you've got to get to white heat."

A few successful women are apparently so used to a high level of stress in their lives that they're not aware of any tension. City Controller Kathryn J. Whitmire, for example, gives the impression that she isn't bothered by the stresses of an intensive political campaign or of an exacting public service job. "It's not a problem I've had to deal with."

Most women, however, feel stress—distress. And much of it comes from the job.

How is our job stress different from men's? "When there's too great a discrepancy between what you want to be and what you can be, that causes stress," Edelman says. "In this culture, some things are held out to women, but the possibility of fulfilling them is limited."

Much of the limitation comes from within us, some think. "Everybody's

think you are?"

Channel 13 TV reporter and anchor Jan Carson fights the stress of daily, newsroom deadlines. "I have to get my story done, read my script, be on the set and appear relaxed by 5 p.m. If I look harried and distracted, it shows in my face," she says.

Because she's female, Carson contends with some extra hassle. "It takes me longer to get ready for on-camera work," she says. "Men just don't have to worry so much about make-up and fixing their hair."

to accept it as fundamental rule of gaining prestige and power within a business hierarchy.

"Once we're in, we can be more human. For my own values, I believe that if we could only express our emotions, it would be healthier. But we can't today.

"I've worked on jobs when the men around me were complaining of tightness in their chest and swallowing Maalox like crazy. And all I felt like doing was bursting into tears, which I had to suppress.

Women shouldn't admit to job-related stress or trouble dealing with it. Until we're part of the power elite, we have to disguise our emotionalism.

How does she handle emotions on the job? Carson emphasizes that distress must be expressed appropriately, without games. "I think women tend to play on men's emotions at the same time they expect equal consideration," she says. "That's a double standard we need to get rid of.

"It's harder for a woman to confront her boss and say she's really mad because she doesn't want to be labelled a hysterical woman. But it doesn't help to keep it in. You can do it—the right way. Make sure you don't whine or 'poor me.' Act like 'I'm a professional among professionals and I'm not going to take this kind of treatment and here's why.'"

Talking personally about job stress holds us back, says film production manager Susan Vogelfang. "Women

"It's ironic. It's okay for men to experience this pre-heart attack condition. It's also okay for them to evidence an ulcer or pre-ulcer condition. It's okay to talk about the consequences of suppressing your feelings. But it's not okay to express the strain that contributes to the development of these conditions. Emotions are not appropriate. And by emotions, I don't just mean crying. I mean the other things women do to let out their feelings one way or another."

Some specialists say that expressing emotion can lessen strain, that taking time off work for less important physical symptoms like colds, sore throat, or just feeling punk might help allay major illnesses. Studies show that men and women log the same total time off the job, says Kelleher, but women's is for the

When there's a discrepancy between what you want to be and what you can be, that causes stress. In this culture some things are held out to women, but the possibility of fulfilling them is limited.

Some experts believe that practically all illness is stress-related. Counselor Carol Kelleher says, "Two years ago I came down with shingles after two weekends of leading out-of-town workshops. Last year I got myself into an auto accident. That time it was better. I didn't get really hurt or sick. But I realized I wasn't taking care of my needs. When you watch out for yourself, these kinds of things just don't happen."

People think of stress as bad; some superachievers think they should eliminate it altogether. In fact, it is neither positive nor negative.

"Stress keeps us going," says psychotherapist Miriam Edelman. "It's in our nature. Human beings like to create and solve problems. Successful living is acquiring a more delightful set of problems and better ways to cope."

Stress has been likened to the tension of a violin string. Just the right amount allows for beautiful music to be created—too little, and it's impossible to play; too much, and the string snaps.

scared, if they'd be honest with themselves," says UH assistant professor Sybil Estess, "but women are more afraid to fail—and to succeed. We haven't been taught much about competition; we've been trained as peacemakers. Until we have the courage to think of an idea, risk, make fools of ourselves, we won't really achieve."

Yet recent Census Bureau figures show that female work patterns are rapidly changing, becoming more like those of male workers. And women are subject to stress equally with men.

A recent *U. S. News* story reports that there is more strain on women climbing the corporate ladder. Such women not only have the ordinary pressures of dealing with a demanding job, but also must face the possible burden of people rejecting them.

One professional, who asked not to be quoted by name, says that so far her career achievements have not elicited the pat on the back they would have for an equally ambitious male colleague. "The vibes I get," she says, "are 'Who do you

They point the finger at us and say, "She's too emotional." Meanwhile, the men pointing the finger are having that tightness in the chest. God, that must be frightening.

shouldn't admit to job-related stress or trouble dealing with it. Until we're part of the power elite, we have to disguise our emotionalism. We won't be accepted unless we do that. Whether we believe that's the best way to be or not, we have

small stuff; men's is for major problems, like heart attacks.

"But that's how they get women," says Vogelfang. "They point the finger at us and say, 'She's too emotional. She misses work. She doesn't know how to

handle the competition. She's unstable. It's raging hormones. Must be that time of the month.' Meanwhile, the men pointing the finger are having that tightness in the chest. God, that must be frightening."

Psychologist Nancy Gulanick agrees that expressing feelings on the job can be detrimental to career progress. "I wouldn't advise women to go up to co-workers and say, 'It's tough.' If you did that, you might be called weak, incompetent."

Being cautious can go too far, though, she adds. Sometimes women are so used to needing to be good on the job, they can't let down and say they have doubts, even when it's appropriate. In learning to close up on the job, women can lose some of the valuable safety valves available to them. And this causes more stress.

ly high stress threshold, unless it was approached in the right spirit. "I love my work," says Vogelfang. "Even though each assignment is potentially high stress, I feel like I've got the best of jobs!" Carson, who puts in ten-hour days, agrees.

Also, says Selye, it's important to get rid of grudges and forget unpleasant incidents. "Nature gives even the most fortunate of us only a limited capital of energy to resist stress, and it would be silly to squander it on quite pointless anger or hatred," he says.

#### STRESS: HOME & PERSONAL

"If you could just have some little surprise coming out of the washing

to choose constantly between friends and work. If you want to move up, you have to put the job first. It requires time, thought, dedication—and a flexible schedule."

How is this conflict different for a man? Camp thinks that for men, work is "a valid excuse." For a woman, "it's like you've sold out when you spend all

child, you're Good Mother, Good Wife, Good Housekeeper. That's on top of Good Daughter, Good Friend, Good Business Person. Depending on how you were reared and what your standards are, that can present a lot of stress."

For TV anchor Jan Carson, it's a nagging at the back of her mind as she takes an all-day Saturday stained glass course

Housewifery is monotony. And nobody appreciates what you do, except in commercials.

your time at the job."

A surprising number of successful business women locate their primary stress in the personal arena. Some even re-evaluate priorities as a result. "I decided finally that work wasn't the be all and end all and that I owed more to myself," says one. "Now I emphasize other parts of my life. I've put my job, and myself, in perspective. Ironically, I got a better review after this decision. I do a better job."

Young single women just starting out also know conflict between private and public life. Assistant City Attorney Chere D. Lott says, "Men feel that my job takes away from my availability to them. Some find this impossible to deal with, and then I can't deal with the relationship—and there goes another one!"

"Sometimes I wonder if an unknown career is worth the sacrifice. There aren't many models to see how it's going to be. It's not going to be the momma, daddy, and the kids that we all grew up with, and we're not sure how it's going to pan out. In a way, you're scared to let go of the old ideal. But having put in the time and effort to get where you are, you want to ride it out and see what happens."

instead of cleaning the house; for TV talk show host Warner Roberts, it's the necessity of having a show timed so that she can fix a good breakfast for her boys; for the medical student, it's going to the library, even though the baby's crying and her husband says, 'I thought we were going to be together'; for psychologist associate Carol Cossum, it's leaving her husband and two college-age sons for a temporary apartment so she can finish her dissertation.

Many women today are postponing or bypassing parenthood. These women are smart enough to see they can't do it all, says Cossum, but they're still locked into a traditional concept of mothering.

We're trained to nurture, to take care of others first, says psychologist Nancy Gulanick. So we feel guilty if we take time out for ourselves before we make everyone else okay.

Working people, men and women, need a supportive back-up person—a "wife," says Gulanick. "I think a woman can have that, partly, if she can afford to pay for child care and cleaning services."

"But even liberated," says full-time homemaker Carol Sarnace, "you just don't want to leave your sick child."

"When UH assistant professor Sybil Estess cut her teaching schedule to part-time, she flirted with feeling guilty for keeping her household help. "I wondered if maybe I should clean, too, since I was making less," she says. "But I decided no. I have a PhD. I deserve it."

Kick the habit of feeling incompetent if you don't do everything, says Gulanick. Delegate responsibilities—all the way. Don't ask your husband to help with the kids' homework, then check up later to see if they really got it.

Focus on what you do well, not what needs to be done or needs to be done better, Gulanick says. We're trained to get approval; men to achieve. So we concentrate on what we did wrong. Instead, we should be proud of our choices.

Remember that any issue that affects one family member affects all, says marriage, family and divorce therapist Nancy Potts. "If the woman takes a job, the whole family needs to work out new rules. That can help, especially when the husband believes in sharing household tasks, but in fact he doesn't do them."

Too much self-sacrifice can be dangerous, says Dr. Hans Selye, head of the International Institute of Stress. Constantly putting other people's good

We can use the things women have traditionally used to cope with stress. Cry. Cry on somebody's shoulder. Just don't do it at work.

Although women encounter more stress on their way up, says *U. S. News*, they often can deal with stress more successfully because they're more willing to admit they have problems and need help. Often a man's ego won't let him do that.

Let's not lose that ability, says Kelleher. We can use the things women have traditionally used to cope with stress. Cry. Cry on somebody's shoulder. Just don't do it at work.

"We don't have to become like men to have the rights of men," Kelleher says. "As we take a place in society as competent persons with equal rights, the incidence of ulcers among women is increasing. We're giving up classic femininity."

"After I got shingles," she says, "I slowed down—cancelled some out-of-town work, concentrated more on taking care of my needs. I still overschedule myself sometimes, but I pick up on the cues much faster now."

Nancy Gulanick has developed a support system that works for her—regular lunches with other colleagues and some serious talking in social or work gatherings. "I acknowledge what it's like for me and hear back, 'Yes.'"

She suggests that you find help from women's groups, such as the National Association of Women Business Owners, exchange clubs, or trade organizations. Check journals and papers for special meetings of interest to women.

And, she says, test out some peers carefully to see if you can safely vent some feelings to them. "Talk to someone about this article," she says. "See if they thought the same way you did about it."

Listen to good models, and be one yourself, Gulanick says. "It's frustrating to hear a female professional who has made it talking like she hasn't had our kinds of difficulties. We compare and think we shouldn't have any problems either. But we know we do. If we deny them, we get crazier. If we acknowledge them, we're weird."

Dr. Hans Selye, who formulated the concept of stress about 40 years ago, emphasizes the importance of a positive work attitude for handling stress successfully. A favorable view of your work can turn stress into *eustress*, positive stress, which places less demand on the body, he says. Long hours, intense work and a hectic schedule could probably not be endured, even by a person with a natural-

machine," says Cora Bartholomew, mother of five. "But you know that what's coming out is what you put in. And the same clothes will be in there next week. Housewifery is monotony. And nobody really appreciates what you do, except in TV commercials. You can't even sit down and enjoy the fruits of your labor."

Bartholomew thinks it might be easier if she had never worked outside, always stayed home like her mother, who was

Distress must be expressed appropriately. Women tend to play on men's emotions at the same time they expect equal consideration. That's a double standard.

"happy as a lark, baking the bread, doing her number."

Chances are, the mother had stresses of her own. One 65-year-old mother of five remembers a typical afternoon of 25 years ago. Stopped by a traffic cop as she rushed one kid to a music lesson, she was panicked thinking about the irritated maestro pacing the studio, another child waiting for her to pick him up across town, and dinner burning on the stove at home.

Most women today don't have an option. For seven out of ten working women, a job is a compelling necessity, according to the April 3 *Women's Day* analysis of federal statistics. More than half of the women in the country now have a job or are looking for one. Of these, three out of five are married, and almost half have children.

"When you work outside, you're doing two jobs—eight hours in an office, eight at home," Bartholomew says.

Texas Instruments Supervisor Cecile K. Camp says, "I grew up in a generation where it was important to achieve and do well. It gets harder and harder to balance that directive with other values and make my life meaningful. The strain is having

Positive carry-over from work can make personal life easier. Film production professional Susan Vogelfang says that skills she has learned on the job help out across the board. Now she can refuse an offer for a date without rejecting the person or wasting either one's time.

The pressure of stereotypes makes juggling work and home harder. "Many of us have six or eight roles going simultaneously," says Helen Copitka, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles Commissioner. "When you're married with a

Men feel that my job takes away from my availability to them. Some find this impossible to deal with, and then I can't deal with the relationship—and there goes another one!

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before your own not only violates our biological nature, it leads to constant, if not always conscious, resentment.

How do women handle the stresses of multiple roles? Many take a break. For some, it's a vacation day midweek. For others, backgammon. Still others exercise with health spa workouts, raquetball, tennis, swimming, walking. One woman observed that her tension increases under stress because she doesn't breathe. So she runs. "When I run, I breathe," she says. Another woman worked on breathing at a body awareness/movement class at the First Unitarian Church. "Now I'm aware of the tension and can let go," says temporary secretary Juanita Maddox. "When I realize my hands are clenched, my jaw, neck, and shoulders, I just stop, roll my head around a little bit, and breathe. It helps."

"It's funny. Everyone looks at me and says the same thing—'what do you do about stress?' " says former radio talk show host Nikki Van Hightower. She follows this pattern. "I do things deliberately to relieve stress—stay in good physical shape, allow myself time for entertainment, choose sports activities such as skiing or scuba diving that engage me totally. I feel a little guilty about taking the time out but do it anyway."

Allocating time carefully can help lessen stress. One working mother lightens her load by using a microwave, serving frozen foods, cooking weekends for weekday meals, doing home chores on her lunch break. Then she finagles an hour from the boss for the beauty shop.

Clarify what you can control and what you can't. Bartholomew says, "If you can do something to change what's happening to you, good. If you're just getting bloody beating against that brick wall, forget it. Once you get past a certain point without going bananas, you decide, 'Okay, I'm not hurting anybody but me; this isn't doing anything but churning me up, and I'm getting old,' so you just blow it off. After that, it bothers you, but it doesn't take you up the wall."

Coping means avoiding destructive habits, too—overdrinking, oversmoking,

overeating, undersleeping. "I try to cut down on too much caffeine, too many cigarettes, drinks and drugs," says singer Cy Brinson.

The martini after work may be all too common. Family Service Counselor Carol Kelleher says that one out of three adults in the United States—two out of three women—needs psychotropic drugs to live.

"I alleviate stress by going to bed with certain men," says one mature professional. "I do that like others use alcohol or cocaine. When I've had jobs I felt were worthwhile, this behavior tapers off. Then I might sleep with someone, but it'd be a person I really care about."

Another woman recommends the support she gets at home: "I picked a great husband, the second time. One I feel really very nourished with, very good," says psychotherapist Edelman. "A lot of stress comes from hanging on to relationships that just don't fit."

"Visiting with a good friend has kept me sane," says Bartholomew. "Going over once a week or so to her apartment where there weren't any kids, no toys on the floor. Talking about men, sex, the way of the world. That was better than any shrink."

Therapists agree that the first step toward relief from stress is identifying what causes you stress. Potts debunks the myth that we know when we're under stress. We're like hikers in the woods, she says. At first the backpack seems heavy, but after awhile, you don't even feel it. She suggests keeping a journal for two weeks.

Once you recognize your own stress, use it creatively, the experts say. Accept what is, and go with it. In a freeway traffic jam, plug in a tape you want to listen to. Develop options. (That's —options!) Relax—but not too much. Be assertive.

Finally, avoid unnecessary stress. Organize yourself. Change your environment. Change your mind. Enrich your body. Nurture yourself. Nurture yourself.

Judith Richards is a freelance writer.

### Does stress make you sick?

Some events that cause stress are positive, some negative. All call for you to adapt. The body can only take a certain number of changes in a 12-month period. Look and see how much change has occurred in your life during the last year.

This "stress test" was developed by professors at the University of Washington. It can give you an indication of your chances of becoming ill within the next two years based on the amount of stress you have endured lately.

To take the test, find each Life Event you experienced in the last year on the chart below. Add up all your Life Event scores to obtain your total score.

If your total score is 150 points or less, your chances of becoming ill—anything from a cold to a major illness—within the next two years is about 30 percent. With 150-300 points, your chance is 50 percent. Over 300 points, your chance of suffering an illness is 90 percent.

#### Score Life Event

100	Death of a spouse	29	Change in responsibilities at work
73	Divorce	29	Son or daughter leaving home
65	Marital separation	29	Trouble with inlaws
63	Jail term	28	Outstanding personal achievement
63	Death of a close family member	26	Begin or end school
53	Personal injury or illness	25	Change in living conditions
50	Marriage	24	Revision of personal habits
47	Fired at work	23	Trouble with boss
45	Marital reconciliation	20	Change in work hours or conditions
45	Retirement	20	Change in residence
44	Change in health of family member	20	Change in schools
40	Pregnancy	19	Change in recreation
39	Sex difficulties	19	Change in church activities
39	Gain of new family member	18	Change in social activities
39	Business readjustment	17	Mortgage or loan less than \$10,000
38	Change in financial state	16	Change in sleeping habits
37	Death of close friend	15	Change in number/ family gatherings
36	Change to different line of work	15	Change in eating habits
35	Change in number /spouse arguments	13	Vacation
31	Mortgage over \$10,000	12	Christmas
30	Foreclosure of mortgage or loan	11	Minor violations of the law

Listing courtesy Great Southern Life Insurance

# madness

by Hildegard Warner

Sexual abuse and violence within the home are driving their women victims crazy, and some women are finally talking about it and getting angry. *Angry* is healthier than *crazy*.

This is the message mental health speakers presented at a two-day symposium on "Sexual Exploitation and Craziness," last month at the University of Houston Clear Lake City (UH/CLC) campus.

Dr. Phyllis Chesler, psychologist and author, and Dr. Nanette Bruckner, Associate Professor of Women's Studies, UH/CLC, expressed their anger and rage at a society dominated by men who use sexual exploitation to maintain power over women. They said rape, sexual abuse and violence in the home are used to control women and keep them dependent.

Susan Forward, psychiatric social worker and author from California, shocked her audience with statistics showing a high rate of previous incestuous experiences among adult women and men. Incest occurs in one out of 10 families. The American Humane Society estimates one out of every four children will have some negative sexual experiences before the age of 18, and that 40 percent of these will be incestuous. Two out of every five women and one out of every 20 men have experienced incest. She said these experiences cause extreme guilt and a sense of worthlessness in all victims and lead many to drug and alcohol abuse, suicide attempts, prostitution, child and wife abuse, and problems with their own sexual gratification.

Over 400 persons—mental health professionals, child welfare workers, teachers, police and probation officers—attended the conference to learn about the relationship between sexual exploitation and related emotional disturbances.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Adult Mental Health Advisory Council of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County and the School of Human Sciences and Humanities at UH/CLC.

"Patriarchal society is what accounts for passivity, masochism, low self-esteem, self-denigration and what we might call *craziness* among women," Chesler charged in her opening address.

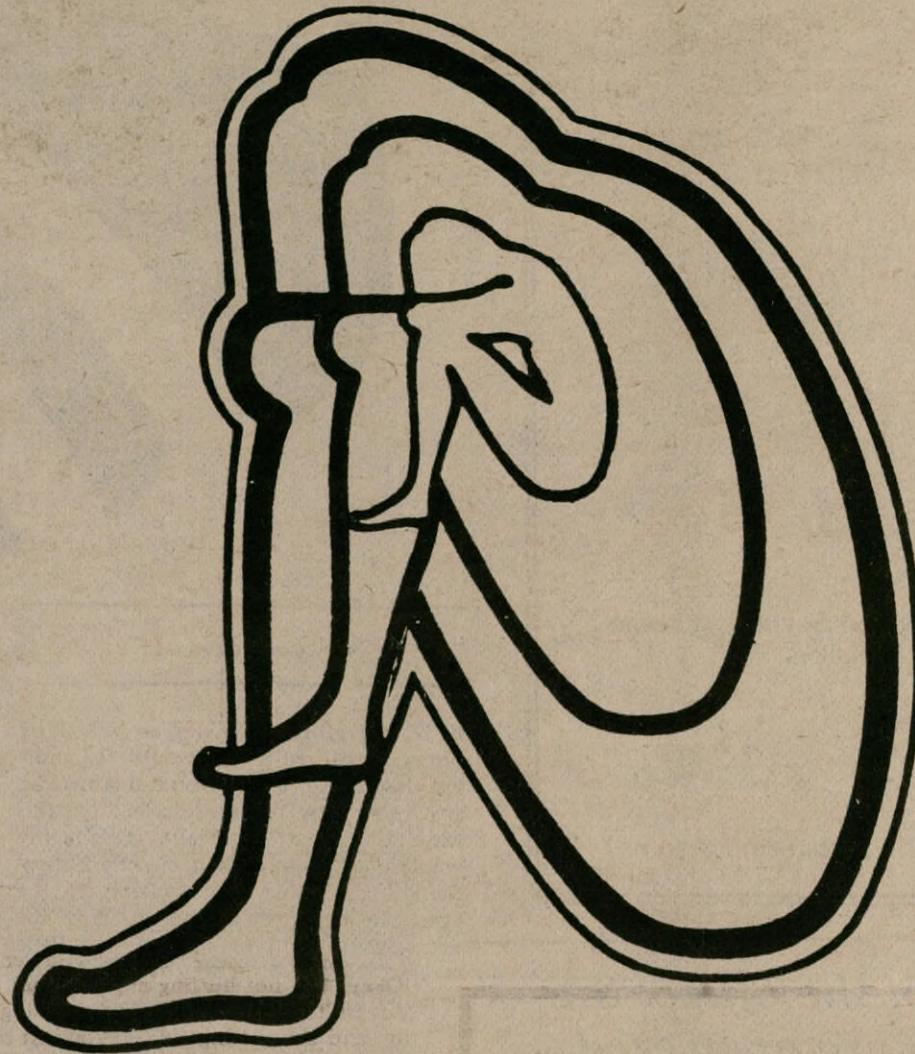
"Women are primed to commit incest, to be raped without fighting back or killing, to be sexually abused from a young age and all their lives, and to have a total lack of sexual pleasure. This is what creates depression and passivity among them."

Chesler, the author of several books including *Women and Madness* and *All About Men: A Psychosexual Meditation* and numerous journal articles, has done research in the field of mental illness and women.

Her research and that of other women psychologists shows that being depressed, passive, overly dependent and masochistic is not healthy mentally. Society, however, forces women into these behaviors and considers them to be "crazy" if they do not conform to these "feminine" roles and try to break out.

In 1972, Chesler wrote, "What we consider *madness*, whether it appears in women or men, is the acting out of the devalued female role or the total or partial rejection of one's sex-role stereotype."

Chesler also said that the more women learn to put up with being overtly devalued, the weaker they become. "We become weaker through sexual exploitation and socialization as a child. This



**"Madness is the acting out of the devalued female role or the rejection of one's sex role stereo type."**

leaves us with less defenses against problems we encounter in our lives because we are women."

One of the ways men also dominate and devalue women is through rape, Bruckner noted. "Rape is a political, not a sexual act, designed to instill fear and distrust in women," Bruckner charged.

"Rape is terrorism which limits the freedom of women and makes them more dependent on men. It is not an act of uncontrollable lust, but an act of possession designed to create fear."

Although men use fear of rape and assault on the streets to keep women within the home, statistics show that 46.1 percent of all major crimes against women are committed in the home, Bruckner added. Most murders occur in the home—wives and husbands killing each other. Police calls about domestic disturbances and violence in the home exceed the total number of other calls for murder and other violent crimes. Giving statistics from major cities throughout the nation, Bruckner said wife abuse is one of the most under-reported crimes in the country.

In many cases of rape and violence against women, society has put the blame on the woman by saying she asked for it.

Bruckner said this is what is causing mental and behavioral problems for women.

"When I listen to a client I do not always look into that client for her behaviors, but look into the society and the world we live in for the social values which are causing her *craziness*," Bruckner said.

Incest is another form of sexual exploitation within the home which causes an extreme sense of guilt. This is one of the least known and most misunderstood experiences, because society has yet to openly speak about it and recognize its existence.

"Incest is unquestionably the most secretive and most misunderstood human experience," psychiatric social worker Susan Forward said to the conference participants.

"The universal result of incest is guilt. The victims feel dirty, freaky, worthless, and that they are totally, 100 percent responsible for the incest.

"Because of these feelings, they often get into self-punitive behaviors—drug abuse, alcoholism, male and female prostitution or other promiscuous behavior, child or wife abuse, rape, inability to achieve orgasm or performing incest

upon their own children."

Forward sees many of these individuals at a sexual abuse treatment center of which she is co-director in Van Nuys, California. From her experiences in working with adults who have had mental problems resulting from childhood incestuous situations, she has written a highly acclaimed book, *Betrayal of Innocence*.

Forward cited statistics illustrating the high incidence of mental and social problems resulting from incest.

●At treatment houses for alcoholism, battered women and rape victims, well over one-half of the women had been abused as children.

●A study of convicted rapists in New Jersey showed 70 percent were incest victims (abused by their fathers) as children.

●A Masters and Johnson study revealed that 80 percent of non-orgasmic women were incest victims.

●Over one-half of the teenage runaways in Los Angeles are victims of incest, according to one report.

●During a rape workshop at Houston's Branard House, a residential treatment center for adults with severe psychiatric disturbances, every client present admitted to having incestuous experiences as a child.

Many of Forward's incest clients come into therapy initially because they are depressed, suicidal, or have alcohol or marriage problems. "These individuals are programmed to be victims," Forward said. "They set themselves up to fail at their jobs, in their marriages or whatever roles they are in.

"They will not volunteer information about their previous incestuous experiences; the therapist must ask. Most of the people will reply, 'How did you know?'"

Mental health workers should not be afraid to ask clients about this. "You are doing the client a service to get her to say this for herself," Forward said.

Most of the people who receive proper psychiatric therapy for this problem can be helped. "There is an enormous amount of hope in dealing with these people, no matter what their ages are. You cannot believe what can happen with a little therapy, once this comes out of the person," Forward said. But she warned, "Incest is a wound that never disappears. Scar tissue forms to cover it."

Bringing incest out into the open is the only way to stop it and to alleviate the tremendous guilt shared by the aggressors and their victims, Forward said.

"Society's incest taboo is more effective in preventing the disclosure of incest than in preventing the act itself," Forward charged. "Because of the emphasis on the taboo, both victims and aggressors are often too intimidated by the possibility of exposure to seek help. So incest symptoms fester and create problems with wide-ranging social impact."

"We must make rape and incest speakable crimes as we have done here," Bruckner challenged the audience at the end of her talk. "Women are coming forward; statistics are coming out."

Susan Forward, Phyllis Chesler and Nanette Bruckner are talking about the unspeakable and misunderstood subjects of incest and mental health for women. They are being heard and they are making a difference.

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

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# "Scouting



by Connie Pryzant

Back in October, 1913, *The New York Times* sponsored a contest for the most apt description of the "typical American girl." One New Yorker described her this way: "She is a strong, healthy, thoroughly wholesome young person, sweetly sympathetic, who looks you squarely in the eyes. She is almost the antithesis of the extravagant, tight or slash skirted little turkey trotter who constitutes such a large portion of Fifth Avenue and Broadway."

"She is a nice, healthy thing. . .not inclined to think overmuch," observed one playwright, "and far more anxious to be told that her frock is 'perfectly sweet' by other girls than to be assured that she looks 'corking' by a man."

"... The American girl is like the American skyscraper: she stands out against a clear atmosphere, straight and clean cut. She is a good girl," one contestant noted while a woman wrote: "I should say that almost any American girl could go out and make a living if she had to. Her education is of a more practical kind than that given foreign girls. Our women are very independent and self-reliant."

Just a year earlier, Juliette Gordon Low had started the first girl scout troop in Savannah, Georgia. She borrowed the motto *Be Prepared* from the Boy Scouts, and urged her girls to prepare for careers that were slowly opening for women.

"Juliette Low was a feminist. Her girl scout movement provided a real vehicle for women to do what they wanted—that was quite revolutionary for those times, (pre-World War I)," said Donnie Pirnie, director of communications for the San Jacinto Girl Scouts of Houston.

In *How Girls Can Help Their Country*, published in 1913, Low wrote: "The numbers of women who have taken up aviation proves that women's nerves are good enough for flying."

Aviation, however, was still in its infancy. Most girls learned domestic duties. Low and her scouts offered other alternatives to girls of the early 1900's, among them life in the outdoors. They learned to swim, communicated through the Morse code and learned life-saving first aid techniques. Low believed that these developed skills could lead to lifelong interests.

"Scouting is the cradle of careers. It is where careers are born. For instance, a girl tries bandaging. She finds she likes red cross work and she decides to study seri-

ously and become a hospital nurse. Or she is expert in signaling and the Morse code leads her to become a telegraph operator. Or she goes in for social service and gets a government job," said Low in a speech at Mercer College in 1924.

In the silent movie *Follow Me Girls*, produced by the Girl Scouts USA, a scout signals with flags to a person on the other side of a small lake only to find that a telegraph operator has collapsed on the job. She swims to the other side, performs first-aid remedies on the operator, takes over the telegraph wire and sends out a plea for help. When the message returns with the line, "Who are you?" she replies: "I am just a Girl Scout."

She's developed a better self-image over the years.

Girl Scouts still sell cookies but they are also learning about marketing as they organize their door-to-door cookie drives. Last year Girl Scouts sold 84 million boxes of cookies at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box. This year's goal is 90 million boxes.

"Girl Scouting since 1912 has been showing girls (seven to 17) that they can do anything they want to and it's giving them the tools to make their own decisions," Pirnie said.

The newest program offered by the national board is *From Dreams to Reality*, a "career awareness program that enables girls to work with women in business," said Richard Knox, director of public relations, at the national Girl Scout headquarters in New York City.

The program, funded by the Office of Career Education, U.S. Office of Education, is intended to reduce sex stereotyped attitudes in career choices.

One feature of the program is a series of vocational cards showing pictures of women and describing their work. The visual images provide role models for the girls, Pirnie said.

"Through this program, local troop leaders can help the girls make contacts and learn more about careers," Knox said.

The Chicago Council of the Girl Scouts started its own version of "Dreams to Reality," entitled *Metro Magic*, even before the national board announced is program.

Chicago's senior troop no. 2001 has visited women employed in accounting and in advertising agencies. A council summer program includes trips to Illinois Bell to speak to women managers, to the Hyatt House to learn about hotel management and to a local cosmetic factory owned by a woman, according to Audrey Peeples, executive director of public relations for

# is the cradle of careers"

Juliette Gordon Low  
Founder (1912) Girl Scouts USA

the Chicago council.

Although the San Jacinto council does not have a similar program, the local council has a senior aid training program. Seniors, independent of their troops, contact a council representative about vocations of interest to them. A meeting is arranged where girls visit a veterinarian's office, for example, and then return later to volunteer, Pirnie said.

Some credit the women's movement for the Girl Scouts' emphasis on career education. Others, like Knox, said, "Girl scouting has been innovating since 1912."

Yet Kathleen Smythe, public relations director for the Chicago council, pointed out, "The women's movement is difficult to ignore. It has set up role models for young girls—now they see women as other than homemakers."

"It's great to learn how to cook and sew, but there's more to being an adult woman than that," observed Elizabeth Zbinden, a campus Girl Scout at Northwestern University. "The women's movement has increased the scope of girl scouting a lot," she added.

Two troop leaders, however, differ from their troop members.

"No one in the troop seems too interested in career opportunities. I don't think they think that they will have to study how to support themselves—they have the idea that they will be supported," said Beverly Rosenthal, leader of Cadette troop

no. 89 in Evanston, Illinois. "At their age, they're entirely wrapped up with curling irons, notebooks with stickers and writing on their hands," she added.

"There's a national awareness of the women's movement, but not on the troop level," said Sally Stewart, leader of senior troop no. 200 of Winnetka, Illinois. "It's not something that bothers them. They're not carrying a torch," she added.

Girl Scouts of the USA are involved in the women's movement to the extent that the national board endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment at its national convention in Washington, D.C. in 1975.

"The national decision doesn't represent the views of all the councils," said Pirnie. "San Jacinto didn't feel it could take a stand on the issue because of the diversity of its scouts."

Some councils reacted strongly against the endorsement. Some burned their uniforms and one troop in Michigan resigned from the organization because they believed the national board was "using scouts as political pawns in its push for the amendment."

The national office in New York received 6,000 letters, telegrams and phone-calls, according to Knox. Some Right to Life groups thought that the Girl Scouts were approving of abortion, and one American Legion post even said that the scouts could no longer use their hall, he added.

While the national board endorsed the ERA, they cannot lobby for it. "By their bylaws, Girl Scouts have to be non-political," Pirnie said.

The organization's only link with Capitol Hill is through Mary Frances Peters, who acts as a liaison between the federal government and national board by attending government meetings and projects that could affect girls' lives. She also alerts councils on upcoming legislation that could affect them.

Religion has been just as controversial as politics for the Girl Scouts.

In 1975, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia severed relations with the scouts because of a new program called *To Be a Woman*. The program included discussions on rape and sex education. One Catholic mother called a newspaper to complain that the Girl Scouts were promoting abortion. The story received national attention. Things became so delicate that the Girl Scouts released a statement saying it had not approved the program.

The issue also brought into focus the entire question of the role of religion in the movement. Was the Girl Scouts USA to be an instrument for educating girls on morality? What institution in their lives is responsible for establishing these guidelines? The Catholics finally compromised in 1975 and formally agreed that the policy of Girl Scouts is "to encourage girls and

help them, through their own programs, to become better members of their own religious groups and to respect the varying opinions and practices of its members in planning and conducting activities."

Although the focus and emphasis of girl scouting has shifted from activities in the home and immediate community to exploring a wider world, membership has declined by 500,000 members since 1973. One news account attributes the decline in membership to increased violence in the camps, including reported rapes and kidnappings in Oklahoma and Florida, to a decline among volunteer leaders now that more women work outside the home and to the emergence of many co-ed groups oriented to some of the same things that scouts do.

Despite the drop in membership the Girl Scouts organization remains the largest girls organization in the country. Membership is still open only to girls. At the 1975 convention in Washington, the 1,800 delegates voted overwhelmingly not to admit boys into the organization.

Today 2,623,000 girls across the nation still adhere to the Girl Scout Promise and Law, recited solemnly while holding up three fingers on the right hand. The message and motto remain unchanged: Be Prepared.

*Connie Pryzant is a journalism student at Northwestern University and a former Girl Scout.*



Theresa Di Menno

April is national Girl Scout Month. Girl scouting programs are available to four age levels: Brownies (age 6-8), Juniors (age 9-11), Cadettes (age 12-14), and Seniors (age 15-17). Brownie Troop 1973 (above) are second and third graders in Leider Elementary School in the Cypress-Fairbanks District. Most of the girls are second generation scouts.

# BNT

by Diane Harrington

Early in January, three Houston women got together and formed their own company, which specializes in quality interior painting and wallpaper hanging. Janie Ballard, Shirley Neely and Jean Tissue call their company BNT.

As Tissue put it, "The three of us got together, we had been doing work for friends, so it seemed a good idea to form a company and go at it like that."

Neely got interested in painting about two and one half years ago when she began re-doing an old house she purchased in the Heights. She decided to get out and do something on her own and make money at it.

About a year ago, Ballard started painting. "I was hanging wallpaper with my cousin for fun and decided I liked it. I left my office job and started to paint full time," she noted. "You can see the progress being made—it's fulfilling."

According to Tissue, there was one other reason for her involvement. "We got tired of doing work for our friends for free," she said with a grin.

The firm is trying hard to build a reputation for dependability and quality work.

"Women are more particular in the job they do... more careful in painting around a window... they care more about how the job looks," Neely emphasized.

Ballard added, "People are so used to contract people not showing up, one can get a good reputation and more jobs by being dependable. We will never make a contract we can't complete," she said.



Theresa Di Menno

(L-R) JEAN TISSUE, SHIRLEY NEELY, and JANIE BALLARD

"We need to meet some more people that can open doors for us—we want to expand beyond where we are now," Tissue noted.

BNT offers free estimates and guarantees to be reliable, hang your wallpaper or paint your wall. They can be reached at 861-2211.

Diane Harrington is editor of this feature page, Open for Business.

# Whistle

During the past four months, Kiki Neumann and friend, Sharon Jacobs, have sold approximately 1,500 whistle kits at \$2 each. The kit consists of a whistle and a booklet explaining what to do if attacked, with an emergency phone number list.

Neumann started just last Thanksgiving with 200 kits. They were a good last-minute Christmas gift. Parents also bought them for their daughters going away to school.

"From the feedback received since the beginning of the program, there is a need for the whistle in this community," stated Neumann.

"People are opening up and telling me their personal experiences with rape and assault," she added.

When Jacobs' sister was attacked recently, everything "got close to home, scary" and that spurred her on to get involved with the whistle project.

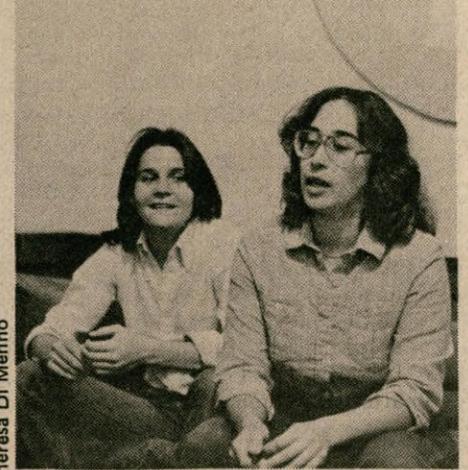
Both women spoke of the difficulties they have encountered so far. Jacobs noted the frustration that people generally don't realize they need protection—that no one is immune to attack.

"Men laugh at us and make funny jokes about it—think it's cute—not important." But the same men might turn around and buy one for their wives, Jacobs noted.

Neumann, who is a consultant for a paper company by day, is looking for help to run the program.

"We're looking for women who have resources (like nurses and night shift workers) who can contact other women and make them aware of the need for personal safety. We are very willing to negotiate on large orders," she added.

Jacobs said the whistle's main appeal is for women, but it also comes in handy for joggers and senior citizens. Joggers can use the whistle for protection against



Theresa Di Menno

SHARON JACOBS and KIKI NEUMANN

would-be muggers. Senior citizens living alone find it convenient in case of assault or injury in the home.

The nickel-plated, brass whistles can be used against obscene phone calls, also. A sharp blast into the caller's ear is usually enough to discourage any future calls.

Jacobs added, "I keep one by the bed so that if I hear someone breaking in, I can make enough noise to scare off the attacker."

Kiki Neumann and Sharon Jacobs are not as much profit-minded as they are about getting their whistle made available to all Houstonians. Several bookstores stock them, including The Bookstore, 1728 Bissonnet; Books Inc., 2620 Westheimer and B.D. & Daughter Bookstore, 1623 Westheimer. The kits are also available by mail for \$2.00 postage paid to WHISTLE, P.O. Box 66815, Houston TX 77006. — D. H.

IRAN continued from page 12

Women Fighters. Among other things, they are calling for equal pay for equal work and equality of social and economic laws.

Both Ahia and Hormachea applaud the recent demonstrations. They say that the Ayatollah's Islamic government is only transitional. It is only "the first part of the revolution which will eventually bring about a social-democratic government," says Hormachea.

"I believe," she says, "that the Ayatollah does not see a place for women outside the home. I also think that doors will slowly be closed to women in various jobs. But what makes me proud is that women were the first to question the Islamic government. In the days to come you will see more groups expressing their disillusion with the provisional govern-

ment."

However, she adds, although the Ayatollah has some feudal beliefs, he also has many liberal and militant ideas. "He is responsive to the people," she points out. "Notice how he backed off and took back his edicts when the women demonstrated. His government, however, is not, and they have no real interest in involving women in the work force."

For those reasons Ahia and Hormachea feel Millett's reference to Khomeini as a "male chauvinist pig," was another divisive element. "To women who idolize him," Hormachea says, "this is very destructive. It is his government that should be criticized and brought to an end. Not him—he serves a purpose."

Many of the Iranian students in Houston have returned to Iran and within the next months many more will leave—

including both Sadeghr and Ahia. Although Hormachea is not an Iranian, she has become so involved over the years that she may move to Iran and make it her permanent home.

The returning students have many ideas but Hormachea believes that the majority of them have developed a great respect for women while studying overseas.

"It is political awareness that has done it," she says. "While living in the U.S. they studied and discussed politics with women students and developed exchanges and relationships they could never have had at home. The political movement has liberated the women in Iran too—because women demonstrated right along with the men."

Ahia and Hormachea believe that American feminists do have a role to play

in the Iranian women's movement, as well as other world movements. But they must be careful not to impose their own standards on other countries. "People need to have the time to talk and argue their own problems out, without an imposed view," Ahia says.

Above all, Ahia adds she would like American feminists to remember that "governments may change, but women will still be oppressed until power goes to the people. Women's liberation is an example of the freedom of the rest of country. If the women are oppressed, the country is too."

Barbara Farrar Karkabi has lived and traveled in the Middle East and written extensively about the area and its women. Her articles have appeared in numerous international publications.

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# Network

Editor, Hildegard Warner

Women and girls from age 7 are invited to run in a 10,000 meter *Mini-Marathon* sponsored by the Houston YWCA and Kelly Services. The approximately 6.2-mile race will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, at the Memorial Park Jogging Trail. A shorter three-mile course will also be offered. The five dollar entry fee includes a T-shirt, information packet, map, bumper sticker, refreshments and prizes. Registration is limited to 500 runners and ends April 20. Registration forms and information are available at all five Kelly Service offices, all Oshman's Sporting Goods stores or by mail (with a \$1 handling charge) through a YWCA branch. YWCA membership is not required to participate. For more information or to volunteer to help, call the YWCA at 523-6881 or the branch nearest you.

The Black Women Lawyers Association is sponsoring its fourth annual Scholarship Banquet on Saturday, April 21. Carole Simpson, NBC national news correspondent, will be the guest speaker. Proceeds from the banquet will be used to provide scholarships to deserving law students. The banquet will be at the Marriott Hotel on the West Loop between San Felipe and Post Oak. Tickets and information can be obtained from attorney Bonnie Fitch, chairperson, at 641-2059.

Erin Pizze, a pioneer in working with battered women in England and the author of *Scream Quietly or the Neighbors Will Hear* will lead a conference on *Battered Women: A Social and Legal Issue*, on Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The conference is sponsored by the Houston Area Women's Center, in conjunction with the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation, the University of Houston School of Social Work and the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Pizze, who founded Chiswick Aid Society, a shelter for battered women in Chiswick, England, will also give a public address Friday evening, May 11, at 8:00 p.m. at Autrey House. For further information and conference registration, write Susan Eggert, P.O. Box 20156, Room 401, Houston, TX 77025, or phone 792-4441.

Women & Their Work, a group of Austin artists, is assembling a slide registry of women in the visual arts in Texas to serve as a source for a proposed book, state-wide exhibition and a slide-tape presentation. These projects will include a representative selection of works in all media, and will be the first comprehensive exhibition of Texas women artists. Women artists residing in Texas and working in any visual media may submit entries. The deadline for submission is June 15. For detailed information write Women & Their Work, P.O. Box 4775, Austin, TX 78751, or call 512-477-1064.

*Opening a Dynamic Economy to Women—Paths to Nontraditional Employment* is the theme of a conference planned by the Regional Committee on Activities Affecting Women on May 3-4. The committee was created by the U.S. Secretary of Labor as part of a nation-wide effort to remove artificial barriers which may prevent many women from moving into skilled and responsible jobs. Conference workshops will cover the economic outlook, apprenticeships for women, U.S. Department of Labor programs for women, new job opportunities in industry, legal remedies to discrimination and more. The conference will be at the Sheraton-Houston Hotel, 777 Polk Ave. Registration of \$15 may be sent to Marjorie Miller, Conference Coordinator, U.S. Department of Labor, 2320 LaBranch St., Room 2102, Houston, TX 77004, no later than April 23. For more information call 214-226-4907 or 767-6985.

*Voters Key*, the 1979 directory of elected officials and voting information, is now available at any city, county, college or university library. The free booklet, published by the League of Women Voters, answers questions about federal, state and local legislators, voting requirements and political parties. To order a free copy by mail, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The League of Women Voters of Houston, 1947 West Gray, Suite 202, Houston, Texas 77019. Additional copies may be purchased by contacting the League office at 529-3171 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

The Houston Center for Displaced Homemakers will offer only two more workshops before its funding ends in June. These four-week workshops are from 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday from April 23 to May 18, and May 28 to June 22. The free program includes assessing skills and strengths, handling finances, interviewing skills and job hunting, and referral to support services. Women between the ages of 35 and 64 who are widowed, divorced or separated, and have worked without pay as a homemaker for several years are eligible. For additional information call 749-3755 or 749-7253. The Center is located on the University of Houston Central Campus.

Women in Communications, Inc., (WICI) has organized a telephone network to intensify pressure on legislators in states where the Equal Rights Amendment has not been ratified or where there is a threat of rescission. The network will be directed by Patricia Goodwin of St. Paul, Minnesota. She is an information specialist at the University of Minnesota and heads WICI's national ERA task force. For more information call WICI headquarters at 512-345-8922.

The National Council of Negro Women is sponsoring a free immunization program for children on Saturday afternoons. The program is funded through a half million dollar federal grant and is aimed primarily at children of working parents who cannot go to doctors or city health clinics during the week. The free immunizations are given from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturdays at 4905 San Jacinto, on an appointment basis. Parents may call 523-3316 for an appointment.

W.I.R.E.S. (Women's Information, Referral and Exchange Service) is now two years old. W.I.R.E.S. is looking forward to a future of still greater growth and service to women of Houston. Orientation classes for new volunteers and communication skills workshops are conducted at regular intervals. For more information about becoming a W.I.R.E.S. volunteer, call 527-0718.



Theresa Di Menno

Cathy Chappell (third from right) is founder of Texas Women's Rugby. She formed the Houston Hearts team (above) in September 1977. There are eight women's rugby teams in the Texas conference: Dallas, Austin, Houston Boars, Houston Hearts, Texas A&M, Galveston, San Antonio and LSU. The Hearts beat Texas A&M last month seating them in first place in the Texas conference. For information on women's rugby, call 526-2458.

Poets Marge Piercy and Audrey Lorde will present a reading of their work at a "Poetry Festival" in Austin, Wednesday, April 18 at 8 p.m. The festival is co-sponsored by Women & Their Work, a group of Austin artists, and the Speech Communications Department of the University of Texas. A reception will follow the reading in the Speech Communications Building at the UT campus.

Poet Denise Levertov will give a reading of her poetry at the University of Texas at Arlington on April 24 (5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.) and April 25 (10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) at the A-1 Classy Theater. Her reading is sponsored by the UTA Women's Center, the Department of English, the Dean of Liberal Arts, the Input-Output Council and the Arts Council of the Student Activities Board. The reading is free and the public is invited.

*Phosphene*, Houston's newest literary magazine is sponsoring a poetry contest—deadline June 1. Cash prizes will be offered and the winners will be published in *Phosphene's* next issue. The first prize winner will receive \$50, second prize, \$30 and third prize, \$20. Send all submissions to: Phosphene Publishing Company, P. O. Box 66842 Fairview Station, Houston, TX 77019.

*The Image de Tejas State Conference* is the theme of a three-day meeting, April 26-28, sponsored by the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce of Travis County. Anyone interested in employment of Hispanics in government is invited to attend the conference while the Texas legislature is in session in order to make a positive impact on future government employment of Hispanics. Workshop leaders will include representatives from federal agencies, state and local government EEO offices, MALDEF and others. The conference will be held at the Quality Inn South in Austin. For more information call the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce of Travis County at 512-478-2577.

The Gay Political Caucus of Houston is sponsoring *Operation: Documentation*, an effort to identify lesbians and gay men who may want to testify about alleged civil rights violations by any police agency at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Commission hearings in June. The program is also designed to identify the need to eliminate or revise certain oppressive laws and to let elected officials at all levels know that discrimination exists. Anyone wishing to contribute case information to the program may call *Operation: Documentation* at 526-2879; ACLU at 524-5925; Houston Human Rights League at 523-6969. To volunteer to help the Gay Political Caucus, call 526-2668 or 526-2879.

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

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

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

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

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

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The public is urged  
to attend  
Wednesday, April 18  
9:30 a.m.  
U.S. Federal Bldg.  
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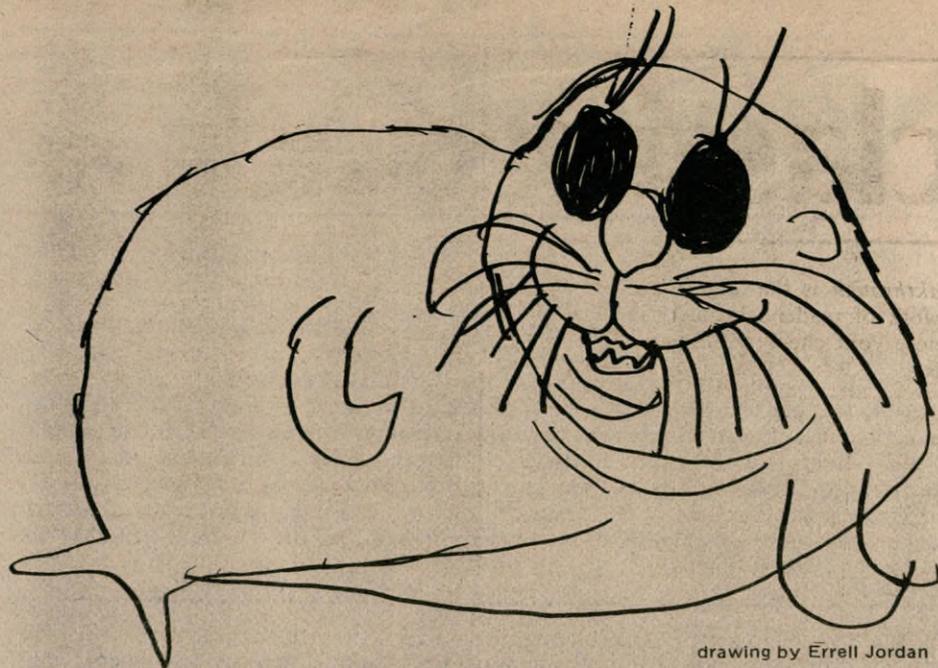
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The nuclear power plant would be  
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miles southwest from downtown  
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"witness in good standing" by the  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commis-  
sion, since these citizens would en-  
counter the greatest environmental  
impact by the nuclear facility.

NETWORK INFORMATION

Information for the *Network* column  
should be typed, double-spaced, on one  
side of the page, and sent to Hildegard  
Warner, *Houston Breakthrough*, P. O.  
Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004. We  
regret we cannot take information over  
the phone. Announcements of events that  
are free and open to the public are pub-  
lished free of charge. Be sure to send  
information *early*. For May issue, include  
events for May 15-June 15. For June  
issue, June 15-July 15.



drawing by Errell Jordan

Greenpeace is a California-based humane society concerned primarily with protecting  
whales and seals. The group also lobbies against nuclear power plants and other environ-  
mental dangers. Greenpeace president, Dr. Patrick Moore, was arrested and charged  
when he tried to protect baby seals from being killed. For more information about this  
organization, write 240 Ft. Mason, San Francisco, California 94123.

*The Park People* is the new name of the Citizens Open Space Taskforce, a group dedi-  
cated to increasing the amount of park and open space land in Houston. Their next  
program, *Non-Traditional Approaches to Parkland and Open Space Acquisition*, will be  
Thursday, April 19, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Electric Living Center, 2121 W. Loop  
South. The Park People is a non-profit organization dependent on tax-deductible con-  
tributions to offer their programs. Donations may be sent to One Main Plaza, no. 1006,  
Houston 77002. Make checks payable to C.E.C. Fund, Inc./The Park People. For more  
information, contact Judy Vinson, 228-0037.

*Bayou '79* is the theme of the 10th annual Reeking Regatta and the University of  
Houston Downtown Campus Spring Festival to be held Saturday, April 21, at Allen's  
Landing. The focus of the activities will be environmental protection and will include  
canoe and raft races and a water-ski show in the bayou if possible. Continuous music  
will be provided from two stages, along with dancing, food, drinks, and items for sale  
at booths sponsored by other groups such as The Park People. All of the activities are  
free and will last from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m.

*TWIGS*, the new volunteer "fun/fund"-raising organization of St. Joseph Hospital Foun-  
dation, is taking root and branching into the Houston community. The program consists  
of small neighborhood groups that individually plan, organize and conduct their own  
"fun/fund"-raising activities for the benefit of St. Joseph Hospital. *Metropolitan TWIG*  
will feature an old-fashioned Southern Dinner on Saturday, April 21, from 7 to 10 p.m. at  
Alfreda's Cafeteria, 2530 Crawford at McGowen. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available at  
all Alfreda's Cafeterias, St. Joseph Hospital Foundation (652-3100) and at the door the  
night of the event. All proceeds from the neighborhood events go to St. Joseph Hospital  
Foundation. For further information please call 652-3100.

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MAGGIE :



A RETROSPECTIVE

*Maggie: A Retrospective* featuring paint-  
ings and other works by the late Houston  
artist Margaret Webb Dreyer is currently  
on exhibit in the University of St. Thomas  
Art Gallery, 3900 Yoakum, until April 14.  
The exhibit includes water colors, oils,  
drawings and her last work, *Maggie's Songs*  
*1-5*, of stained acrylics on unbleached and  
unsized linen. Dreyer was director of the  
art program for the City of Houston Parks  
and Recreation Department and operated  
Dreyer Galleries, a contemporary gallery,  
for 15 years. A Margaret Webb Dreyer  
Memorial Scholarship in Art has been es-  
tablished by the University of St. Thomas  
to assist students in financial need who  
show exceptional creative promise in art.  
Donations may be sent to the Margaret  
Webb Dreyer Memorial Fund, c/o Rev.  
F.E. Monaghan, Scholarship Office, Uni-  
versity of St. Thomas, 3812 Montrose,  
Houston, TX 77006. The UST Art Gallery  
is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.  
to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. For  
more information call 522-7911.

# classified ads

*Breakthrough* is the largest women's newspaper in Texas. Get your message to our network of readers through the *Breakthrough* classifieds. Rates are 30 cents a word. Enclose your check with copy as you want it to appear. Mail to: *Breakthrough* Classifieds, P. O. Box 88072, Houston, TX 77004.

**SPANISH**—Achieve fast fluency in the beautiful colonial hill town of San Miguel Allende, Mexico. The world-renowned ACADEMIA HISPANO AMERICANA offers a completely integrated program of instruction in Spanish Language and Latin American studies. Open to students on all levels, year round, with individual programs of study for advanced students. Also private instruction. Academia Hispano Americana, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

KODA-FM has an opening for a top flight announcer, part time. The position will involve weekend and fill-in shifts, plus some production duties. Experience and training in the execution of a Beautiful Music format are required, plus a suitable voice. Must hold valid FCC operators permit. Qualified handicapped, disabled veterans and Vietnam veterans invited to apply to Program Director, KODA, 4808 San Felipe, Houston, Texas, 77056. EOE.

Barbara Vida Ring, R.N., a nurse in private practice. Counseling and psychotherapy. 8303 Southwest Freeway at Gessner. Call 777-2053, day or evening.

**WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVOCATES**—Does your women's health group have volunteers? Are you a volunteer women's health advocate? The National Women's Health Network is conducting a survey of grassroots women's health groups whose members include community volunteers. The Network is seeking new ways to strengthen the women's health movement. If you are a part of a women's health advocacy group or health center, or know of any groups who would like to participate in this first-of-a-kind national women's health survey, please request a survey from: National Women's Health Network, 2025 "I" St. NW, Suite 105, Washington, DC 20006.

**IS HOME BIRTH FOR YOU?**—On May 12, 1979, there will be a seminar on home birth in Houston. It will be held at the Fonde Recreation Center on Memorial and Sabine. The seminar will be given by HOUSTON MIDWIFE EDUCATION. Public invited. \$2.00 donations welcomed. For more information call Rhonda Meador, 433-8232.

Adorable pedigree Terrier puppies on sale for \$100. For more information, call 467-0200 during the day.

Women's Resource Services (WRS) at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City (UHCLC) is accepting applications for its salaried, half-time (20 hr./week) counselor. The position will open July 1, 1979, and end June 30, 1980. Applicants must be prepared to be enrolled at UHCLC 1979-1980, at the graduate level. The work schedule will be prepared to meet the counselor's personal and academic requirements.

As its name implies, the Women's Resource Services provides multiple services both to the general public and to the university community. It offers informal peer counseling, provides information concerning women's issues to individuals and groups, coordinates workshops and seminars to serve women's needs and organizes the University's Women's Week program.

The WRS counselor has administrative responsibilities for the operation of WRS and coordinates the activities of its volunteers. Applicants should have organizational ability and should be personable and supportive to those who seek help. It is desirable that applicants have experience working with volunteer organizations concerned with women's issues. The counselor works with the WRS Advisory Council and, as WRS is part of the UHCLC Counseling Center, reports to the Coordinator of Counseling and Psychological Services within the Student Services Division.

Applications are available at the UHCLC Bayou Building, Room 2107. For further information, contact WRS, UHCLC, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Box 168, Houston, TX 77058. Phone 488-9216 or 488-9215 or contact Rema Lou Brown at 488-1896. Applications will be accepted through mid-April.

The Women's Organic Farm is a primitive camping retreat for those interested in healthful, egalitarian and responsible rural life. Campers may participate in the garden and/or construction projects at the camp, located in the hill country 50 miles northwest of Austin. Groups interested in retreats at the camp may write Women's Organic Farm, Bertram, TX 78605 for more information.

*A Guide to Women's Art Organizations*, the most comprehensive national, interdisciplinary directory of its kind, has just been published by Midmarch Associates in cooperation with Women Artists News.

The *Guide* covers the various media in individual chapters on visual arts, architecture, design, film and video, dance, music, theatre and writing. Each category includes listings and information on organizations, performance groups, archives, registries, concerts, festivals, resources (legal and funding, facilities, distributors, etc.) The 5x8½" soft-cover volume is 84 pages long and includes 16 black-and-white photographs as well as an extensive bibliography.

Editor Cynthia Navaretta writes in her introduction, "The next stage for women artists is communication. Slowly but inexorably an interdisciplinary network is building . . . One of the purposes of this *Guide* is to provide a vehicle for the extension of that network. Another purpose . . . is to reach individual women still working in isolation, to help them find a point of entry into a broad and expanding movement." Copies are \$4.50 ppd for individuals, \$5.00 ppd for institutions, available from: Midmarch Assoc./Women Artists News, Box 3304 Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017, (212) 666-6990.

The fourth issue of *Phosphene* Literary Magazine will soon be on the stands. For more information or to obtain copies, mail \$4 to: Phosphene Publishing Company, P. O. Box 66842, Fairview Station, Houston, TX 77019.

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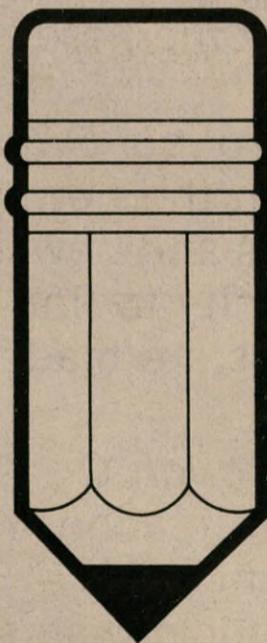
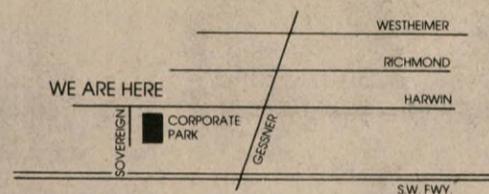
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## SECOND ANNUAL SOUTH CENTRAL WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE

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

For further information contact L. Doran, (817) 566-2586, or Clara Boyer, (817) 387-7611.

*"We cannot bring change to the community but we can deliver information which will change attitudes in a significant enough portion of the people to cause the seats of power to tremble. We must become the catalyst for change in Houston, the gadfly which provokes responsible journalism among our peers..."*

These goals for radio station KPFT were written in 1973 by Thelma Meltzer, a *Breakthrough* volunteer who was then a KPFT board member. Because the purpose of *Breakthrough* newspaper is to provide information and perspectives not otherwise available in Houston, we at *Breakthrough* believe we have much in common with listener-sponsor KPFT. We are pleased to join with KPFT FM 90 in

## **Announcing Breakthrough on the Air**

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

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

*Breakthrough On The Air* asks you to participate in this conversation. Your feedback is invaluable. Join host Nancy Lane Fleming with *Breakthrough* reporters and newsmakers on KPFT FM 90 each Friday evening from seven to eight o'clock. Call 526-4000 to ask your questions on the air.

**Friday 7 pm — 8 pm  
KPFT FM 90  
Call 526-4000**