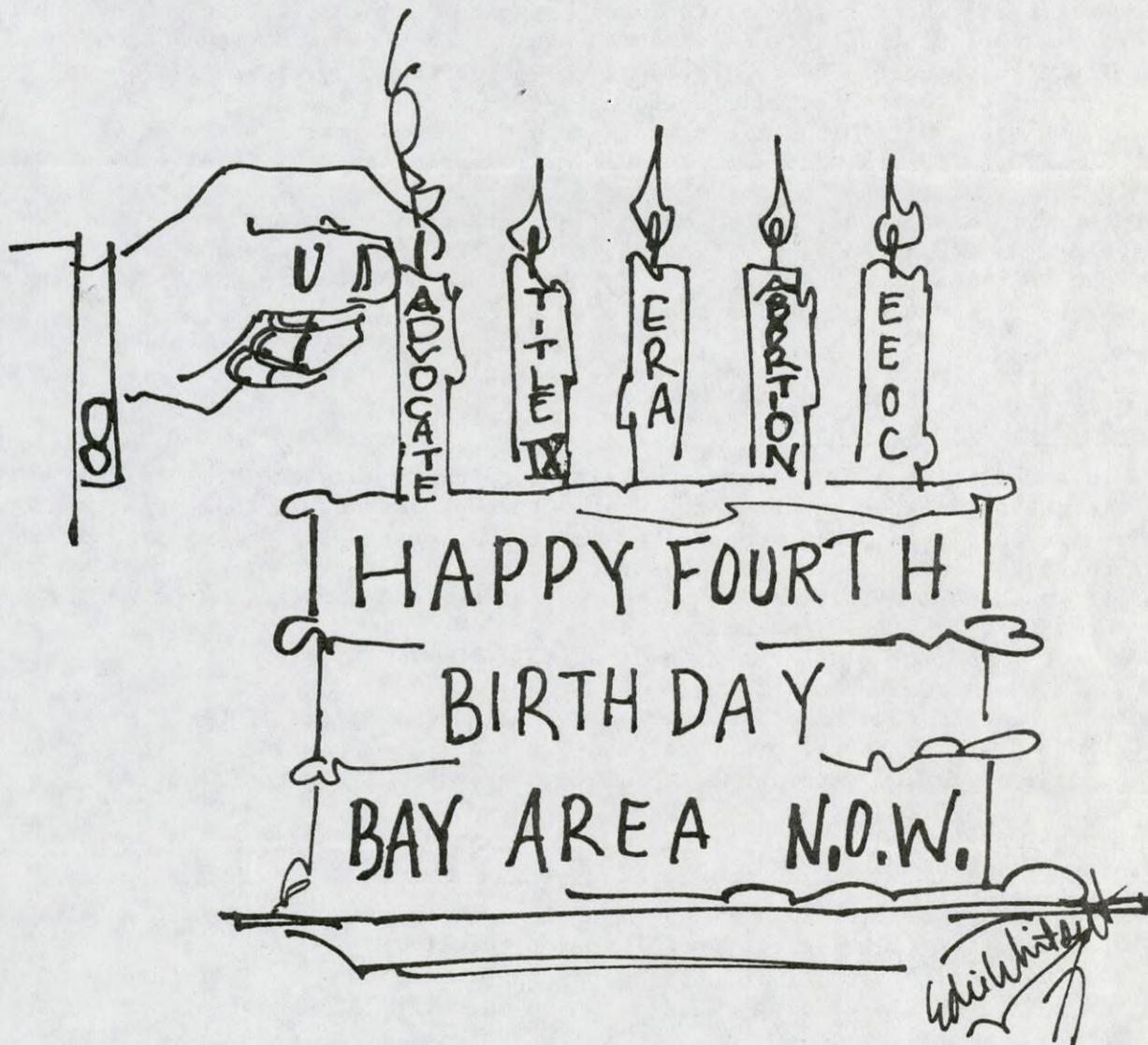


N.O.W. Bay Area Chapter

NEWS

National Organization for Women

Volume V, Number 4 - April, 1977



Party/Business Meeting: 8 p.m.

Uniting Church - El Camino & Reseda

Thursday, April 7, 1977

Clear Lake City, Texas

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Bay Area N.O.W. celebrates its 4th anniversary with a party to bring together those whose interest and participation have sustained the chapter since it was founded in 1973. Come to see old friends, meet new ones, and rediscover our feminist roots in the Bay Area. Letter-writing and business too. Birthday presents welcomed - see checklist within. Presiding officer: Frances Hicks 488-8574.

Bay Area NOW Herstory

The Bay Area chapter of the National Organization For Women was founded in May, 1973 as a result of a seminar on Women held at College of the Mainland - and because, as founder Mary Buxton reminds us, the one-caucus-per-county rule of the National Women's Political Caucus made it impossible for local NWPC enthusiasts to establish a Bay Area WPC! Stirred by the COM discussions, which were conducted by members of Houston NOW, some 25-30 women held their first formal Bay Area chapter meeting in the Arbor Building at UH/CLC. Parrish Hirasaki, then president of Houston NOW, spoke on basics of a feminist outlook. Activities in the first years included program meetings offering employment and career information, protest actions directed against Rep. Bob Casey and Johnson Space Center for failure to support EEOC regulations, development and participation in the state-wide review of textbooks for elimination of sexism and in the Bay Area Task Force on Rape. Early activists were Linda Eichblatt, Rusty Richards, Grace Baker, Pat Cook, Mary Buxton, Sonia Doty, Parrish Hirasaki, Marie Marlow, Pam Linbeck, Jonelle Owen, Julie Walker, Aneta Davis, Anne McClung, Marjorie Randal, Linda McCollum, Martha McFerren, Rosemary Mendenhall, Linda Burns, Sue Hutchings, and others. Today, Bay Area NOW is known around the state as a strong and active contributor to bringing the message of equality to Texans of the Gulf Coast. We have a good reputation and a compelling obligation to uphold and enhance it through significant action.

--Frances Hicks, Pres. Officer for April
(T. Butler)

"A Present," Said Piglet Very Loudly

Bay Area NOW is a coalition of individuals working together to achieve women's full right to equal participation in American society. What better present could this organization receive on its fourth birthday than the active participation and support of its members and friends? Following are a few suggestions for packaging that present. Please augment them with your own ideas and initiatives to carry the movement forward in the months ahead. Everyone's gift is vitally needed.

- 1) Renew your membership in Bay Area and national NOW.
 - 2) Bring new members with you.
 - 3) Donate to fund to send our delegate to NOW national meeting.
 - 4) Contribute posters, books, other relevant materials to Women's Center at UH/CLC.
 - 5) Communicate ideas and experiences to others through written contributions to the NOW NEWS.
 - 6) Join a task force and start putting your energy and thought into its work.
 - 7) (your turn)
-
- 8) Bring your lobbying letters in hand, or a list of those you sent this month on feminist issues. (see Legislative Alert for targets)
 - 9) Put your name on the roster to put together a program on a subject that interests you and to serve as presiding officer for an upcoming BANOW monthly meeting.



Bay Area Task Force on Rape Report

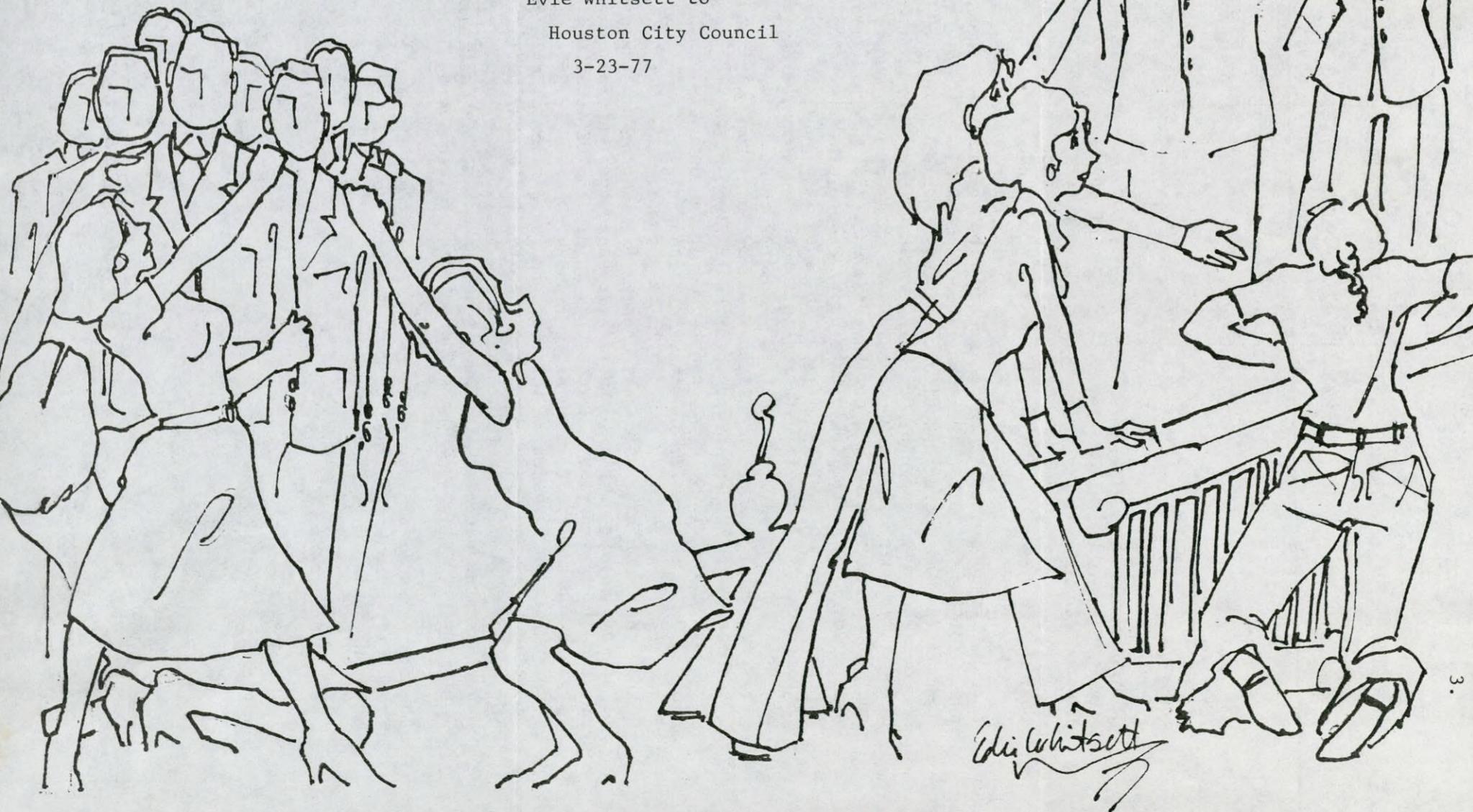
BATFOR met March 22, when some 15 members heard Judy Powell from Houston Rape Crisis Coalition speak on victim services and the mobilization of advocate training services. BATFOR members agreed that establishing good relations with police and the development of a speakers bureau are essential needs. April 18-22 has been designated statewide Rape Prevention Week to encourage public information projects.

--Nora Mertz

"I keep hearing people say that if we have a women's advocate, we should have a men's advocate.

I would suggest that if you have a seesaw with a heavy weight on one end and a light weight on the other, you will never be able to balance it by applying pressure to both ends equally."

Evie Whitsett to
Houston City Council
3-23-77



INSPECTOR OF HIDES AND ANIMALS
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Reply to:

3901 Mandell, Suite 17
Houston, TX 77006

The Honorable Fred Hofheinz
Mayor, City of Houston
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I respectfully request that you accept, for safekeeping, the Hide Inspector Award for March, 1977. This prestigious trophy is presented to the City Council for the courageous efforts of this underwhelming group in opposing the overwhelming menace of Dr. Nikki Van Hightower. Dr. Van Hightower has the gall to think that women should have the same opportunities for graft and corruption that we men now have exclusively. I would remind you that except for a suspected 18½ minute tape erasure, there were no women, no minorities and no average citizens involved in either the Watergate or Sharps-town scandals. It is frightening to think that women, minorities and plain average citizens may feel that they deserve to be let in on the graft and corruption so abundant in political life. Just think what would happen if all these "uppity" people get involved in flood-plain and flood-land construction, water districts, city, county and state contracts and permits now controlled by us males. It is a terrible thought.

I know that some have said that Council is fighting Dr. Van Hightower because of an inferiority complex; others have suggested that they have no complex, but are simply inferior. However, as an elected official who has pledged to pay taxes on all graft, I think it is highly unfair of Dr. Van Hightower to even suggest an invasion of this last sacred bastion of male supremacy - the wheeling, dealing, lying, cheating and stealing of our political system. Has she no shame? Does she think that our wives, widows, daughters and grand-daughters are people? City Council has taken up this challenge - they, in their infinite wisdom, or lack thereof, have given their answer.

Therefore, under the powers vested in (or assumed by) me, the Hide Inspector trophy for March is awarded to City Council, Houston, Texas. Given under my hand and a seal this 23rd day of March, 1977.



Sincerely,

Jack Woods
Jack Woods
Inspector

Presented @ trophy of
a horse's ass 3-23-77

Confucius Confounded, or Never Underestimate the Power of a Women's Advocate

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, a former assistant professor at the University of Houston, was appointed by Mayor Fred Hofheinz as Houston's second Women's Advocate on May 17, 1976. The office of WA was created to ensure that women are given equal opportunity in Houston city government employment, and to serve as a liaison between the Mayor's office and women in the community.

In spite of statements by City Councilmen that "the city has been doing a good enough job of hiring women" (Louis Macey) and "A woman's advocate is not any more necessary than a man's advocate...a waste of the taxpayers' money..." (Frank Mancuso), Van Hightower has addressed herself to sex discrimination complaints from workers in various city departments and a multitude of other problems. According to Women's Advocates, Inc., a law firm concerned with legal action in behalf of women's rights, women working for the city of Houston lose \$1.5 million because of pay discrimination. Hiring bias in the police department deprives women of more than \$2 million annually. Van Hightower has worked on various training programs designed to qualify women both for management positions and for non-traditional jobs. Last January, she presented a 60-page report on the status of women in the Houston community.

Despite all Nikki Van Hightower's labor and achievement, the Houston city councilmen were outraged when she was a guest speaker at an International Women's Day rally in downtown Houston in March where she spoke about her frustration with the opposition to the ERA and the woman's right to choose abortion.

After 7 citizens from an anti-abortion group complained to City Council of Van Hightower's attendance at the rally, Councilman Macey initiated a proposal to reduce the salary of the Women's Advocate to \$1/year, saying, "Van Hightower's activities at the Rally were degrading to the Council and to citizens." (Recently, another councilman spent his Saturday judging a wet T-shirt contest: "Nothing wrong with that - I was on my own time." and Mr. Macy devoted Sunday to participating in a Family Rights Rally in Sam Houston Park - site of the IWY rally the week before. Mayor Hofheinz expressed confidence in Van Hightower's job performance, noted that intimidation implied requirement that the WA never disagree with the Council.

Women's groups, learning of the reproof to Van Hightower, held rallies and marshalled forces to address City Council. In smaller numbers, groups opposing women's rights also had their say. The confrontation ended - or went underground - on March 30, when Council finally passed an ordinance to wipe out the job of Women's Advocate. Mayor Hofheinz immediately created another job, special assistant to the mayor, with the same duties and hired Dr. Van Hightower at the same salary as before. Keep your fingers crossed.

--Ruth Fruland Srnka

Bruckner To Represent BANOW At National Conference April 21-24, Detroit

NOW's national convention is being held in Detroit, Michigan in April with promise of fine workshops in every area of concern to feminists.

Dr. Nanette Bruckner has agreed to attend as delegate for Bay Area NOW. \$200 of chapter funds was voted toward expenses of up to 2 persons to attend. Nanette cannot go, however, unless at least her air fare is covered. Because costs are so high (round trip coach air fare \$212; hotel \$21-43, plus meals), and our budget so slim, we must have a fundraiser - SOON. Suggestions will be discussed at next meeting. Please come with your ideas and offers of help Thursday, April 7. ---Betty Yancey

PLEASE SEND THIS GIRL TO THE NOW NATIONAL CONFERENCE!!!





out on a limb



by David Rothenberg

No cry for social change has been as misrepresented or misunderstood as that of the women's movement.

Feminist aspirations challenge deep feelings and attitudes. As a result, it is often unsettling for women, as well as for men.

Nothing has sensitized me to the women's movement as much as my viewing the traumatic ordeals of women who have been in difficulty with the law.

* * *

Our laws and our social agencies have made the plight of the convict and the ex-convict a continuing and maddening hell. The woman—who has had difficulty with the law—has all of that which the man must endure, but, in addition, also must confront the moral judgments of a male-oriented society.

Prisons have often been called a microscopic view of our society. If this is true in the men's prisons, then women's prisons not only are an exaggerated view of our punitive instincts, but, indeed, are evidence of our sexist failings.

It is interesting, also, to hear many men in prison—as well as ex-convicts, minimize feminist arguments. Often I have heard it classified as a middle-class movement which smokescreens basic economic and racial inequities in our society.

I have slowly learned to realize that this is dangerous, self-defeating logic for men of compassion. To permit any group or segment of our society to accept second-class status, is to allow for an atmosphere which permits any other group to be so categorized. Unless all persons are permitted to achieve their own potential, then we are constantly chopping up a decadent pie and the size of the slice matters little.

Men also pay a penalty for the self-serving upper strata in which they have placed themselves. In a macho, competitive, industrial society, the unrealistic expectations placed on the man often victimize him as well as his deprived sister.

But this is not a column about the victimized male in a sexist society; it is about the real and alarming damage done to women caught in the revolving door of criminal justice.

* * *

When the Fortune Society began in 1967, it was geared to serve as a voice for the ex-convict. The handful of former offenders who involved themselves were all men at that time.

The problems of the men coming out of prison were real and immediate—and we were too busy to realize that there was a 10% prison population not involved. There should not now be any guilt-ridden postmortems—we saw a house ablaze and reached for those who were visible.

Jeanette became involved with Fortune and joined us on the platform before a community group in Long Island. The men spoke of their past lives, crimes of violence, prison horror stories and post-release self-realizations. They received the admiration and respect of the audience.

And then this brave woman stood to speak. I could feel the audience changing. They pulled away. They were disapproving. They asked her no questions when she finished relating her story.

I didn't understand what had happened until Jeanette told me. "The men," she explained, "had broken the law, but I, as a woman, had done worse; I had broken their moral code." She removed herself from the pedestal where women were placed to be admired. She could not be forgiven, much less understood.

Jeanette found the experience unsettling and said she would help Fortune but that she couldn't go before the public because the absence of support was too painful. She needed strength, not judgment.

For nearly a year, Jeanette worked behind the scenes, the sole woman in an organization of ex-convicts growing rapidly. In 1970, we received a call from a second woman who lived in New Jersey. We invited Fran O'Leary to meet us at a church in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Fran now tells the story that she was horrified when she arrived as she had thought she was meeting with a group of ex-cons, when, in fact, she marched in on middle-America. . . .

By then, however, many of the more articulate feminists were being heard. Fran began to open her talk by challenging the audience's double standard for ex-convicts. She would state the specific problems and needs of women—and, gradually, many women and women's groups began to respond to the problems of women in prison and women coming out of jail.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will read of the many women now involved with Fortune. The learning process for many men has been slow and arduous. Our lifetime of roles and conceptions of what a woman is has been challenged.

Most of us think we have dealt with it all. I did. Then I enter a basketball court to play a full-court game and find that the player I am assigned to guard is a woman. I ask myself a great many unreasonable questions, based on how others will judge me—rather than confronting the reality that is there.

* * *

Women coming out of prison need the strength of the women's movement. And many of us males need the wisdom and strength of this movement to challenge, enlighten and sensitize us.

The truth of any movement for social change strengthens all of us. As women become stronger, more self-accepting and self-assured, they do not weaken the male of species. They enrich us by their presence.

The Fortune News is a monthly newspaper published by the Fortune Society, a non profit organization of ex convicts and other interested persons. We publish Fortune News 11 times a year (one issue for July-August). Our offices are at 29 E 22 St., NYC 10010 and our phone is 212 677 4600.

The Fortune Society derives its name, via a fine drama of prison life "Fortune and Men's Eyes," from Shakespeare's sonnet "When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes, I all alone bewail my outcast state..."

Textbook Review Task Force Prepares For August Hearings

The 1977 Proclamation of the State Board of Education concerning textbook adoption schedule and regulations, published last week, signals the start of the fifth annual campaign by the Education Task Force of Texas NOW toward elimination of sexist content from textbooks purchased by the state for use in Texas public schools. The task force, comprising NOW members and other interested people, reviews books up for adoption and files formal protests with the Texas Education Agency against those which are considered objectionable on the basis of sexist content. As required by the state, publishers must make written responses to these objections (a good CR exercise in itself), and protests and responses then serve as the documentary basis for Protest Hearings conducted in Austin before the State Textbook Selection Committee and the TEA representatives - after which the Selection Committee votes to select up to five titles in each of the subject categories to be purchased, and submits its recommendations to the State Board of Education for final adoption in November. It is from this list that local school districts choose books for local use, a process completed in the following March. Opportunities for public influence on the selection decisions involved in this multi-million \$ purchase are thus (formally) offered during the period in May-June when books are available in state Region Centers for public inspection and the filing of protests, and during the period in January-February when books are available for the same purpose in local school districts.

There are 15 subject categories up for adoption in 1977, some including more than one grade level. Assuming that an average of eight different publishers will submit books in each of these categories/levels, there will be about 200 separate books for Task Force members to review between May 2 and June 24. On the basis of past experience, some 150 volunteer reviewers are needed in order to provide minimum coverage of the material and a reasonable pool of potential testifiers able to be in Austin for the Hearings in mid-August. In order to protest a particular book at the Hearings, a written protest must have been filed before June 24 (4 copies needed) and a signer of that document must present the verbal testimony against the book.

All necessary information on procedures and format for preparing a written review ("protest") will be provided by the Education Task Force. Please inform your chapter coordinator of your willingness to be a reviewer and recruit other people who care enough about this subject to do a careful, thorough job of producing a protest acceptable for filing with TEA.

Subject categories up for adoption in 1977 are:

Elem. Spanish, Grades 3,4,5,6
Texas History & Geography, Grade 7
Literature, Grades 7, 8
HS English Composition
HS Drama I and II
HS Biology II
HS Chemistry II

German I and II
Spanish III and IV
Fundamentals of the Free Enterprise System
General Business
Office Procedures
Business Mathematics
Driver Education and Traffic Safety

Women's Rights Coordinating Council Meeting

The WRCC met March 24 at Autry House, with Laura Oren presiding. The following motion, made by Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, was passed: The WRCC should concentrate on forming alliances among member organizations as a baseline for action; regarding priorities, a unanimous vote of member organizations must be secured before a statement can be issued on any subject citing WRCC as a sponsor.

Methods of administering membership lists were agreed upon. A telephone tree is being formed.

Mary Jane White wants people to help start a job talent bank. If interested in this project call Mary Jane at 526-5416.

WRCC newsletter editor Dee Harrison advises that deadline for submitting material is 2nd Tuesday of the month. Subscriptions are \$6/year: Alice Tomasello, Treas., 1631 Castle Creek, Missouri City, Tx. 77459

Title IX - Anybody Got the Ignition Key?

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 specifies that "No person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Title IX and its regulations affect virtually all public school systems and post-secondary education institutions. How actively is it being implemented and enforced?

Locally, members of NOW, League of Women Voters, and American Association of University Women are meeting together to study Title IX as it impacts on personnel, curriculum, and athletic practices of Bay Area school districts. State-required Title IX compliance self-evaluation statements, filed with TEA last summer, have been obtained from the LaPorte, Dickinson, Alvin, Friendswood, Clear Creek, Deer Park, and Pasadena districts. When study and comparison of these documents has been completed, the group will select a subject area for more intensive inquiry and will seek the cooperation of one of the more receptive districts for a field exercise in developing compliance data. Meetings of this study group are held weekly (usually Mon. 7:30 pm) at the home of Rema Lou Brown, 731 Buoy. Rema Lou chairs the standing committee on women of AAUW-CLC branch. Call her at 488-1896 for information.

Title IX is the leading educational priority of national AAUW. Harriet Pierce-Ruhland, AAUW-CLC area representative on education and a study group participant, invites NOW members to attend a presentation on Women and the Laws - Title IX and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act at the CLC Rec Center, April 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Texas NOW also gives top priority to Title IX enforcement and has designated May 1-7 as "Texas NOW Title IX Education Week." Urgent need for public information on the implications of Title IX was clearly evidenced by the statement made by a representative of the Office for Civil Rights at a NOW State Council Title IX Workshop in Dallas on March 19 that by far the most complaints filed thus far under this law with OCR in Texas are concerned with the length of boys' hair! The potential of Title IX to right inequities affecting women and girls in publicly supported education is still far from realization.

(Excerpt from 1st Women's State of the Union address by Karen DeCrow, President NOW, 1/77)

In regard to this nation's young women, despite Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, our young girls are learning daily in school that they are second class citizens. In a Colorado junior high school, the girls in home economics class wash the boy's football and basketball uniforms. In a Montana school, the first grade girls and boys have been segregated, to find out if the boys learn better when girls are not around. The separation is based on a theory that coeducation may be detrimental to young boys, because of early dominance by females!

Little, if any, progress has been made in sports for girls and women. NOW has been swamped with complaints of violations: girls being denied access to Little League, baseball, hockey, and football teams. Title IX has been twisted and interpreted to mean that women's athletic departments are no longer necessary. Women's athletic director positions at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and the University of California at Santa Barbara have been terminated.

(excerpts from article in Houston Post 3/77)

Telling it briefly

Betty Minzenmayer became the **second woman senior high school principal in the Houston Independent School District last week, despite objections of three male school trustees who favored a man.** Women administrators and the Houston Principals' Association say sex and race should not be criteria for deciding on promotions. The first woman senior high principal, Carrie McAfee at Madison Senior High, says a woman can be just as good a principal as a man.

The 41-year-old assistant principal at Sam Houston High School was the unanimous first choice of a personnel screening committee from among 19 applicants for the job, Supt. Billy Reagan noted.

While 43 per cent of HISD's administrative staff is female, women hold few high level jobs, with one or two exceptions.

While 41 per cent of school administrators are women, most are in elementary schools, where more than half of the principals are women.

"It isn't the case of her being a woman," said Trustee William Holland, a retired high school principal. "I just think a man should hold the job."

Trustees Ernest McGowen and the Rev. D. Leon Everett II also opposed Minzenmayer, but only because they said the Scarborough community wanted a male principal. A strong disciplinarian is needed because of discipline problems, they said.

Unlike Holland, the two would not say they are against women becoming senior high school principals. McGowen said he might have voted for the appointment of a "strong black woman" to the job.

Texas NOW Council Met in Dallas, March 19

ERA...Chapters have sent in about half of the \$1000 pledged by Barbara Duke. BANOW has met its \$50 commitment.

Mary Jo Risher, a lesbian mother, has lost the most recent round in her attempt to regain custody of her 10-year-old son. She appeals for funds to continue her legal battle:

Friends of Mary Jo Risher, c/o Dallas County NOW, PO Box 12431, Dallas, Tx. 75225.

Nurse Practice Act...Nurse advocate Beth Rice urged support for this act which provides for licensing nurses. Texas has no licensing at present, so untrained persons can be employed by physicians (at less than nurses' pay) or can represent themselves as nurses and perform nursing duties. Bills are HB-594 (Ron Clower and Gene Jones) and SB-392 (Betty Andujar).

Abortion...see Legislative Alert

International Women's Year...a planning conference will be held in Austin on June 24-6.

Displaced Homemakers Acts...Hearings were scheduled in Austin on March 21. Jeanne Saletan is heading the NOW state task force on older women of which DHA is a top priority. Charlotte Stewart heads a Tex. Alliance for Displaced Homemakers which reaches out to all groups to support DHA. They are working together. UPDATE: SB-515 and HB-444 have been voted unanimously out of their respective committees and onto floor. Mail in support of both bills must start now! Re national DHA: urge Sen Harrison Williams to assign S418 (Bayh) to subcommittee and schedule early hearings. Identical HR28 is already in committee.

Texas NOW State Convention in San Antonio in October...planning proceeds, seeking Susan Brownmiller as key speaker. Your help asked in selecting topics for workshops and for short films that will be shown during the conference. Please indicate in 1 to 13 rank preference for film subjects: abortion, CR, Education, Divorce, ERA, Famous Women, Health Care, History, Language, Lesbianism, Marriage-Wives, Mothers, Religion, Rape, Sex Roles, Sexuality, Women (?), Women's Movement. Workshops suggested thus far are Women in Politics, Grant Writing, Abortion and Forced Sterilization, Assertiveness Training, Math Anxiety, WICCA, Credit, Title IX, Fundraising, Chapter Action, Non-sexist parenting, Strategies for Debate on ERA and Abortion. Chapter preferences and input are needed to make final selection of workshops. Plan to attend State Conference September 30-October 2. San Antonio Chapter is doing a great job.

Regional Conference will be held in El Paso in May in conjunction with the next State Council meeting. for the purpose of electing 2 members to the National Board in compliance with the new national by-laws. Frances Hicks plans to attend. Gail Baier of San Antonio announces that she is a candidate.

Criminal Justice...Micki Treadwell, Task Force Chair, urges letters to legislators in support of SB-39 to create in Texas a state-wide probation system for the non-violent offender. Crimes committed by women are increasing far more, proportionately, than crimes by men. Whatever the reason for this development, more women than ever before are being exposed to the dehumanizing effects of prison. The bill is seen as a step toward community-based corrections.

Fundraising for Texas NOW...Have you used the NOW subscription service? Easy, painless, efficient. Recently eight new and renewed subscriptions - subscriptions you would have bought anyway - yielded \$35 to Texas NOW. Where does the money go? To task forces such as textbook review (\$185) and DH (\$95), mainly for printing and mailing materials, which fuel chapter action programs. And to underwriting the state convention which all chapter members are urged to participate in this fall. REMEMBER NOW WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE. Rebates of up to 40% of subscription price will go to Texas NOW if you will remember to: make your check out to ALICE JOHNSON and send it with the order information to TEXAS NOW SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE/ PO BOX 393/ BERKELEY, CA. 94701.

Texas NOW Council publishes an excellent quarterly newsletter. Subscriptions @ \$3/year. Order from Pam Summers, Communications Coordinator, 608 E. Melton, Longview, Tx. 75602.

---Jeanne Saletan

Registration Opens For UH/CLC Women's Studies Courses - Sign Up Now For Fall '77

Register for Fall Semester WOMEN'S STUDIES courses for college credit at University of Houston at Clear Lake City. Current students register April 11-22; new students register April 25-29.

You can receive a B.A., M.A. and/or B.B.A. in Human Sciences, Humanities, Literature, Historical Studies or Business Administration with a concentration in Women's Studies from this accredited university.

Fall Course Listings

Mgmt 4231 Women in Management.....Wed AM - 9:00-12:00, Dr. Natemeyer
 Psych 4931 Topic: Intro to Women's Studies.....Tue & Fri AM - 10:30-12:00, Dr. Bruckner
 Psych 5533 Psychology of Women.....Tue PM - 6:00-9:00, Dr. Bruckner
 Socio 4931 Topic: Political Sociology of Women...Mon PM - 6:00 -9:00, Dr. Oettinger
 Hist 4833 Life Cycles.....Tue & Fri AM - 12:00-1:20, Dr. Quataert

For more information call the Women's Center 488-9270, or 488-9236 or 488-9370.

Harris County Women's Political Caucus Finds a Use For Mother's Day

HCWPC announces that it is honoring its MOTHERS with a CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH on the ROOF of the RICE RITTENHOUSE HOTEL, Main at Texas, on MOTHER'S DAY, May 8, 1977, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. Tickets for this thinly disguised benefit to help elect women to office may be obtained at a charge of \$15 per PERSON, 2 for \$25 (bring your mother or other friend), \$7.50 for under 18 yrs. For tickets or reservations, call before May 5: Duerk/665-8682, Kring/784-3732 Pitt/785-3879, Soliz/524-5005.

Women's Employment Forum Schedules April 12 Program: Women in the Skilled Trades

Women's Employment Forum is a monthly program, sponsored by the Vocational Guidance Service, to promote better occupational opportunities for women through the communication and cooperation of helping professionals. Meetings are held at the Lonnie E. Smith Branch Library, 3624 Scott, with lunch (12:00-12:30 pm) preceding the presentation and discussion (12:30-2:00 pm). Program on April 12, "Women in the Skilled Trades," features Sears Roebuck people: John Mitchell, Area Supervisor-Central Services, Violet Robertson and Rose Marie Divan, Appliance Repair Technicians. Lunch is \$2; phone reservations no later than noon, Monday, April 11, 659-

Legislative Alert: Bills restricting availability of abortion

Texas SB-416-Mengden. Allows medical personnel at private hospitals or other health care facilities to refuse to perform or participate in abortion. Prohibits discrimination against refusers in hiring, etc. Awaiting introduction on floor. Contact any senator.
 Texas SB-585-Ogg. Permits redefining viability at less than 22 weeks, criminalizes post-viability abortions. Still, barely, in subcommittee.
 Texas HB-1636-Uher, Hubenak, Ceverha. In effect, prohibits use of government funds and government funded facilities for abortions. Bounced back from State Affairs Committee to Health and Welfare Committee, a good omen.
 Texas HB-1637-Uher, Hubenak, Ceverha. Omnibus obstructions-to-abortion bill, too long to summarize here. Same disposition as above.
 Texas HB-1875-Von Dohlen. Same as SB-585, and requires physicians to report results to State Dept. of Health within 30 days after performing abortions. Same disposition as above.

With the exception of SB-416, all the bills in the Legislature begin with "relating to the declaration of a basic policy of right to life." If any bill is passed, this language would be part of state law.

U.S. Senate. Tower and Bentsen send out letters appearing supportive of abortion rights, but the language is full of loopholes, and Bentsen did vote for the Hyde amendment which would stop federal funding for abortions.

U.S. House. Texas members of the House committee on appropriations are Geo. Mahon (yes on Hyde in 1976) and Charles Wilson (no in 1976). Write them and your own rep. to urge them not to discriminate against the poor women of our country.

Women in Art and Architecture - IWY Brings (Belated) Recognition

In implied acknowledgement of past neglect, foundations, museums, journals and other such institutions are permitting the celebration of International Women's Year to provide occasion for reviewing the work of outstanding women, past and present, in the arts. More significantly, perhaps, the gathering and presentation of so much material to be viewed in historical perspective has prompted considerable analysis of the effect of cultural conditions and attitudes on women's accomplishments. When we have heard the last echo of Linda Nochlin's bold question, "Why have there been no great women artists?" we can begin to hope that a kind of ERA is finally in effect in the arts. For now, here are references to just a few of many current publications and exhibitions of great interest:

"Where are the woman museum directors?" by Terry Trucco, *Art News*, 2/77, pp 52-57, reviews the careers of earlier woman directors and curators - a tiny band whose experiences often explain all too well their tendency to queen bee attitudes. Eighty-year-old Adelyn Breeskin, who owed her appointment as director of the Baltimore Museum more to the scarcity of male candidates in 1942 than to her own excellent qualifications (and was nearly replaced by a man at war's end), helped to select her male successor in 1962 and now remarks, "I would have liked to pass it on to a woman, but there weren't any who were ready in the country at that time...Nowadays, the administration of a museum is so much more complicated than it was before that women seem to prefer curating where you just have your speciality to worry about. Men seem to like directing more because the power drive with men is greater." A real progression toward freer acceptance of their own administrative strengths is apparent as the survey moves from older to younger women, but the companion survey of the growing number of women museum trustees brings out the anachronistic handmaiden compulsiveness in the exceedingly capable Mrs. John D. Rockefeller III who "added softly, 'There is a certain value to plain common sense. You have a right to an opinion as a layman, and I think it's good to have a general opinion as well as a specialized one. I'm not a violent women's lib person...but I was brought up to believe you should be of service to your community.'" The present crop of young women directors (of small-to-medium sized museums) provide fascinating views on the politics of advancement, as well as other aspects of their profession.

Re-placing women artists in history

ART NEWS, March '77,
pp. 40-46

An impressive exhibition in Los Angeles rescues the work of 83 remarkable women from their historical limbo

by Jan Butterfield

“Why have there been no great women artists?” Linda Nochlin asked that question rhetorically in 1971 in the January issue of *ARTnews*. Now, six years later, she and Ann Sutherland Harris have provided the answer brilliantly in an impressive exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Entitled “Women Artists 1550-1950,” it could well have been subtitled “Anonymous was a Woman,” to borrow from Virginia Woolf (and later from the Cal Arts Feminist Art program). The exhibition was curated by Nochlin, professor of art history at Vassar College, and Harris, professor of art history at the State University of New York, Albany. With over 150 works by more than 83 artists, it is more than likely that over 75 percent of the women shown will be familiar only to serious feminist scholars.

The exhibition is tough and hard-hitting.

It is in no way an apologia. The scholarship in the catalogue is some of the most impressive contemporary work I have seen and is certainly the most comprehensive and sentient work done in this area. . . .

The impact of the exhibition is overwhelming. The first impression is one of real strength and quality, and the second is that there is no conclusive internal evidence in the work which indicates the sex of the artist. . . .

In her 1971 essay Nochlin countered this issue head on: “The problem lies not so much with the feminists’ concept of what femininity is, but rather with their misconception—shared with the public at large—of what art is: with the naïve idea that art is the direct, personal expression of individual emotional experience, a translation of personal life into visual terms. *Art is almost never that, great art never is* [italics mine].

Nochlin goes on to state: “The fact of the matter is that there have been no *supremely great* [italics mine] women artists, as far as we know, although there have been many interesting and very good ones who remain insufficiently investigated or appreciated. . . . That this should be the case is regrettable, but no amount of manipulating the historical or critical evidence will alter the situation; nor will accusations of male-chauvinist distortion of history. The fact, dear sisters, is that there *are* no women equivalents for Michelangelo or Rembrandt, Delacroix or Cézanne, Picasso or Matisse, or even, in very recent times, for de Kooning or Warhol. . . . The fault, dear brothers, lies not in our stars, our hormones, our menstrual cycles or our empty internal spaces, but in our institutions and our education—education understood to include everything that happens to us from the moment we enter this world of meaningful symbols, signs and signals.” . . .

LOS ANGELES

Majority rule

In celebration of International Women's Year and to supplement the exhibition “Women Artists: 1550-1950” at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, more than 70 institutions and commercial galleries have scheduled women's exhibitions over a period of six months. . . .

The woman behind the T square

3:77 Progressive Architecture

Excellent review of work of women architects of yesterday and survey of work of women in architecture today. Progressive Architecture, March 1977.

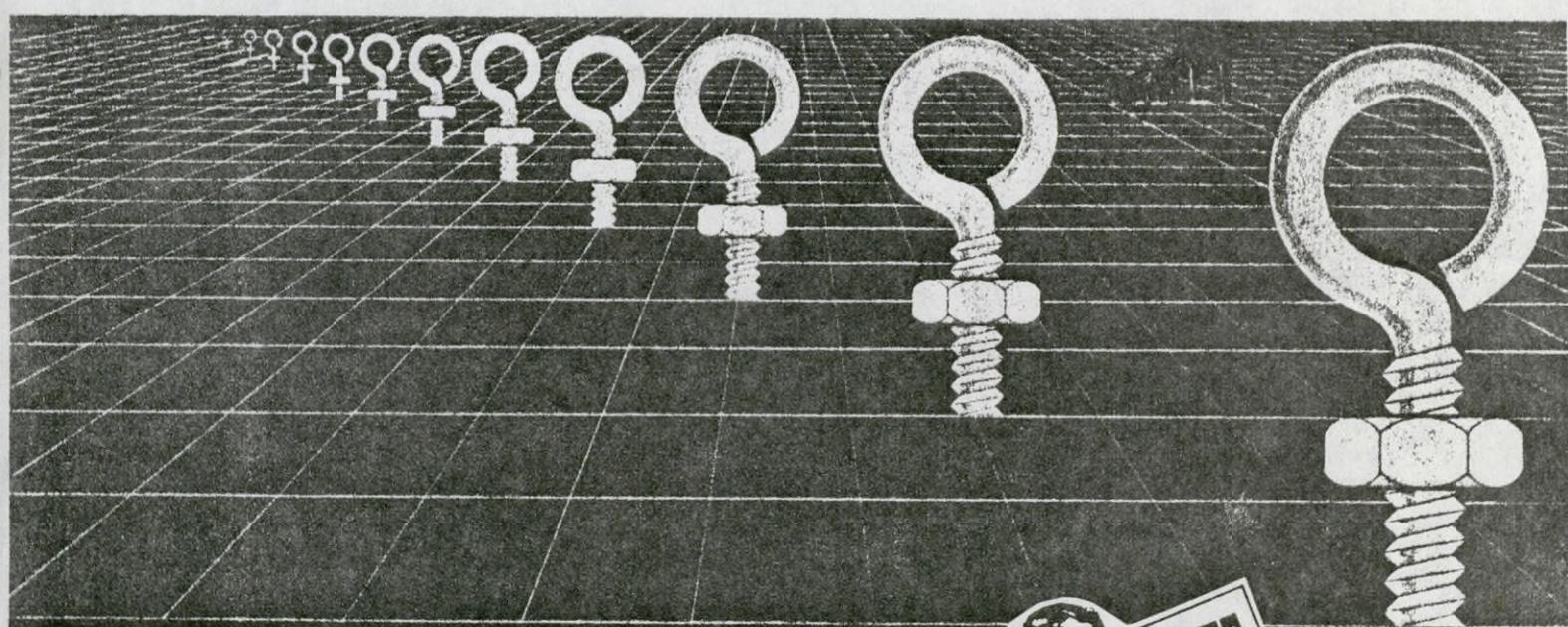
A major exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum and the publication of a book to accompany the show bring to light the accomplishments of some less visible contributors within the field of architecture.

Women were actively involved in the field of architecture even before its organization as a profession in the last part of the 19th Century. Of course, there haven't been many women, and for a number of reasons they kept a low profile throughout their careers. But strangely, not even history salvaged their work and made them visible.

Last month, a show opened that should redress that situation in a major way. The exhibit, "Women in American Architecture; An Historical and Contemporary Perspective" opened at the Brooklyn Museum, and The Whitney Library of Design is publishing a book by the same name to serve as the show's catalog. The show and book have been masterminded by architect Susana Torre and a small group of architects, historians, and writers. Under the auspices of the Architectural League of New York, they have delved into files and libraries, and have contacted women architects all over the United States to put together this unique exhibit. It is not the first time *current* work by women archi-

facts has been shown. It is the first time that this show in the context of a full and extensive history of women's efforts in the architectural field.

To mark the occasion, P/A reports in the following pages on some of the highlights found in the book and exhibit. Much more remains to cull out in the book; much more visual information appears in the exhibit. As Susana Torre points out in her introduction to the book, the aim of this project was to confront the question, "Why have there been no great women architects?" The reply, however, is directed to the question as it should be rephrased: "What were the circumstances that supported or hindered the full technical and expressive achievement of women in American architecture? What institutional structures were made available to women to give them the necessary preparation for achieving professional proficiency—let alone greatness? What were the alleged reasons for limiting the access by women to schools of architecture? Do these reasons change in different periods of history? When have women been commissioned to design public buildings and through what channels? What efforts have women architects exerted on their own behalf for professional advancement? What are the interrelationships between women's roles as consumers, producers, critics, and creators of space?"



From poster for Women in Design Conference, Los Angeles, 1975, by Sheila de Bretteville.

WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T FIGHT CITY HALL??



Selected Short Subjects

"Women in Administrative Positions in Public Education: a position paper prepared by the Recruitment, Leadership and Training Institute, July, 1974." Concerning sexual imbalance in school administration - data, causes, solutions, EEO to Affirmative Action, conclusions and recommendations, suggested readings. Temple U: Phila. 19122.

"Growing Free: Ways to Help Children Overcome Sex-Role Stereotypes." Assoc. for Childhood Educ. Intl. 32 p. \$1.10, ACEI, 3615 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Wash. DC 20016.

"Sexual Counterrevolution I" by Ellen Willis, Rolling Stone, 3/24/77. A concise, thoughtful look at pornography: "The issue is whether women are obliged, in the name of respect for civil liberties, to tolerate what amounts to a legally and socially sanctioned hate campaign."

"Jodie Foster & Tatum O'Neal: Their Combined Age is 27 - What is Hollywood Trying To Tell Us?" by Molly Haskell, Ms. 4/77, p. 49-51. "Perhaps a Hollywood full of Daddy's little girls will make those producers and directors feel like great big men again." and other insights.

"The Need For Macho Men" Cosmopolitan, 3/77, p. 243ff. "I've had an overdose of intellectual lovers...the only man who ever really hurt me was a so-called sympathetic intellectual who shredded my ego when I told him I didn't want to live with him any more. He...used such eviscerating language I never really got over it. To tell the truth, I'd rather be slugged by a man. Out and out physical force is so much cleaner than words that scar." "Real men still want to dominate a relationship, but we want women who fight back."

Bayshore National Bank has offered a \$50 prize for the best essay from LaPorte HS in the NOW LDEF "Discovering American Women" contest. J. Saletan- for a machinist, you're a pretty good panhandler!

Julie Walker is putting together a CR group for women, UH/CLC Women's Center, Rm. 1-313, Thurs. 7-9 pm. Call 488-9270.

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Montgomery Ward Catalog 1895

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