

Breakthrough

A feminist newspaper

Vol. 1, No. 2

February, 1976

Nurse denied board seat

Despite strong backing from a County Commissioner, a professional nursing association, civic leaders, feminist groups, and the feminist press, a member of the nursing profession was not appointed to any of the three positions on the Harris County Hospital District Board of Managers.

Instead, the Harris County Commissioners Court in January voted to reappoint Dr. George Alexander, a physician, and Quentin Mease, executive director of the South Central YMCA. In a 3-2 vote the Court refused to reappoint labor leader Don Horn and voted unanimously to replace Horn with Danny Knowlton, a labor leader from Pasadena.

Horn, the secretary-treasurer of the Harris County AFL-CIO had been in disfavor with the court since he spoke out publicly in July against the court-ordered \$2.5 million cutback in the hospital district's budget.

Knowlton is a representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers who sees himself, according to a Houston Post story of his nomination, as a "champion of taxpayers."

The Houston Chronicle reported that Commissioner Tom Bass nominated Alison Druck, an instructor at Texas Women's University graduate School of Nursing, to succeed Dr. George Alexander, but that "his motion died for a lack of a second."

In a press release issued to clarify the news media report, Bass, who has for years publicly stated his support for the appointment of a nurse to the Board of Managers, said: "There were indicators that other court members might also support (a nurse)...However, during the discussion of the appointments..it became clear that a nurse nominee would not receive a majority vote from the Commissioners Court this year."

After his motion of Druck failed to get a second, Bass said, "I felt it would be wrong to vote against the man who obviously had the support of the other members. (It) would unfairly place him at a disadvantage in taking his position on the Board of Managers."

Bass further stated he was "cautiously optimistic that with continued support a nurse might be appointed to the board next year."

The strongest support for appointment of a nurse came from Marcella Perry, civic leader and chairperson of the Board of Regents, Texas Women's University, and from the 1200 member Texas Nurses Association, District No. 9.

Dixie Brown, executive director of the TNA said, "We are very disappointed a nurse member has never been appointed to the Board of Managers in spite of the fact that over 50 per cent of the hospital district employees are in the nursing profession."

"The nurse is closer to the consumer than any other health provider. She has access to the



Commissioner's Court

largest number of consumers and employees in the hospital district," Brown continued. "Her role in the hospital district is being completely overlooked."

In response to the possibility of a nurse being appointed next year, when four positions - that of one Black, one woman, one Chicano, one white male - come

up for reappointment, Brown went on to say:

"Dr. Jim Watson (a Black physician) is the strongest supporter of patient services on the Board of Managers. It is rumored that he will not be reappointed when his term expires next year. It is also uncertain whether Ms. Schachtel

will seek reappointment or be reappointed. What we will see if a nurse is appointed next year is a scramble over the minority seat."

Susan Heavey agrees with Dixie Brown. Heavey is coordinator of the Woman and

Continued on page 7

Join herstory celebration

Women did more in American history than sew the flag and comfort men. But look at the Bicentennial literature and ads that are being published! If women are in the pictures at all, they are spinning yarn, making candle wax or serving ale at the local pub.

To help change the picture, a Houston group will perform a series of sketches titled A Pageant of American Women as part of Houston's Bicentennial program.

Pageant will be presented on Susan B. Anthony's birthday, February 15 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

Susan B. Anthony, abolitionist and suffragist, will be one of more than 20 American women whose lives will be highlighted in this program.

Peggy Hall, director and organizer of the group, said that involvement in the Pageant has been educational.

"Ever hear of Sybil Luddington, Mother Jones, or Ellen Swallow Richards?" she asked. "Neither did many of us in Pageant's cast. But as we researched, wrote, costumed, staged and acted out the lives of American women, we learned a lot and enjoyed sharing it with the community."

Both men and women pooled their skills for the event. Many became involved through the Southwest Houston, Northwest Houston, and Inner City chapters of NOW as well as the Harris County Women's Political Caucus, and Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Women's Equity Action League.

Following the program a wine and cheese fund raising party will take place for the benefit of ERAmerica, a national coalition of all groups supporting ratification of the ERA. Texas State WEAL is in charge of the fund raiser. Donation is \$1.50.

Sissy's President!



SISSY FARENTHOLD

Dolph may be governor, but Sissy's president!

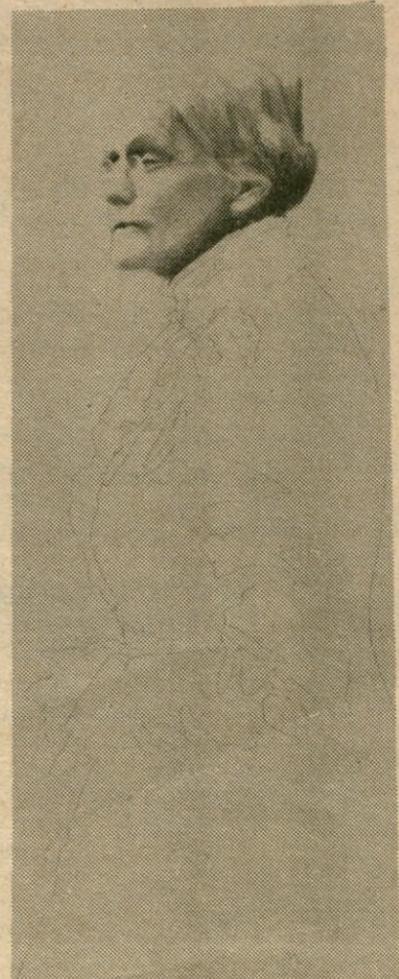
Sissy Farenthold will leave Houston next month to become the first woman president of Wells College in Aurora, N. Y., a

108 year-old liberal arts college for women. Farenthold, an attorney, served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives before challenging Briscoe for the governorship in 1972.

She was the first woman to be nominated for the U. S. Vice-Presidency and won 400 delegate votes at the 1972 Democratic National Convention. She was the first chairperson of the National Women's Political Caucus.

In announcing her appointment, Wells board chairman Ralph Poole, Jr., said, "She is a splendid example of the humane, educated woman with the courage to act on her convictions in the public arena."

There will be a party honoring Sissy Farenthold at 8 p.m. February 28 at the Contemporary Arts Museum. The party is open to the public.



Editorials

Pappy flunks test

Sexism is the only form of bigotry treated as good, clean fun in our society.

This was again made painfully evident in an incident at the first news conference held by B. G. "Pappy" Bond last month following his confirmation as police chief.

The following exchange took place between Bond and KPRC-TV reporter Carole Kneeland.

Kneeland: "The most recent class of police cadets that started on Monday had no women in it. And the number of women entering the force has steadily declined since they instituted the physical agility test and made the height requirement 5' 6". Do you have an intention of changing the physical agility and height requirements at all?"

Bond: "No, I don't. But, as you well know, I appreciate women because I've appreciated you, personally, for a good many years. And, it's uh, uh, it's been a pleasure talking to you." (Laughter from male reporters in the room.)

Kneeland: "Some of the women who complain about the agility test have complained to me that they don't think that many of the men in the police department could pass that test if they were given it right now. They say it is not really relevant for that reason...that they don't have to be able to do it."

Bond: "Well, there's a point there. I think that's a preliminary step. That's a pre-employment test. I'm sure as beautiful as you are, you wouldn't expect some of the executives in the police department to leap tall buildings in a single bounce. (Laughter from male reporters in the room.) As years pass, your eyesight dims and arthritis develops and, uh, it's just such a pleasure talking with you because..." (Interrupted by laughter from male reporters in the room.)

Kneeland: "Do you think most of the men in the police department could pass that test if they were given it now?"

Bond: "Well, let me tell you. I don't want to be defensive about the Houston Police Department. I just want to be defensive. I believe members of the Houston Police Department can do anything they really want to do. And they've proven this many times in the past."

A male reporter: "Thank you."
End of press conference.

There was only one other woman reporter in the roomful of male reporters. No one spoke up to either demand a serious answer to a serious question or to decry the exchange between a respected colleague and a civil servant.

Only two radio stations aired the exchange—one station opening with something like, "Okay, feminists. This is a story you're not going to like."

KPRC-TV, Kneeland's own station, didn't report on it because the "important" story, the one she went to cover and film, was on the wiretap issue.

No one in city government spoke out.

No apology came from the chief's office.

The incident was never reported in the press at all.

As feminists, we deplore bigotry in all forms. We are not in a contest to measure who in this society is the most discriminated against but, surely, had the same exchange taken place between a member of a racial, religious, or ethnic minority and had the humor been ethnic or racist, for example, instead of sexist, we are certain the incident would have been widely reported in the media, protests would have been heard from public officials and the community, and appropriate public apologies made.

There has either been a "cover up" to protect the image of the new police chief or, more likely, no one in the male media or among the male public officials recognized how humorless and offensive Bond's sexist remarks were not only to reporter Kneeland -- but to all women.



Letters to the editor

The *Breakthrough* crew can take tremendous pride in doing a job that needed to be done and doing it well. I read every article with my own sense of pride that Houston women had the great good sense and gumption to publish such a paper. Good for all of you!

KAREY BRESENHAN

The paper is excellent (more professional than either the *Post* or the *Chronicle* and should be an effective educational news forum for feminism in Houston. The major newspapers seem a form of entertainment more than anything else. Your sense of purpose is very powerful, and the justice of your cause is apparent.

CRAIG TUCKER

I congratulate you on *Breakthrough*. It is a professional job through and through. I look forward to receiving February's copy.

RICHARD WEST
SENIOR EDITOR
TEXAS MONTHLY

I received a complimentary issue of *Breakthrough* in Dayton, Ohio. One frequently feels isolated from creative and alternative thinking. *Breakthrough* will fill a void in my feminist awareness.

As a legal aid attorney, whose clients are mainly women, I am continuously looking to the feminist press for consciousness raising.

Your lead article on John Paul Stevens' appointment to the Supreme Court -- despite his anti-feminist attitudes -- was enlightening and appalling. To my knowledge, the NOW

testimony was not reported in any major publication.

My only regret is that such thorough research by feminist legal workers is not reprinted by the establishment press.

Hopefully, with your continuous reporting of "women's issues" and their national importance, the women's movement will finally be taken as a serious civil rights struggle affecting all of our lives.

DANIEL WILSON, ESQ.

I like your "Recipe for an Oil Change," but it did not solve what may be the major obstacle to changing one's oil: how to dispose of dirty oil in a safe and environmentally salubrious way.

NANCY KERN

Jan Tarver, the mechanic who writes the series, says most

service stations and auto centers have an underground tank to store used oil. You can take it there. The oil is picked up by an oil company, refined, and later sold under the refined oil label.

Editors

Congratulations on a magnificent first issue. As feminist lawyers we are very pleased to see a newspaper of this sort break down another barrier to women's progress.

LIBERTE, EGALITE, SORORITE!

GERHARDT & O'KANE
JO ANN GERHARDT
PATRICIA ANNE O'KANE
PAMELA STOCKTON

We thank our readers and subscribers for their letters of support. We regret we could not publish all of them.

Editors.

Breakthrough

STAFF

Art - Charley Kubricht-Fore
Advertising - Rita Highsmith
Business - Juneau Shepherd, Olga Soliz
Circulation - Leigh Hollyer, Leslie Larson, Lucy Moyer
Copy - Leslie Larson, Lucy Moyer, Peter Young, Chris Wycliff
Editors - Writers - Gertrude Barnstone, Janice Blue, Rhonda Griffin-Boone, Gay Cosgriff, Jan Cunningham, Kathryn Hooker, Adelaide Moorman, Alice Rickel
Photography - Lily Barnstone, Marilyn Jones
Production - Rhonda Griffin-Boone

EDITORIAL BOARD

Gertrude Barnstone, Janice Blue, Rhonda Griffin-Boone, Gay Cosgriff, Charley Kubricht-Fore

Vol. 1, No. 2, February, 1976. *Breakthrough* is published monthly by the Breakthrough Publishing Company, 1708 Rosewood Street, Houston, Texas 77004, P. O. Box 8346, Houston, Tex. 77004. Telephone 526-6686. Subscriptions \$5.00 a year. Newsstand 50 cents per copy. This publication is on file at the International Women's History Archive, 2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, Calif. 94708.

"Woman of the Month"

By Kathryn Hooker



DR. HORTENSE DIXON

When Mayor Hofheinz appointed Dr. Hortense Dixon as Executive Assistant in January 1975, he set a precedent: she became the first Black in Houston's history to hold the job.

Both her race and her sex, Dr. Dixon says, have influenced her work as the Mayor's liaison with the City's Health Department, the Federal Community Development, Model Cities, and Manpower programs. (She was recently assigned the Real Estate and Public Service departments as well.)

"My very presence in this job has helped to sensitize people to the needs and viewpoints of minorities," Dr. Dixon said. She considers women a minority "because they are treated like one."

Fathers allege bias

Texas Fathers for Equal Rights filed suit in federal court recently against all Dallas county and state judges who hear child custody cases, charging that in the majority of divorces, fathers are being deprived of the right to a personal and legal relationship with their children.

The association, which has about 500 members statewide, charges that judges are violating the due process and equal protection clauses of the Constitution in making custody decisions which discriminate against men.

There are six named plaintiffs, but the suit is a class action filed on behalf of all fathers who feel discriminated against in Texas custody cases.

Ed C. Loutman, attorney for TFER, asks in the complaint that any judge's ruling, state law, or legal precedent which deprives fathers of equal custody rights be declared unconstitutional.

Bill Shelton, a plaintiff and president of TFER, said after the suit was filed that children have the right to a relationship with both mother and father, unless one is deemed an "unfit" parent. He argued that while child custody should probably be granted to as many fathers as mothers, the optimum arrangement in most cases would be a "joint custody" where both parents share legal and personal

Dr. Dixon sees herself as not only a symbol of minority participation in the political process, but also as a vocal advocate for the rights of minorities.

"For as long as I can remember," Dr. Dixon recalls, "I've spoken out. I had difficulties in childhood because I would speak up, talk back to my parents, disagree. In school I would disagree with teachers. I called a strike in college during World War II because the women were forced to wear ugly stockings. We won."

During Poppy Northcutt's term as Women's Advocate, Dr. Dixon recalls, they worked closely together on several projects.

"I felt a natural affinity for Poppy," Dr. Dixon says, "because she was Houston's first Women's Advocate and I was the first Black Executive Assistant to the Mayor. We talked out problems and discussed possible solutions. Poppy was a one-person staff with a secretary. It was an uphill battle to get anything done."

Northcutt and Dr. Dixon attempted to remove provisions discriminatory to women from the city's health insurance policies. They worked on a report documenting discrimination in city employment. Their proposal to reclassify secretaries under Civil Service as administrative assistants is now being considered by City Council.

"Secretaries can and do act as

privileges.

At present, mothers are awarded custody in 85 to 99 percent of the cases, Shelton pointed out. Unless they are considered "unfit," they are almost automatically awarded child custody while the father's parental qualifications are not considered.

Shelton said that children are suffering from "paternal deprivation" because of biased judges and case laws. The result, he said, according to a number of studies, is everything from juvenile delinquency and poor school achievement to promiscuity in children.

Shelton said there are about 18,000 divorce cases in Dallas County, about two-thirds involving children. He said there are about 192,000 Texas families headed by single women, many of which are situations where the child is deprived of an adequate relationship with the father because of custody decisions.

Former TFER President Ed Cullum explained that the group is not interested in preferential, but equal treatment for fathers. He said Texas Fathers for Equal Rights has the endorsement of feminist groups such as the Dallas County chapter of NOW, and is also interested in helping women obtain court-ordered child support when the father is failing to contribute.

SUSAN CAUDILL

Information in this article was reported by Susan Caudill and reprinted from a newscast on KERA-TV, Dallas, Texas.

administrators at times," Dr. Dixon explains, "but they get no credit for it." (Her own secretary, Kay Kazmir, sits at a desk piled as high with work as Dr. Dixon's. Kazmir is continually on the phone or talking with Dr. Dixon's visiting associates, and it is obvious to anyone entering the office that Kazmir's work is more than clerical.)

Dr. Dixon, too, is always on the phone, conferring with associates in her office or attending meetings. Her days are tightly organized, sometimes down to the quarter-hour. She may have business meetings at lunch. She may discuss programs with officials by phone or at her home, on weekends. Asked about her hobbies, she replies: "I have none now. I have no time. I used to enjoy sewing and reading. I don't like to read when I get home now because I've been reading all day at work. Work has become

my hobby."

Her daily contacts may include the Mayor; his other executive assistants; Walter Jones, Director of Houston's Model Cities Program; Palmer Bowser, Director of the Manpower Program; Albert Randall, Director of the City's Health Department; Curiel McFadden of the Community Relations Division; and officials from a multitude of other divisions, departments and programs. She also talks continually to friends, former associates, community leaders, and people who have been given her name to call for help with a problem. During some 24 years of involvement in community projects and volunteer political work, she has come to know many people.

"I've been able to contribute to the community because I do have the ability to listen," she says. "And I'm in a position to share with the community my

Eggquality no yolk

Dallas area NOW members have once again shown that feminist cooking doesn't mean 'bra-beques.'

Encouraged by Dallas County NOW to help shatter the media's image of the combat-boot, homehating feminist, several Dallas women entered the State Fair of Texas Cooking Contest, and came home with a lot more than broiled bra.

Five radical feminists took the following prizes:

"Best in Show" for a casserole named "Charlotte's Liberated Equal Rights Amendment Casserole," and two first places—one for a casserole and one for "Feminist Fruit Salad."

Other awards include a second

place in cream puffs; three third places in danish, divinity and cookies; and two fourth places for fruit and meat salad.

Winning entries also included "Liberated Shrimp Salad," "Amazon Avocado Supreme," "Feminist French Dressing," "Pankhurst's Pineapple Parfait" and that all-time-favorite "Last Minute Liberated Women's Salad."

Some of the ribbons this year and last were won by Martha Dickey, Meri Westegaarde, Jane Baker, Charlotte Taft and Marge Schucate.

No one knows to date whether Women Who Want to be Women garnered any prizes.

knowledge of the processes of government — how it works, what the procedures are that they need to know."

Her many years of work in the community and her knowledge of urban planning have borne fruit in Dr. Dixon's ability to help coordinate federally-funded programs with existing city departments, dealing with what to the inexperienced seems a confusing welter of overlapping functions. One of the projects she's most proud of is the Riverside Health Clinic. Located at Holman and Elgin (it's attached to Riverside General Hospital by walkways), Riverside is already being staffed and will be ready for service in a few weeks.

"The Clinic is a public facility for low-and moderate-income people," says Walter Jones of Model Cities, who worked with Dr. Dixon and others on the project. "It will bill patients on a sliding scale."

Jones points out that the facility will ease traffic from the Third Ward to Ben Taub, which is often overcrowded. Services will be financed partly by the city and partly by federal money through the Model Cities Program. The city and the county will cooperate in running the Clinic.

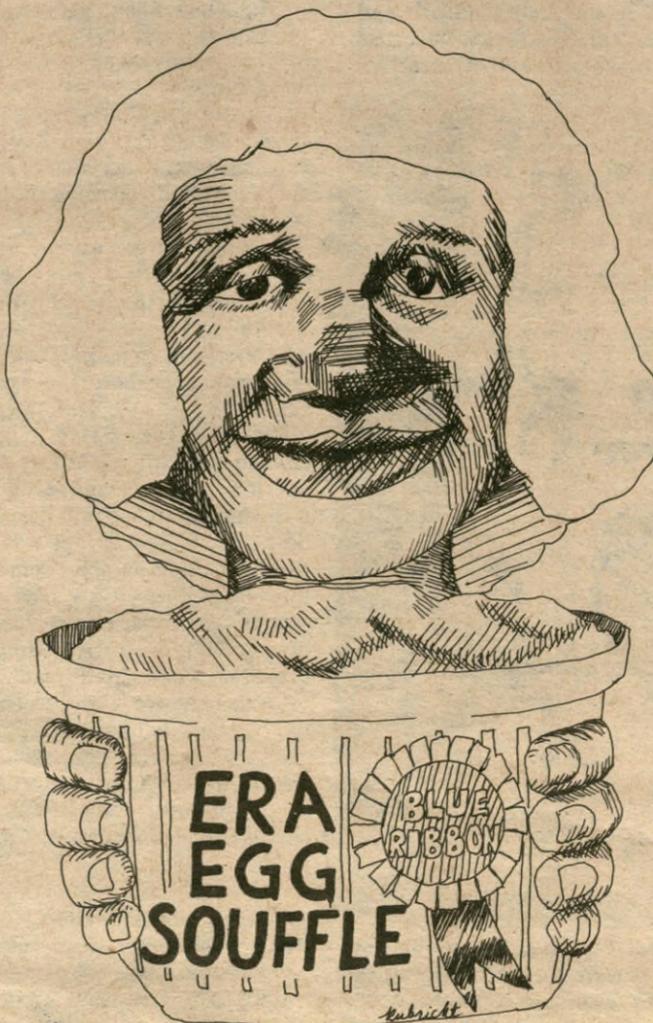
Other favorite projects of Dr. Dixon's: two multi-purpose centers now being developed in part with Model Cities funds, one in the West End and one in the Fifth Ward. The centers will provide basically the same much-needed services: programs for senior citizens and for pre-schoolers; legal aid; offices for the State Department of Public Welfare; and general meeting space and office space for agencies and individuals.

Dr. Dixon also speaks with pride of the complex of programs implemented last summer for low-income youngsters, financed in part with federal funds through the Manpower Program. Thousands of young people were matched with public-service jobs, jobs with some 50 private businesses, and jobs in the city's Parks Department.

Dr. Dixon's job encompasses a multitude of other projects through each of the major programs and departments she helps coordinate. Community Development a five-year federal program headed in Houston by John Castillo, will use federal money to improve housing largely for Houston's low- and moderate-income families. Last year, communities throughout the city elected commissioners to represent the communities' wishes in implementing the program. Meetings are to be held in each neighborhood for citizens to voice their needs to the commissioners.

The first year, the program will concentrate on Houston's areas of greatest need: the Heights; Acres Homes; Near Northside-Fifth Ward; Denver Harbor-Port Houston-Navigation; Foster Place-South Park-MacGregor; the Third Ward; and Magnolia. Demolition of dangerous buildings will be speeded up. Property owners whose homes

Continued on page 13



Women discuss views with media

JANICE BLUE

The following phone conversation (paraphrased below) took place between an editor of Breakthrough (BT) and the city editor (CE) of a morning Houston newspaper, January 27, 1976:

BT: Mr. ———, I'm ——— and I'm calling to see if you received our news release today—

CE: What about?

BT: Well, it was about a media workshop sponsored by the Rice Media Center and Breakthrough a new feminist newspaper.

We're having a one-day "Dialogue with the Media" for women and the media to discuss "what makes women's news news."

CE: Well, if it's women's news I probably handed it over to the ——— (commonly called "women's section").

BT: Well, it was meant for you since I am now asking you to be on the panel on Saturday.

CE: I can't — I'll be out of town, but L ——— A ——— (paper's satirist) likes to do things like that. He's not in our department but he's more into things like that than I am.

BT: Well, we wanted you to be on. The whole purpose of the conference is to discuss how decisions are made about women's news. I notice, for example, you said that you handed our news release to the ——— section because it was women's news.

CE: We deal in general news — not in men's news or women's news.

BT: Well, why did you say if the release concerned women's news it would go to the ——— section?

CE: I'm on a long distance call — sorry I can't make it but you can call one of our other editors (names given).

BT: Thank you.

"Every time Walter Cronkite ends his nightly newscast with 'And that's the way it is....', I want to shout back to my television set: 'That's the way it is to YOU, Walter, and CBS...and NBC...and ABC' because, really, all three networks are remarkably 'in sync' when it comes to deciding what, from all the billions of events happening daily around the world, becomes the news that millions of us in this country will see each evening," expressed a panelist at the opening of the "Dialogue with the Media" conference held at Rice University Media Center, January 31.

The conference, the first of its kind in Houston, provided a unique opportunity for women and women's groups to communicate with the media on the topic: "What Makes Women's News News?"

"As women, we represent over half the population and over half

the listening and reading audience of the media," a coordinator told the conference participants. "We are interested in how and by whom decisions are made and why we are so often excluded."

A woman who had attended the Austin Conference on Women in Public Life referred to a metaphor on the image of women in the media used by journalist Bill Moyers. Moyers recalled seeing a painting of a woman which started at her feet and ended at her neck—no head. He also said that when U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug announced her candidacy for the Senate, the New York Times ran a back-view photo shot of her—again—no head! "That's the way the media regard women," Moyers said.

"We want to explore that today," said Gay Gosgriff, a conference coordinator and editor of Breakthrough, "because the image we have of ourselves

and our issues is 'out of sync' with what we see, hear, and read in the media.

She then introduced the panelists: Carole Kneeland, the City Hall reporter for KPRC-TV; Randy Covington, Assignments Editor for KHOU-TV; Miriam Korshak, a news reporter with KLYX all-news radio; the Houston Post's federal reporter, Jorjanna Price; Dennis Fitzgerald, the Assistant City Editor of the Houston Chronicle, and Wendy Haskell Meyer, a contributing editor to Texas Monthly, the National Observer and

In reply to the question "How and by whom are decisions made at your station or paper and where do you fit into the picture?" panelists replied as follows:

"At our station," said Carole Kneeland, "Ray Miller, who is both the News Director and Assignments Editor, makes 98 percent of the news decisions." She went on to say the input of more women in the newsroom is being felt. When Kneeland came to KPRC-TV there was only one other woman reporter doing consumer news. Now, there are three women reporters and one co-anchor.

"I was first hired as an investigative reporter and was given very good general assignments. In addition, I researched and reported stories on child care, women in prison, and a very controversial series on sex offenders."

Randy Covington pointed out that television producers decide which items the newscaster will read, but as Assignment Editor, he said, "I'm very much in the decision-making process, too. I can tell you decisions on women's news are highly subjective

"Right now when I get releases we consider whether the story affects many women before assigning it.

"Take a story on women and credit. That's the kind that involves almost every woman. We did some solid reporting on that issue."

Jorjanna Price was a staff reporter on the Post, before being transferred to its "Today" section.

"I first said, 'You're kidding. I don't want to be there. I'm a news reporter,'"

It did not take Price long to change her attitude about that section. She discovered a freedom not found on the city desk and, moreover, "it was an exciting time in the women's movement. We were covering stories on rape crisis, health classes, the ERA, nurses breaking away from tradition.

"I thought we were scooping the city desk left and right," she said. "I became possessive. I wanted us to be a women's news section because "Today" was the only spot women had to get their issues aired."

Although the Post now spotlights women in other sections of the paper, it is Price's opinion that old, out-dated attitudes still exist about women's

news on the city desk side and that the "Today" section is the only place in the paper where women are going to consistently get coverage.

The Chronicle's Fitzgerald said, "Page 1 stories usually contain elements that grab you: money, conflict, taxes, irony" and, he said, "if a women's 'news' story does not contain these elements, the second best way to get news coverage is to have a reporter contact at the newspaper.

A former Chronicle reporter herself, Miriam Korshak gave double emphasis to Fitzgerald's suggestion on contacting an individual reporter.

"Reporters are encouraged to submit ideas to the city desk," she said. "And if you have contact with a reporter, you're much better off than talking with an obscure desk assistant."

As a woman reporter at an all-news radio station, Korshak is sensitive to news involving women.

"I got real excited about the woman police officer being named Rookie of the Year," she said, "and I sold it to the network (NBC's News and Information Service) and it went around the country."

"When I first began reporting women's stories, it was treated as a joke," said Wendy Haskell Meyer, "but I've seen the difference having women on the staff makes. If the managing editor is a man, he is going to be interested in stories that appeal to men, but now if it's a woman..."



"Visual pizzazz?" asks Donna Duerk, conference participant. "Are you saying that's what people want on television."

"I want to come down hard on the issue of accountability in news reporting," said Twiss Butler, a feminist from the Bay Area.

"I want to know why in the ERA reported-stories, pro-ERA spokeswomen were identified by their group affiliation (NOW, League of Women Voters...), while the opposition was not! By not reporting who they were or who was backing them, the media made them appear to be a grass roots movement."

Jorjanna Price of the Post explained the difficulty of even finding spokeswomen who were willing to speak to the media

"Ah—but there was a perfect opportunity for some good in-

vestigative reporting not only into who they were but who was backing the 'Pink Ladies Movement'. Where was this kind of investigative reporting?"

"If you're asking why we do such a poor job," Covington replied, "it's because of the obstacles we have in terms of news staff size and available equipment. We cover as few stories as we humanly can."

Someone asked "Why was no one covering this conference besides three women reporters from KPFT?"

"Well", Covington said, "we normally have 5-6 film crews. On the weekend we have one reporter and two photographers."

"Where are they?" someone asked.

"They're at Memorial Park doing the oil-drilling story because that makes for better pictures than a group sitting at a conference. I'm just being honest—that's how it works," Covington said.

"Visual pizzazz. Are you saying that's what people want from television?" asked Donna Duerk, a feminist active in the local and state women's political caucus.

"Mr. Covington, are you telling us that tv news is simply entertainment?" questioned Alice Rickel, former FCC attorney.

"It's that and it's also the reluctance of the media to do other media stories. It's mainly because our houses are made of glass and we don't dare throw any stones. But I wish we did more...I just love to do Houston Chronicle stories."

(Laughter).

"I want to get back to why our issues are not getting the coverage they should," Duerk continued. "For example, there was only a pater of stuff on the hearings for the Commission on the Status of Women. I still don't know what took place and I looked hard."

The story came to Miriam Korshak's attention at KLYX. It involved an interview she did with a male state representative from Lubbock who, for nine months, had been holding hearings on the need for a Commission on the Status of Women in Texas.

"The tape was awful," Korshak said. "He said some things about the proposed commission that were not very good. So I killed the whole story because what he said was so negative."

"You did what?" someone asked in disbelief.

Members of the conference audience thought the fact that a male head of the Commission on the Status of Women had derogatory things to say about the hearings should have been a news story in itself.

"It would have pointed out the insensitivity of this man," said Olga Soliz, an active political feminist.

"And, if you couldn't use it, why didn't you pass the story on to another medium?" quizzed Twiss Butler.

Korshak ended by agreeing with the mood of the conference. "I now see it should have been covered."

The conference ended at noon.

WHAT MAKES WOMEN'S NEWS NEWS



Carole Kneeland, City Hall reporter for KPRC-TV, Randy Covington, Assignments Editor KHOU-TV, and Jorjanna Price,

federal reporter, Houston Post, take part in discussion on "What makes Women's News News?"

Classy restaurants dish out second-rate service to women

By Alison Cook

Female Houstonians have long been granted the dubious privilege of lunching in Foley's erstwhile Men's Grill and wearing pants into the posh confines of the Warwick Club's dining room.

Lest we congratulate ourselves prematurely, however, consider that the more pervasive and annoying day-to-day trials endured by women in restaurants are not the sort that can be legislated out of existence.

Waiter's indifference, bad tables and a steadfast refusal to believe that a woman might actually pay the check are among the aggravations that are destined to linger on and on, like a summer cold or a very old soldier -- the vestiges of lifetime layers of prescribed etiquette, decorum, role-assumptions and plain old economic self-interest (specifically the tip, of which more later).

I speak of these ills advisedly. For some years I have reviewed restaurants for local publications, and in the course of

my researches I have had more than enough time to reflect on the unhappy fact that women are treated quite, quite differently from men when it comes to dining out. This is particularly true when said women are either noticeably young or do not have the good fortune to look Yves-St. Laurenty, I've got-a-Mercedes-waiting-outside expensive.

Which brings us to money and the dread Tip, the root of much evil in these matters. For whatever reasons (a history of household penny-pinching or a lack of a certain macho expansiveness when it comes time to buy cigars and bestow gratuities on the help, maybe) women have the reputation of being bad tipppers.

There may be more women these days in the upper income brackets, but a waiter who's hustling for his 15, 20 or maybe even 25 percent is not acting on demographics. He's acting on gut instinct, and that instinct tells him (correctly or not) that the guy wining and dining a client, or the one romancing a female friend at a corner table, are going

to be good for a bigger bill and a bigger tip than the two women who just walked in together. Thus are priorities born.

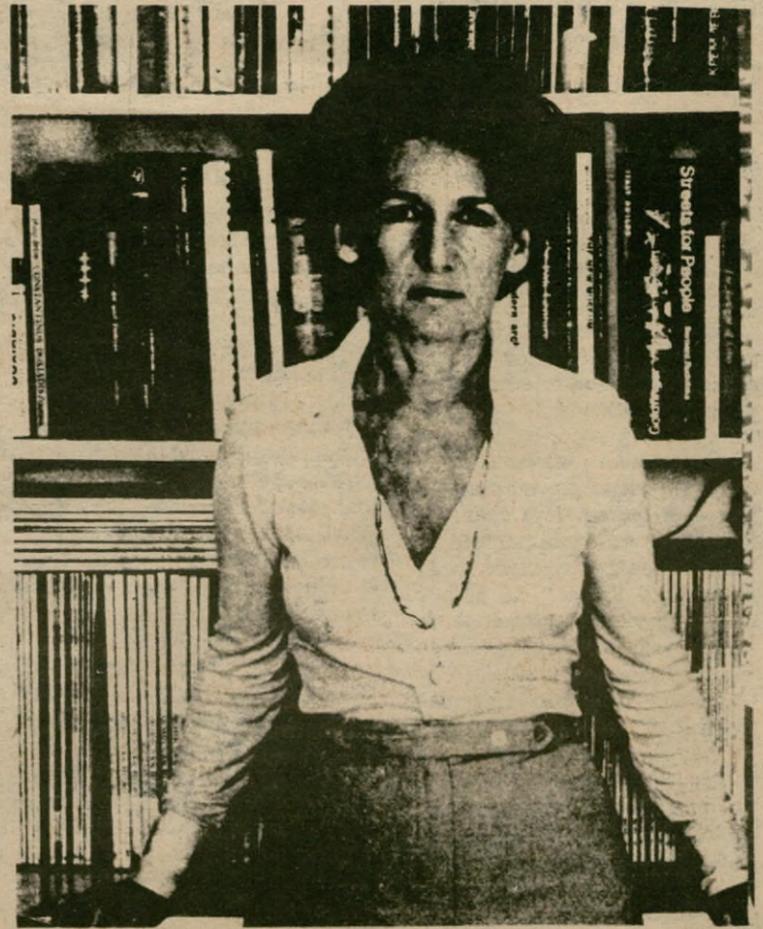
The second-classing of women in restaurants had numerous interesting manifestations. Some of the more bothersome ones are:

THE NON-PERSON SYNDROME

This behavior complex is common to waiters and waitresses in all restaurants, not just the pricey ones. It's denoted by little eye contact with the female (s) in the dining party, frequent turning to the male (s) for corroboration while the women order, and automatic addressing of the male (alias "sir") with regard to further amenities during the meal.

At least half the time it is assumed that the male will order for his female companion. This is more than faintly ridiculous, since this doesn't allow for personal specifications or questions on the part of the

Continued on page 10



ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

Ada Louise Huxtable, architecture critic of the *NEW YORK TIMES*, gave a lecture entitled, "The City: The Impossible Dream" at Hamman Hall auditorium on the Rice campus last month. It was her first visit to Houston and she said she was in "culture shock." To her, Houston and New York represent two polarities: New York being "unpardonably arrogant," and Houston being "proudly defensive." She added that "New York is broke and losing population and thus its tax base, while Houston is becoming a new economic and political center, and gaining population." However, she denied any simplistic analyses or answers to the urban situation. A city is "a mirror of society," and therefore complex, she said. She described New York as "molded in the iron grid of nineteenth century mass transit." In twentieth century Houston, the freeway is the "core of life where products from Detroit dominate the city." The old cities, she says, are not in their death throes, but in transition. She calls history "the continuing process of becoming." Huxtable laments that the only examples of architecture in Houston are the financial and commercial buildings, and those of institutionalized culture.

Reid misconstrued

A "misinterpretation" of a speech by Australian feminist Elizabeth Reid has led several media women to file a formal complaint with the National News Council, criticizing UPI's coverage of the address.

The complaint concerns Austin UPI's reporter Ann Arnold's story on Reid's address, delivered at the Austin Conference on Women in Public Life last November.

Reid, former advisor to the Australian prime minister, spoke to women striving for power, warning them that their sexual favors were still expected as payment for a promotion or favorable vote.

Speaking with great emotion, Reid charged that women are still treated as sex objects by the press and high officials, and are expected to put out as a "call girl."

Her language was explicit and shocking to some, but her message was clear: "Beware of being expected to behave like a loose woman in top level barbaining."

The UPI story, however, had Reid practically advocating prostitution. The first paragraph read, "Sex is the easiest and most effective route to political power for women, according to an Australian feminist." Completely misconstrued, Reid appeared to be urging women to sleep their way to political power.

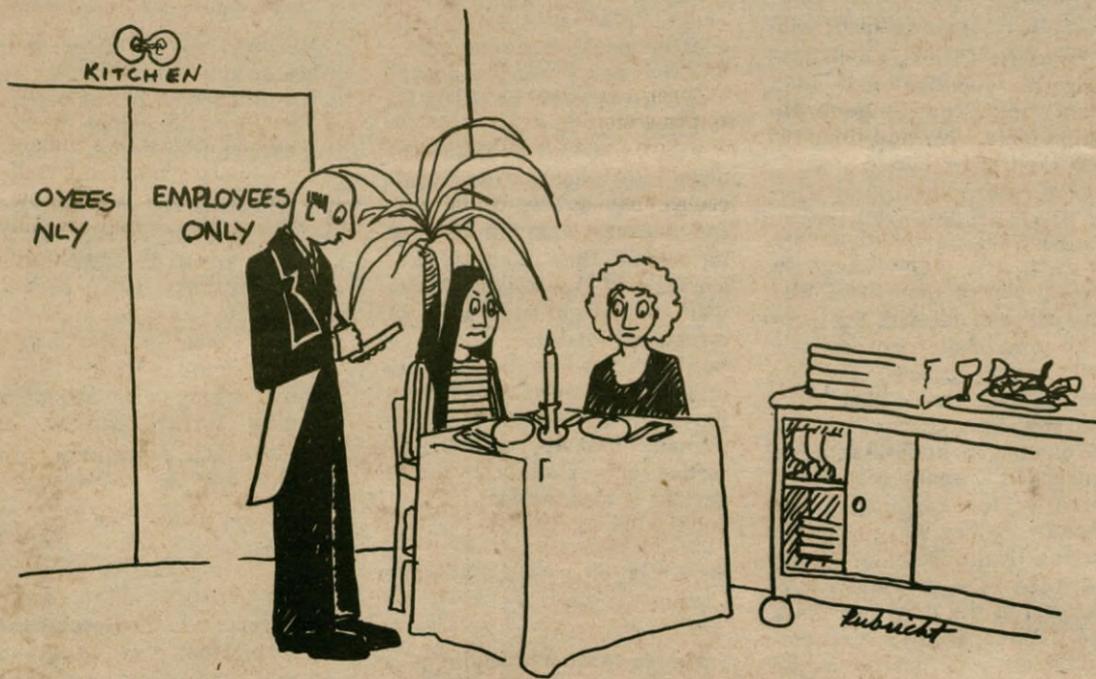
The incongruity of the wire story is even more pronounced when it correctly continued that Reid's speech was given a standing ovation by an audience that included Lady Bird Johnson, U. S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes, and many other women presently serving as legislators, mayors and other elected or appointed officials.

Arnold explained that her critical lead paragraph was misinterpreted by a Dallas Regional UPI rewrite person and she was unable to correct the error.

What happened in Arnold's words is more a "misunderstanding" than an "act of malice." But one conference participant lamented, "why is misunderstanding such a traditional feature of journalism in reporting on the women's movement?"

The complaint was signed by members of the media panel of the conference, including Peg Simpson, president of the Washington Press Club, Sey Chassler, Editor-in-Chief of Redbook, and Susan Caudill of KERA-TV in Dallas.

SUSAN CAUDILL is a reporter for KERA-TV, Dallas.



TSU child care

Due to the increased number of women in the work force and the rise in the number of single-parent households, child care has become a prominent social issue. According to the Office of Early Childhood Development, Texas Department of Community Affairs, there were 420,000 children in need of day care in Texas in 1974.

In trying to meet the needs of student-parents as well as those of the urban community, Texas Southern University is instituting an on-campus child care facility.

According to Charles R. Walker, Dean of Students, a prefabricated structure will be provided to initially house the development, but there are hopes that a permanent structure will evolve in the future. Not strictly a "day care" facility, the T.S.U.

program is planning to offer evening as well as weekend care. Fees for the services will be on a sliding scale basis but there is support for a cooperative arrangement in which a parent may work at the child care facility in lieu of payment for his or her own child care services.

A current emphasis of child care programs is that the care provided be of an educational--as well as custodial--nature. Programmed trips, both recreational and cultural, are planned as part of the child care curriculum at T.S.U., and transportation needs for these activities have already been anticipated. Another proposed feature of the T.S.U. program is the inclusion of hot meals and-or snacks for the children.

Dean Walker reports that survey data have been gathered from student-parents to help determine the various needs they may have for child care. The data will be used to solicit foundation and federal funds to help support the project.

Students of the Home Economics Department will staff the program initially, but a work-study program has also been considered that, according to Dean Walker, would provide the most solid source of federal funding. The project will be under the direction of Bobbie Henderson of the Home Economics Department and Alma Alexander, Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students.

Ailene English

A battery of tests to test your battery

- If you had to boost the battery to start your car, this means
 - you need a new battery
 - you should have your electrical system checked
 - you need a new starter
- If a battery has only one dead cell, it will still work because the rest are good.
 - true
 - false
- A Battery Hydrometer is a instrument used to check
 - the fluid level in the battery
 - the specific gravity of the fluid
 - the color of the fluid
- A loose alternator or generator belt has nothing to do with charging your car's battery.
 - true
 - false
- You have just installed a new battery in your car, the horn won't blow, the lights won't come on and the car will not make a sound. This means:
 - you need new lights and horn
 - the battery must not have any acid in it
 - you must have loose or dirty connections
- The higher the battery amperage the better the battery.
 - true
 - false
- You can always tell if a battery has 12-volts because
 - it has 12 cells (places on top to put water in)
 - it has six cells
 - It has the terminals on the side of the battery instead of top
- As long as your battery is sitting in your car where it won't fall, there is no need for a battery hold-down.
 - true
 - false
- You can easily distinguish the negative battery cable (on negative ground cars) because
 - it is connected to the starter
 - it is connected to the engine or metal
 - it is always colored black
- Your electrical system consists of a battery, alternator or generator, starter, and voltage regulator.
 - true
 - false

ANSWERS

- B. - Something in your electrical system might have just pulled your battery down. If so find the problem and that battery might charge back up.
- FALSE-It only takes one dead cell to make a battery bad.
- B.
- FALSE-A tight belt is needed to keep the battery charged.
- C.
- TRUE
- B.
- FALSE- All batteries have plates inside, when a battery is loose, through normal driving, the plates may come apart causing your battery to go bad.
- B.
- True

SCORES

If you missed 2 or less...you know more than most men.
 If you missed 4 or less ... you're ready to buy an auto repair manual
 If you missed 5 or more ... good, maybe I can sell you a new battery.
JAN TARVER

Jan Tarver is a mechanic employed by Sears.

IW-Day planned

Houston's celebration of International Women's Day-- a Women's Parade on March 6 and a cocktail party on March 8 are planned. A Bicentennial Women's Parade with the theme, "200 Years is Long Enough to Wait," is focusing on the national ratification efforts of the ERA. Gertrude Barnstone is chairperson of the event.

Women and men wishing to work on the Women's Parade should contact Juneau Shepherd, UH Women's Advocate at 749-3388.

The NW-Houston NOW Chapter is coordinating an International Women's Day cocktail party honoring women of the Foreign Consular Corps in Houston. The party is tentatively being planned for March 8 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the home of B. L. and Harry Jamail, 11125 North Country Squire Road, (Memorial area).

If you would like to be a sponsor of the International Women's Day party, call Barbara Lane-Farley 461-3212 or 461-6075.



Counselors Charlene Torrest, left, and Stella Edmondson,

right, discuss plans for a mother-daughter workshop on February

28 at the Family Service Center.

Exploring a new relationship

"There is no other relationship that has as many possibilities or as many pitfalls as that of the mother-daughter," said Counselor Stella Edmondson, one of the coordinators of a one-day workshop, "The Mother-Daughter Experience." Open to women 18 and over, the workshop will be held February 28 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Family Service Center, 3635 West Dallas.

"In the workshop we hope to recognize the pitfalls but emphasize the enriching possibilities that exist between mother and daughter," Charlene Torrest, counselor and co-coordinator added. "It is the ever-changing quality of the relationship that we wish to explore."

The coordinators hope the adult participants will recognize each

other's individuality and will examine the possibility of being friends.

"This is not a day for heavy confrontation but rather one designed to open or improve communication between two

adult women who just happen to be related to each other," the counselor concluded.

The workshop is \$30 per family (\$10 deposit). Mothers and daughters wishing to participate should call 524-3881.

NATURAL FOOD STORE



Moveable Feast

416 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77006
Ph: (713) 528-0925

BOARD continued from page 1

Health Task Force for the Houston Inner City NOW, a chapter that strongly supported Alison Druck and Mary Lee Guidry, two nursing candidates for the Board of Managers.

Heavey says, "Dr. Watson has done more to advocate for patients than any other board member. If he is replaced by a nurse - a minority or white woman - it will be another classic case of pitting minority men against women and making us all fight over the crumbs they throw at us. I think it's vicious."

Heavey, herself a longtime advocate for better health care, has personally advocated that half the hospital board be composed of women because women make up half the population and, therefore, comprise half the hospital patient and employee population.

As a spokeswoman for Inner City NOW, she wrote each commissioner a letter on behalf of the appointment of Druck and Guidry.

County Commissioner Eckels replied: "Many years ago, I learned the importance of having the woman's point of view in

Boards of this nature and I am proud of the fact that Ms. Barbara Schachtel has been on the Board for some time. I think Mrs. Schachtel is extremely well qualified having been so closely related to the public service area to which her husband is so dedicated. I would like to see an expansion of this to include the nursing profession.

"I do not, however, find that there is an opening suitable for the appointment of either of the fine ladies you have recommended. Please be assured that careful consideration was given to all areas of responsibility and in my determination, the re-appointment of Quentin Mease and Dr. Alexander bringing with them Mr. Danny Knowlton is in the best interest of the hospital and the taxpayers of Harris County"

Judge Jon Lindsay wrote the Houston Inner City NOW chapter as follows: "I supported Dr. Alexander's reappointment and thus voted against Commissioner Bass' substitute motion to name nurse Alison Druck. In doing so, I by no means opposed having a nurse on the board. Indeed...I definitely favor a nurse representative. It just seems that next year, when four of the board's seven seats come up, is a likelier time for making that appointment."



Lilith, a planned city-wide women's center, needs to establish a good credit rating before it can purchase a building space to serve the total needs of Houston women.

Lilith co-founder, Lynne Mutchler, put it this way: "In the same way a young woman on her own must establish credit, so Lilith, Unlimited, Womansplace in Houston, must establish a good payment record to prove both the seriousness of our purpose and our business acumen."

"We would like to find a cheap (or free) house or office to start our telephone service, our feminist library, and our media service and printing facilities," Mutchler added.

If anyone has a suitable space, they should contact Lynne Mutchler, 667-6932, Brenda Lewis, 668-3145, or Kay Whyburn, 667-8556.

Pats and Pans

The Harris County Commissioners' Court deserves our bedPAN-of-the-month award for failing to appoint a nurse to the Harris County Hospital District Board of Managers. Commissioner Tom Bass' nomination of Alison Druck, nursing instructor, died for lack of a second. (See story on page 1.)

PAT Sarah Caldwell, head of the Boston Symphony, who last month became the first woman to conduct at the Metropolitan Opera House. William Albright, *Houston Post*, was generally positive about her conducting of "Traviata" but should be PAN--fried for one asinine non-sequitur. "Caldwell followed almost as much as she led. I know she's a woman. But music is not like a door, through which singers go second so they can linger over favorite phrases. That just made for sloppiness." Slop knows no gender, Mr. Albright.

PAT Betsy Wright, former aide to Sissy Farenthold and now Executive Director of the Women's Educational Foundation for organizing the "Campaign Techniques Institute" in Phoenix last January. Forty-eight women from Texas (out of 100 participants) took part in the workshop designed specifically for women interested in running for political office. Those attending received a great deal of nuts and bolts information on campaign fund raising and organizing. Olga Soliz, Eileen Elfant and Helen Hopkins, members of the Harris County Women's Political caucus, were in attendance. Texas workshop leaders were Jane Hickie and Ann Richards, Austin; Irma Mireles, Pat Robards, Louise Caddell and Rosie Castro, San Antonio; and Alicia Chacon from El Paso. PAT CBS--network for covering the conference. The report highlighted Ann Richards of Austin, Candidate for County Commissioner.

PAN The "Bring your love to Levit's" jewelers billboard in full-view from your local freeway. At 70 mph, the model in the ad appears to be completely topless. Doing the speedlimit she appears to have an arm across her chest, revealing her cleavage. Stopped (illegally) on the freeway she's adorned only with a necklace, bracelet, a watch and ring. LOVE IT OR LEVIT.

PAN The costume director on the Virginia Slims Circuit tour. Would you believe black-sequined tennis costumes and silver lame shirts? (Everyone knows sequins are the embodiment of femininity). Billie Jean -- wherever you are -- come back, we've still got a long way to go.

Now that abortion -- "a women's issue" -- has become a national election issue--much to the surprise of candidates and media alike; now that we have a so-called "pro-life" candidate for the Presidency making good media use of running on a single issue -- abortion; and now that Reagan and Wallace have taken strong anti-abortion stands (while ignoring a Supreme Court ruling on the subject), the male presidential hopefuls are lining up with their platforms. As expected, Jerry Ford came out against abortion "unless there is danger to the life of mother or fetus," and for "the right of each state to decide the issue." As expected, Betty Ford came out strongly for the right of each individual woman to make that choice. PAN "Jelly" Ford and PAT Betty. As Flo Kennedy once said, "If men could get pregnant abortion would be a sacrament."

PAT to Channel 13 for sending reporter Elma Barrera and news photographer Phyllis Deter to cover the earthquake disaster in Guatemala. Traditionally, women have not been sent on combat-hazardous assignments in this country or outside. No other Houston women reporters were sent by the other television stations.

300 Italian feminists invaded Milan Cathedral recently to protest the Catholic Church's stand on abortion and sex. They struggled with police and pelted them with eggs as they tried to gain entry to the Cathedral to protest the church's "ecclesiastical authoritarianism and violence." Pope Paul VI was not eggsactly pleased. He said the demonstration showed the "incomprehension, difficulty and opposition" in the modern world toward "true and complete values of life." On another occasion the PANTiff said that "woman's essential role is motherhood and her prime importance is as caretaker of the family." He appealed for "wisdom and realism" in granting women positions of power and assailed feminist movements that he said run the risk of "virilizing" and "depersonalizing" women.

Praise and PAT anchors Elma Barrera, Jan Carson, Diana Fallis, and Cindy Cochran who do a daily news segment on Channel 13's Dialing for Dollars, the only local program that incorporates sign-language for deaf viewers.

Link's Little Ones has been PANdemic on KEYH Radio these past few months--four minutes, four times a day, five days a week. Art Linkletter uses his jaded old format of asking children their opinions on matters including sex, dating, marriage; all the topics that 5-year-olds are experts on. For example: "Who works harder in your house, Mommy or Daddy?" "Daddy, cos Mommy just stays home and works when she wants to." "Oh, aren't you lucky you're a girl!" Double entendres abound, to the delight of the audience and the bewilderment of the kids. PAN Linkletter for exploiting their innocence and honesty. PAN KEYH for a waste of air time.

At the annual awards ceremonies last month, one of the recipients of France's most prestigious decoration, the Legion of Honor, was Louise Weiss, feminist writer. Allons enfants de la PATrie!

This column erred in PANning the local TV stations for non-coverage of the U.S.-China Women's Volleyball match in Pasadena last December. Channel 11 News was there. We rePANT.

Redbook's Editor in chief Sey Chassler is trying to persuade all the national women's magazines to feature articles on the ERA in their July issues, as part of a feminist push for ratification -- four more states to go! Publications already lined-up for this PATriotic gesture include *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, *McCall's*, *Ms.* and *Woman's Day*.

A male chauvinist pig PAN to macho movie star James Caan for his philosophy as expressed in a recent *Playboy* interview. "I believe that the husband should be the head of the household, that he should be the boss if she's married, a woman's place is in the home ..." We are taking his comments to heart, and will remain in our place whenever his movies hit town.

Daniel P. Moynihan, who has just resigned as the American Ambassador to the UN, was interviewed recently on CBS by U.N. correspondent Richard C. Hottelet. Questioned as to his successor at the U.N. Moynihan replied that he felt the President would appoint the man or woman best qualified. "You said 'or woman'. Is it going to be a woman?" asked Hottelet. Moynihan: "It could be one or the other." Hottelet: "Blonde or brunette?" PAN Hottelet for his bald sexism.

PAN To all three networks for giving free commercial time within their newscasts to airing of the "pro-life" (sic) killing-the-fetus commercial. In the first week of February it was more widely aired than the replay of the Patty Hearst bank robbery film clip.

PAN The January AP newsletter--in 8 pages of copy and 10 prominent photos -- no women. Do no women work for AP wire service or do they do nothing worth mentioning. How APpalling!

An all-around PAT to Marlene Sanders, who narrated, wrote, produced and directed the recent "ABC News' Closeup on Women's Health: A Question of Survival." This program focused on such issues as the unnecessary performing of major surgery, the dispensing of potentially dangerous drugs to pregnant women and the use of oral contraceptives that may not be as safe as women have been led to believe.

PAN Bank of the Southwest for buying full-page ads in national weeklys, with headlines that proclaim "making us your co-executor is probably the best thing you've ever done for her." It goes on: "the executor under a will should be thoroughly familiar with a variety of complicated administrative and investment responsibilities. Our people have the time, experience and training to take care of these Does your wife?" Apparently the thousands of women who are skilled in financial matters are all unmarried. PAN the piggy bank.

A HEWge PAN to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for saying it must "indefinitely postpone" the handling of civil rights cases involving discrimination against women or ethnic minorities in the Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico area. A federal court in Washington has ordered HEW to concentrate its efforts on clearing up a backlog of racial bias cases involving Blacks. HEW says it lacks the personnel and money to do both. PAT to Houston women Kay Whyburn and Cynthia Braxton for participating in a suit brought in federal court to force HEW to investigate sex-discrimination cases.

Princess Anne is fourth in line for the British throne. Under the ancient law of succession, which favors the male line, she comes after her old brother, Prince Charles, and her two younger brothers, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. But Labor Member of Parliament Robert Kilroy-Silk believes that Britain's new Sex Discrimination Act should put her second in line. (Apparently he disapproves of royal heir-brushing). Give him a princessly PAT for bucking 'em at the Palace.

A big bunch of PANanas to KRLY Radio, guilty of rotten taste in plugging a banana-eating contest "for girls only" at a local bar. The leering announcer promised the "wildest, kinkiest night" where the male audience would judge not how many or how fast but how well the bananas were eaten. "It's in the technique, baby!" PAT the women who stayed away making the contest a big flop.

A poison PAN letter to Lynn Ashby *Houston Post* columnist, for his perennial chauvinism. In his Awards for '75: "it was the year of women's rights, giving us Patty Hearst, Squeaky Fromme and Sara Jane Moore." On his recent trip to Australia: "If you have heard that Australian women are amply endowed, ribcagewise, I have, too the rumors are true. A girlwatcher from Houston would go absolutely crackers down here."

More on Lynn Ashby. While in New Zealand on that freebee flight with Pan Am he made the comment, "New Zealand was the first country in the world to allow women to vote. No place is perfect. 'Would he joke about Blacks getting the right to vote? PAN'em.

The official program for the Virginia Slims Circuit contains photographs and biographies of all the players including their circuit records. One page, (49), contains three curious lists headed: "Left-handed Players," "Married Players," and "Players with Children." Knowing the Slims slogan we now wonder if the word "baby" could possibly refer to the children women tennis players take with them on tour. In the meantime we give Slims a playPAN.

HEALTH

continued from page 6

you no longer have a uterus and are not a member of this at-risk group.

Although some leading gynecologists have adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude ("But keep taking your Premarin"), an editorial in *Lancet* concludes that the "only possible recommendation is that all candidates for long term estrogen replacement should have a hysterectomy—not a very attractive prospect."

Premarin is the most commonly used estrogen replacement, and if it makes the difference between misery and enjoyment in your life, perhaps that small risk is worth taking. Besides, according to one professor of gynecology, there are certain unanswered statistical questions about these reports. For example, if those women who got cancer were given the drug to regulate bleeding (which in itself is a flag for possible cancer), it's possible they were already an at-risk group.

If, however, your reasons for taking Premarin are purely cosmetic—to prevent dry skin and wrinkling, for example (and it is often given for this reason), perhaps you ought to reconsider.

Most gynecologists agree with the "New England Medical Journal" advice that women with intact uteruses on Premarin be "monitored". But that is not as simple as it sounds. A Pap Test (scraping of the cervix) is not a reliable test for endometrial cancer as it was positive or a typical in only 26 percent of one group of known cases.

Screening for endometrial cancer is usually done by endometrial biopsy, an office procedure resembling menstrual extraction which is expensive and often uncomfortable (similar to inserting or removing an IUD). It's something that few women will opt for regularly.

Moreover, since Premarin itself often causes breakthrough bleeding, it may be costly in time and money to keep returning for check-ups unless the benefits clearly outweigh the hassles and risks.

If there is a particular women's health subject you would like to see covered in this column, please write "Health Hotline," c/o Breakthrough.

Wendy Haskell Meyer is a freelance writer. She is a Contributing Editor to *Texas Monthly*, and the Houston correspondent for *The National Observer*.

Editor's note: **WOMEN'S HEALTH HOTLINE** is a monthly feature article about our bodies. We plan to investigate and report on a different area of health each month. Only by de-mystifying the medical mysteries of our bodies will we gain control over our lives.

A first!

A FIRST! Bette Pesikoff, an attorney was elected this month to the office of President of the West Edgemont Civic Club. She is the first woman to hold this position.

Portia's Law

Patti O'Kane is an ACLU attorney and a partner in Houston's first feminist law firm, Gerhardt and O'Kane.

This is the second of a two-part series about the recent credit laws and when they will be implemented and what their effect will be on women. In future issues we will examine different areas of the law. If you have any areas that are of special interest to you, or an aspect that you will like to see covered in this, our legal forum, PLEASE LET US KNOW! Write Breakthrough.

The following discriminatory acts by creditors are prohibited by the Regulations:

1. Applying different standards of creditworthiness or conditions of credit with respect to any aspect of a credit transaction on the basis of sex or marital status;
2. Assigning a value to sex or marital status in a credit scoring or point-scoring plan;
3. Requesting, requiring or using information about birth control practices, childbearing or childrearing intentions or ability;
4. Failing to consider alimony, child support or maintenance payments in the same manner as income from salary, wages or other source where the payments are received pursuant to a written agreement or court decree and the payments are likely to be consistently made in the future;
5. Applying different standards on the basis of the sex or marital status of the sole or principal supporter of a family unit;
6. Discounting all or any part of the income of an applicant or, where applicable, the income of an applicant's spouse on the basis of sex or marital status;
7. Terminating credit or imposing new conditions of credit on an existing account because of a change in the applicant's marital status without evidence of any unfavorable change in the applicant's financial circumstances
8. Failing to extend credit to a qualified applicant in any legal name designated by the applicant. This includes the applicant's birth-given first name and surname of a birth-given first name and combined surname;
9. Publishing any advertisement which, in effect, discourages applicants because of sex or marital status;
10. Failing to consider the credit history of a "family account" on which the applicant was an authorized user, if the applicant would be denied credit without such consideration;
11. Failing to establish separate accounts for qualified married

applicants. Credits are given additional time under the Regulations to revamp their discriminatory record keeping systems, and they now have until November 1, 1976, before they must keep separate credit records on married persons;

12. Requesting or requiring the signature of a spouse when the individual applicant meets the creditor's standards of creditworthiness without such a signature.

The following credit requests are allowed by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act:

1. A creditor may inquire as to the marital status of an applicant if the creditor routinely makes such an inquiry of both men and women.
2. A creditor may request and consider any information

RESTAURANTS continued from page 3

woman. And it's particularly ridiculous if it happens to be the woman who is familiar with the restaurant, and she is going to order for the rest of the party.

Another aspect of this syndrome is wine-tasting, a ceremony almost unfailingly reserved for male patrons—not unlike the administering of the sacraments. Even if a woman chooses and orders the wine, waiters and waitresses and sommeliers alike feel compelled to offer it up to a man for approval. I can recall only two restaurants—the Hyatt Regency's Window Box and The Stables—where I've ordered wine AND been allowed to pass judgment on it myself. In both instances I was flabbergasted that protocol had been bypassed in the name of good sense.

Then there's the bill. When the check arrives, waiters and waitresses, like so many Pavlovian dogs, present it to the man. This can prove needlessly awkward when a woman is taking a business contact to lunch, say, but at least the days when one felt obliged to slip money under the table to one's male companion are over.

Well, almost over. A waiter at Zorba's has been known to throw a minor fit when a man and woman attempt to split the tab. "It would not happen in Greece," he argued heatedly, and no doubt he is correct. Thankfully, there are a few restaurants in town where the check is placed judiciously in neutral territory. If there's a wave of the future in tab etiquette, let's hope this is it.

THE BACK-OF-THE-BUS SYNDROME

This is what often happens to women together, students or people who used to be lumped together as hippies. Mostly it happens in restaurants that view themselves as having "class": You walk in, wait to be seated while the maitre d' or hostess scrutinizes you, and are forthwith conducted to the furthest reaches of the dining room.

Women who look extremely rich or extremely decorative generally do not meet this fate. If you're recognizably famous you most certainly will not be hidden away; otherwise, you may find yourself athwart the kitchen

concerning an applicant's spouse which may be considered about the applicant, if, the spouse will be permitted to use the account, or if the spouse will be contractually liable upon the account, or if the applicant is relying on community property or the spouse's income as a basis for repayment of the credit requested.

3. The Regulations allow married persons to establish separate credit, and where an applicant seeks credit and does not rely on the creditworthiness of a spouse, a creditor may request and consider only the name and address of the non-applicant spouse, whether the spouses are separated, and the amount of debts owed by the non-applicant spouse.

door. That was the unenviable spot allotted to my younger sister and myself at Brennan's one morning. We were treated to a ceaseless swinging of doors, a parade of waiters who clustered together talking shop (boring, I might add), and a horrendous clanking from the kitchen.

The strange thing was that there were only a few other people in the restaurant, and they were rather more felicitously situated. Even our wine glasses arrived literally dripping with water, which—in a restaurant that prides itself on excellent service—could lead a person to believe she is considered to be of little account. Maybe if we'd worn business suits.

THE PAWNS-IN-THE-GAME SYNDROME

This one, like Back-of-the-Bus, affects women together, students and those deemed to be riffraff. It involves being shuffled about from one table to another so as to leave the choicest spots open for those mythical SuperCustomers who must surely be just around the next corner.

Two friends of mine were seated at a round table—imagine the gall!—in Renata's recently. Business was slack and showed no signs of picking up. The night manager, however, nervous that these two young women were taking up a table meant for four, asked them to move, cocktails and all. No courtesies or apologies or drinks on the house for their trouble. It was decreed.

Picking up stakes in a restaurant is never pleasant, but in a near-empty one it seems downright inhospitable. On their departure (the place was still underpopulated) the two women mentioned that they were less than pleased with this shoddy treatment and might think twice before returning. They were told that was just fine. Maybe they should have worn business suits.

THE LITTLE-LADY SYNDROME

This is the reverse of not-so-benign neglect. Under the Little Lady Syndrome (which surfaces mainly, in less-than-high-flown eateries), women dining together are subjected to an excess of attention: either a wash of folksy

4. A creditor may request the signature of both spouses only when the applicant has insufficient earnings or property under his-her own management-control to qualify for the credit extension.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act is a major breakthrough in our vigorous attack on sexist credit practices on a national level. While all portions of the act are not presently operative, and therefore cannot be enforced, you should be sure to contact the ACLU, the Women's Equity Action League, the National Organization for Women, or any other local or national organization for assistance.

WEAL and NOW have published useful credit kits in monitoring sexism in credit extension. A booklet entitled "Women and Credit" — An Annotated Bibliography" is available for \$1.00 from the Center for Women's Policy Studies, 2000P Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

concern (honey-ing, when are you going to get all that hair cutting, when are you going to get married-ing) or a barrage of flirting and pointed comments from waiters-managers-owners convinced that women would rather be flattered and teased than left in peace. If male patrons get this treatment in substantial doses, I have yet to observe it.

UNE FEMME SEULE

A young woman I know decided to have dinner—by herself—at Casa Poli, which has recently changed hands. As she entered, she was approached inquiringly by a staff member who finally managed to blurt out "Yes?"—as if she suspected this lone female of selling magazine subscriptions or distributing Seventh-Day-Adventist tracts. Anything but having dinner alone!

Once seated, an unaccompanied woman is liable to be the subject of curiosity and unnerving stares. Especially, God help her, if it is Friday or Saturday night, when seemingly the entire human race has paired or at least grouped off.

There are remedies, however imperfect, for these various affronts. In the case of Non-Personhood, simply speaking up (on the order of "I'd like to taste the wine," or "I'm paying") usually is effective, and may even give a waiter pause. Becoming indignant or visibly insulted may leave a more lasting impression on the offenders, but invariably ruins the meal and torpedoes the service.

A certain obstinacy seems to help when Back-of-the-Bus or Pawns rear their ugly heads. Nobody says you have to go along with the program. Waiters and maitre d's can be horribly intimidating, but one can get around them.

As to the unpleasantnesses of dining alone, one can either avoid looking around or develop a steely stare and use it liberally. If you're not up to the crowd at Leo's, there's always the anonymity of a Romana Cafeteria or even the Mariposa Room at Neiman Marcus, where it's the male customers who feel...funny.

Arts and Reviews

Films about women

A selection of films by or about women will be shown the last weekend in February at the Rice Media Center.

Of the four feature length fiction films, two are Canadian, one is German, and one is Italian.

There are also two short documentaries made in the U.S.: one about men, and one about prostitutes. The film about men, *Men's Lives*, was included because "it can be seen as an outgrowth of the women's movement."

A Free Woman, A Sad Comedy. Thursday, February 26. Margarethe von Trotta and her husband wrote the screenplay for this film about a woman getting a divorce and struggling through a series of menial jobs in "a man's world."

The Seduction of Mimi, Friday, February 27. Ms. Lina Wertmuller, one of Italy's best directors, presents this comedy about Sicilian machismo. Also

showing is *Hookers*, a San Francisco documentary about prostitutes, filmed in collaboration with Margo St. James and Coyote, a rights group for prostitutes.

Dream Life. (Saturday, February 28. Two young women,

Virgini and Isabelle seek their ideal man, who turns out to be a myth, not existent in the real world. Mirielle Dansereau won the Canadian Film Awards Critics Prize for this film in 1973.

Men's Lives is a documentary about masculinity in America.

Kamouraska, Sunday, February 29. Genevieve Bujold stars in *Kamouraska*, directed by Claude Jutra, from the novel by Anne Hebert, about a woman who does not conform to her society's expectations. It is set in nineteenth century Quebec.

There will be two showings each night: at 7:30 and 10. The Media Center is located at University Boulevard at Stocton Street. Admission is \$1.00.

Joni gives concert



JONI MITCHELL

At the beginning of her concert, Joni Mitchell's back up band, the L.A. Express, played by themselves, sometimes doing full force rock and roll, sometimes breaking off into soft sweet jazzy solos. The saxophone and electric keyboards were especially good, with bass, drums, and guitar providing a rhythmic background.

Joni Mitchell came on stage and opened with "Fallin' in Love," "Twentieth Century Fox" and "Free Man in Paris" with L.A. Express backing her up. She did some solo work, singing with her guitar, and playing piano. When she got up from the piano, she said, "I guess you folks would rather boogie, wouldn't you." A few people yelled approval to that, so she said, "Okay, then we're going to cut out half the show," and she walked off the stage. But she came right back, and played some more.

There is a paradox when someone like Joni Mitchell plays in a place like the Coliseum. There is only a small percentage of such a large audience that can hear well enough to appreciate her great vocals and her solo piano. From where I was sitting,

I could hear well enough to recognize the familiar music, but not well enough to hear the words. In a place like that, at least everyone can hear the electric instruments. The Coliseum is more appropriate for "boogie" than for a Joni Mitchell concert.

I come away from such a concert feeling that it would have been better to spend the money on an album than on the concert, unless you can get terrific seats. Joni Mitchell is an outstanding musician; she writes her own music, her own wonderful lyrics, and she has an amazing voice, which she controls like a musical instrument. But now that everyone knows that she is great, her concerts suffer from her popularity.

Dates set

Becky Greene, producer, and Becky Bonar, director, are presenting "Beyond the Fringe" the weekends of February 12-14 and February 19-21, at the Main Street Theatre at Autrey House. This play was enthusiastically received last summer and is being revived, with some new material.

On March 12 and 13 and March 16-20, Green and Bonar will offer "The Confidential Clerk," Part VII of an Eliot Cycle.

Tickets for these productions are \$2.50 each. Curtain time is 8 p.m., at Autrey House, 6265 Main. For more information or reservations, call 524-3168.

Becky Greene is also guest-directing "Jumpers" for the Rice University Players, running February 9-14 in Hamman Hall on the Rice campus. For more information on this production, call 527-4040.



Isabelle and Virginie, a film production assistant and a film animator, are roommates in Mireille Dansereau's DREAM LIFE.

Play's issues outdated

Scenes from *American Life*. A play written by A. R. Curney, produced by Nina Vance, directed by William Trotman. Alley Theatre.

Scenes from *American Life*, was presented free to the public in the Arena Stage at the Alley Theatre. The free production was "presented in support of the Alley Theatre's Intern Program Fund, which offers on the job training for young actors." It was also presented to attract new customers to the Alley. People who in the past have avoided or ignored the Alley for whatever reason, might come to a free production, and thereafter become regular customers. It is interesting that this particular play was chosen for the "freebee" public. It is extremely critical of the American upper classes, and very pessimistic politically. As far as sexism goes, it presents several offensive stereotypes of women, but in general, most of the characters in the play are unpleasant, the men much more so than the women.

The play is a montage of brief vignettes, beginning in the past, progressing to the "present," and projecting into a very dismal future. The first scene is a christening, with unwanted advice from a drunken god-mother. An uncle uses bribery and intimidation to "cure" his nephew's stammering. A speeding ticket is fixed for someone with the right connections. Competition and martial rivalry are demonstrated tennis tournament. A married couple have a horrible fight when she tells him she is pregnant. At a group therapy session, the therapist freaks out. And in dancing class, the battle between the sexes starts early.

By the second act, the child with the inauspicious christening and his contemporaries are entering college, apparently in the late sixties. As the play progresses through the "present," (it was first produced in 1970) and projects

into the future, it loses credibility and becomes dated. As the play approaches 1970, a college student's mother decides to try her son's marijuana. A high school girl is given the choice between college and a coming-out party. A father urges his son to stand trial for his crime, but the son prefers to go underground. A middle-aged woman wants to fulfill her desire to sing the aria of Lucia, who married the wrong man. A couple receives a call from their daughter who is living in a commune, and is "never coming back." Paranoia builds: men are talking of "getting a few extra guns" and "getting across to Canada." And finally in a contrived scene, a family sings "It was sad when the old shop went down," as a dismal prediction of the future.

The play was first performed in Tanglewood, Massachusetts six years ago. I think the play would have been more effective then. It reminded me of 1970, when the war was escalating, men were going underground to avoid the draft, and people were emigrating to Canada in large numbers. Now, in 1976, it looks dated, simply because it was timely in 1970. Perhaps in another 10 years, it would be more interesting again, as a slice of history. Because it was history: OUR MALE FRIENDS WERE BEING THREATENED BY THE DRAFT. Now that the

draft is gone, I wish that Nina Vance would think about herstory and the biggest issue of 1976: the women's movement.

Isbin stars

The Houston Classic Guitar Society opened its 1976 season with a concert by Sharon Isbin. Now nineteen, she has been playing guitar since the age of nine. She has studied with Alirio Diaz in Banff, Canada, and with Oscar Ghiglia for four summers at the Aspen Music Festival. In the summers of 1974 and 1975 she made recital tours of Germany, and received enthusiastic acclaim. At "Guitar '75", held in Toronto, Canada, in June 1975, she won first prize in the International Guitar Competition. She is now a sophomore at Yale University, majoring in music.

For her recital Isbin played works by Paganini, Purcell, and Bach. After intermission, she played five twentieth century pieces by Stephen Dodgson, Isaac Albeniz, Mario Castelnuovo, Leo Brouwer, and Antonio Lauro. She showed virtuosic techniques for this wide-ranging repertoire. The most interesting composition was "Canticum" by Leo Brouwer, a Cuban avant-garde composer and poet. It is a piece to be seen in concert rather than heard on record, for it is a visual as well as musical experience. At certain points in the piece, the guitarist flutters her fingers silently about the neck and strings of the guitar. It was an enjoyable bit of theatre in an otherwise formal concert.

A taped interview will be broadcast on Pacifica, KPFT, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18. For information about the Houston Classic Guitar Society, and future concerts, call Susan Gaschen at 528-5666.

Ballet film to show

"The Immortal Swan", a 1935 film of Anna Pavlova, Prima Ballerina of the Ballet Russe, will be presented free, Sunday, March 7, at 1 and 4 p.m., in the Brown Auditorium of the Museum of Fine Arts.

This film will be shown on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

ADELAIDE MOORMAN is a freelance writer on the arts.

Olga knows her racket

\$lims' \$tart

Extensive television coverage has made Olympic gymnast Olga Korbut more famous in America than she is in her native Russia.

Now another Russian Olga has come along to share some of this international spotlight. She is Olga Morozova, currently ranked number one in Russian tennis, number four in the world and number three on this year's Virginia Slims Tour. She is also an extremely personable, humorous and very, very outspoken woman.

Interviewed recently while playing on the Slims tour in Houston, Olga treated reporters to a very refreshing view of sports: a view that, if shared by other professional women athletes, is rarely expressed. Not limiting herself to tennis, Olga got right out front on a number of topics:

Sports in Russia: Hockey and figure skating are the most popular sports in Russia and the ones most often seen on TV. Olga finds figure skating boring to watch.

"All of the champions (pairs) have been champions for 10 or 15 years," she said. "It (the routine) is always the same thing. Last year they announced a new act and it was going to be on (Russian) television. Wonderful! Everyone watches—it's over in five seconds! What kind of a new act is that? Tennis isn't like that, tennis is fun to watch."

Olga Korbut: "She's not as popular in Russia as she is in America. The Russian people prefer Turischeva. (Ludmilla Turischeva, the current world's all-round champion.) They see right through Korbut. Turischeva is a true champion. Olga (Korbut) is selfish."

Tennis in Russia: "It's becoming more popular. There are no professional sports in Russia, but there's more money around now." The women's team is much better than the men's team, according to Olga.

"The girls develop faster than the boys. The little girls play all the time, before school, after school. The girls beat the boys. (In Russia they practice together.) The Russian men are young and inexperienced, they have to learn to concentrate."

Natasha Chmyreva, the young Russian who is playing on her first Slims tour:

"Natasha is very young (17) and she just loves to play right now. She loves to go out and hit the ball and run. When she wins she is very happy. 'I almost beat Chrissie Evert.' Chrissie is not like that. She doesn't run around saying, 'I'm the world champion.' Natasha does, she says, 'I won the French Juniors' or, 'I won the French grand slam', you know, things like that. We'll have to wait a couple of years to see how she is going to be. We (The Russian Tennis Federation which, incidentally, gets all the money that the Russian Tennis players win) have put a lot of work into her."



OLGA MOROZOVA

Does Olga think that the younger Russian women will surpass her and drop her in the ratings?

"Me, fifth? Never! I can't see myself as fifth!" (Laughing and knocking on wood.)

The Slims Tour: (This is her second year.)

"In Russia we call it the world's championship of tennis. Well, why not, what else is there?"

When Olga joined the tour last year she played in Akron, Ohio where they have instant replay screens.

"It was terrible. I lost the first two games. I kept watching myself on the replay screen. Is that really me? I look so fat, I look awful!" (She is not fat by any stretch of the imagination.)

Her future: She'll play two more years, then go home and have a baby. (Her husband is an electrical engineer.)

"Coach? Yes, but maybe I'll stay home and have a lot of babies, then coach the babies. No, I'd like to coach, I'd be a good coach. But who knows, that is a long time away. Who knows what will happen in two years."

Olga feels that women with children should stay home and raise them and not work. She disagreed with Margaret Court's decision to bring her children with her on the tennis tours.

"Then you have to have someone waiting in the locker room to feed the baby, change the baby and everything. That's not right, a baby should be with its mother, not in a locker room."

Olga had a happy childhood and believes that all children should have the same opportunity to be "free in the wind and the grass" as she was when she was a child.

Men vs. Women: Can women beat men?

"Yes, why not?"

She then qualified this a little.

"Chrissie couldn't beat Jimmy (Connors) right now but she could beat her brother. I can beat my husband and he's a pretty good player. Maybe women couldn't win all of the time (excepting the men professionals) but with the same training most of them could."

At this point Janet Newberry, who was being interviewed with Olga, whispered something to Olga (a warning?). Olga replied:

"I don't care, I say what I think and I think yes, why not?"

Why not indeed, Olga Morozova?

Who says there's no feminist movement in Russia?

JAN CUNNINGHAM

Upsets at Slims

Houston was the first stop in 1976 for the Virginia Slims Tennis Tour and it soon became apparent that the top-seeded players on this year's tour are in for long struggle if they intend to hold their positions until the tour ends.

There are many fine young players trying to move up in the standings and it appears that they find nothing unattainable, not even Chris Evert's number one spot.

The tournament began with an almost upset of Number One herself when 17 year old Natasha Chmyreva of Russia (playing in her first tour) extended Chris to the limit, losing in two sets 4-6 and 5-7. Immediately following that match the youngest player on the tour, Kathy Kuykendall, thoroughly trounced Chris' younger sister Jean to record the first "real" upset of the tournament.

In round two, more favorites fell by the wayside as Cynthia Doerner (a former Houston E-Z Rider) upset 7th seeded Wendy Overton, Terry Holladay upset Pam Teeguarden, and Renata Tomanova upset 5th seeded Francoise Durr. Early successes proved fickle, however, as all of the upstarts fell to the favorites in round three. Sixth seeded Rosie Casals provided the only exception by defeating 3rd seeded Olga Morozova, who had beaten her in their two previous meetings.

Apparently the players in the semi-finals finally read the script and everything went according to

the plot with Chris Evert disposing of Rosie Casals and Martina Navratilova, the number 2 seed, stopping Nancy Gunter.

So it was number 1 and number 2 in the finals and number 2 took charge immediately. Playing Chris' baseline game as if she had invented it, Navratilova chased Chris from the court in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4 to walk away with the year's first tournament.

Following the match, Chris announced cryptically to reporters that she felt that she had lost because she was becoming "friendly with the other players on the tour this year." (One wonders then, what her life has been like in prior years on the tour?)

The loss to Navratilova in the finals was only the beginning of a bad day for Chris as she and Navratilova teamed up for doubles only to find the winning combination of Rosie Casals and Francoise Durr too strong. Casals and Durr took the doubles title in straight sets, winning easily.

Still, there's the whole year to go much too early to start counting Ms. Evert out. (As a matter of fact, between dates with Jack Ford in Washington she managed to "unfriendly" herself enough to win the second tour of the year.)

JAN CUNNINGHAM

Jan Cunningham is a free-lance sports writer. She is a regular contributor to Breakthrough.

Yes, Virginia, there is a tennis tournament for women and you can give large thanks to promoter Gladys Heldman.

Interviewed during the recent Virginia Slims tournament in Houston, Heldman said the circuit began six years ago when tennis pro Jack Kramer held a tournament in California. The prize money was \$50,000 for men and \$5,000 for women -- a ten to one ratio.

Billie Jean King and Rosie Casals didn't like it. Neither did Gladys Heldman.

King and Casals asked Heldman about boycotting Kramer's tournament, but the promoter decided instead to hold another one: for women. Eight other players came to the Houston Racquet Club and played for \$7,500 -- which, according to Heldman, was a "tremendous amount in those days."

All the players, however, were immediately suspended by the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA).

"They were told they couldn't play in any other tournaments and would not be eligible for ranking," Heldman said. "So I decided to start another circuit, and it became known as the Virginia Slims."

"Men players, promoters and officials felt that women players would never attract a crowd," Heldman said. "So they played the women's matches at 10 a.m. and the men's matches at 2 p.m. prime time, with men getting 10 to 15 times more prize money than the women. But Billie Jean King and Rosie Casals proved that the public will come out to women's tennis."

The following year, Heldman set up 24 tournaments -- 10 sponsored by Virginia Slims and the rest sponsored by K-Mart, British Motor Cars, Barnett Banks and Four Roses.

Heldman pointed out that there are many more women professionals today than in 1971, the current champs including Margaret Court, Chris Evert, Virginia Wade and Martina Navratilova. She also recommended watching the rise of Beth Norton, U.S. National Junior Champion; South Africa's Greer Stevens, Sue Barker from Great Britain, Lynn Epstein from Florida, and Regina Marsikova, who has a win over Navratilova. All of these women are 19 or younger.

The rise of Gladys Heldman is also worth watching.

The USLTA and WTA asked her to organize a circuit for women who "can't quite get into the Virginia Slims," and the result is the "Futures Circuit," with several hundred* women participants and backers in Texas and Florida. Crowds are turning out, not only for champion flights, but for preliminary flights and qualifying as well.

Heldman is also handling the publicity for River Oaks -- her first men's tournament and "quite a challenge."

What else does this energetic and dedicated tennis promoter do? Right now, she's learning Japanese.

And playing tennis, of course.

Material for this article came from an interview by Michael Zeigfinger, publisher of Inside Tennis.

are in violation of the Housing Code will be eligible for grants or low-interest loans to make improvements. (Arrangements will be made for families displaced because of demolition or repair of their homes.) Capital improvements (such as street lights and drainage facilities) may be constructed if they are not already in the city's Capital Improvement Plan. Empty lots will be mowed and cleared.

As liaison between the Mayor and Palmer Bowser of Manpower, Dr. Dixon is involved in job development and job placement programs, training programs, vocational guidance services for youngsters and adults, and a guidance and job-development program for ex-offenders (New Directions).

With Dr. Randall of the Health Department, she helps to coordinate the city's maternity clinics, home nursing services, emergency medical services, programs for alcoholics, pollution-control programs, the free dental clinic at 2020 Solo, and many other health-related services.

Before she accepted the job of Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Dr. Dixon taught for many years in the Sociology Department at Texas Southern University. With others, she helped to develop urban studies programs at TSU and was the

first Director of TSU's Urban Resources Center. She helped to create the University's Year for Action Program, which oversees internships in community service for students. She has been Director of Facilities Planning and Vice President for Urban Programming at TSU. Because of the work of Dr. Dixon and others, the university has been designated a special-purpose institution for urban studies by the Texas Legislature, and is funded by the State for those programs. Today urban studies is one of the most important studies at TSU.

While working at TSU, she was active as a volunteer in community projects. For many years, she planned programs and raised funds for the Eliza Johnson Home for the Aged at 10010 Cullen. She was a volunteer director of programs for youth at the YWCA's Blue Triangle Branch. She's one of the founders of the Negro Community Council of Houston and Harris County, a community service society. Politically active, she is a member of the Harris County Council of Organizations.

Dr. Dixon holds a B.S. in Home Economic from Prairie View and an M.S. from the University of Minnesota in Textiles Research. When she felt stymied in her

teaching work for lack of a doctorate, she obtained a D. Ed. Degree in Administration in Higher Education from Texas Tech University.

For a year after she graduated from Prairie View, she worked as a secretary. Since that time, she says, she has never stopped working. She had full-time help in raising her son, Thomas E. Dixon III, before he went to elementary school. He's now 19 and a freshman at Yale, and says he wants to go to law school. Dr. Dixon's husband Thomas teaches in the public schools in Washington, D.C.

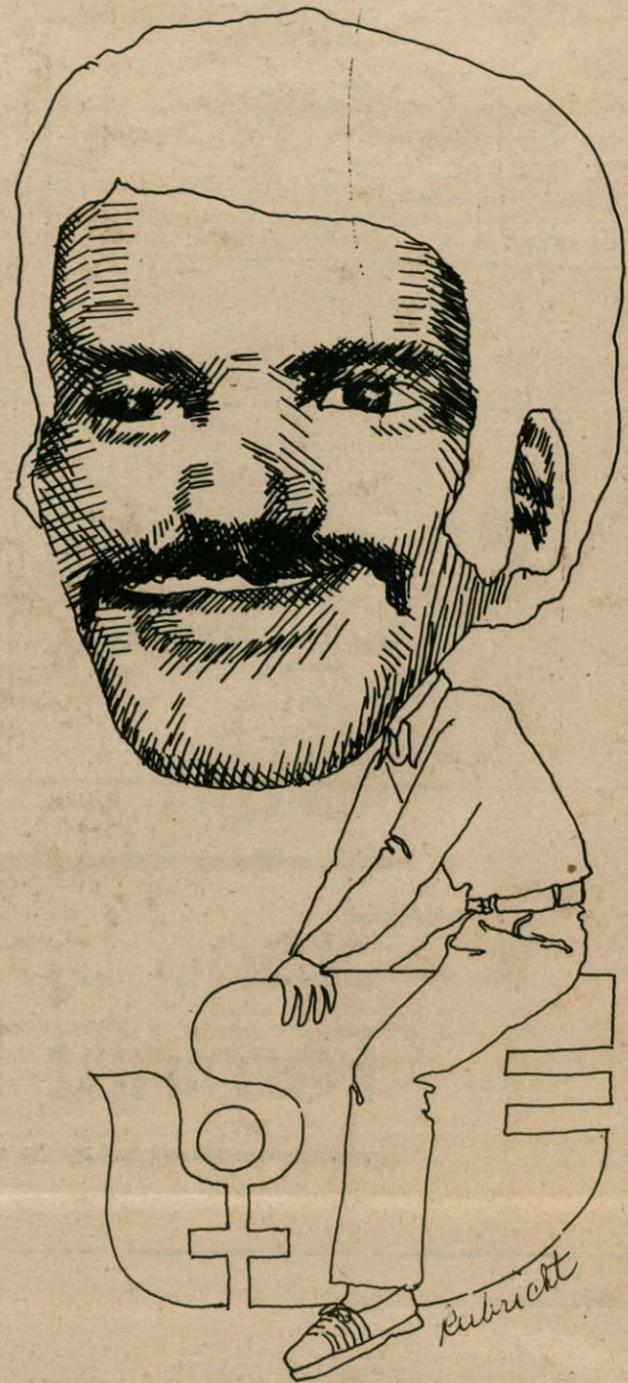
In making any policy decision, Dr. Dixon explains, planners should be aware that all aspects of the city are intermeshed and that an action in one area of urban life affects other areas.

Speaking very broadly of her goals in working for the City, Dr. Dixon says she wants to "humanize the mind-sets" of the decision-makers. She feels that they too often think of solutions to social problems in terms of "hardware" and they too often seek answers that do not go to the roots of problems.

Kathryn Hooker is an employee of the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department. She is a freelance writer.

Dr. Dixon wants to "humanize the mindsets" of the decision-makers. "Consider the child who is left alone at home," she says. "She may brush against a flame and fire may break out. The decision makers may see more fire fighters as the solution. But they should ask: why wasn't child care available for that family?"

What do men want?



In the recent film "Oklahoma Crude", a beleaguered Faye Dunaway shouted to George C. Scott, "It's not easy for a woman in this world."

Replied George C.: "It ain't so great for a man, either!"

Well, now there's the men's liberation movement.

Growing throughout the country, the movement now boasts two national groups: Men's Awareness Network, which maintains communication among the 20 men's groups across the country, and the Men's Action Network, which is involved in promoting the issues of men's liberation through demonstrations and rallies.

Hoping to bring attention to the father's role in parenting, Men's Action Network is coordinating

demonstrations for February 22, Washington's birthday -- the "Father of the Country."

Houstonians Ron Cox and Craig Roberts recently attended a national conference in New Jersey called "Changing Man." They will be organizing a Male Awareness Center in Houston, and are now forming men's and mixed consciousness-raising groups.

A good insight into the expectations and demands on the American male is the film "Men's Lives," which Cox and Roberts will show at the Rice Media Center February 28 at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m.

For further information on the new men's center, call Ron Cox (785-4035) or Craig Roberts (629-8688), evenings.



Dr. Hortense Dixon, Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Houston, presents the key to the city to Dr. Dorothy I. Height, National President of the

National Council of Negro Women at the Bethune Centennial Dinner held at the Shamrock Hilton last month. Seated at the table are (l to r)

Zoia Jones, general co-chairperson of the dinner, Dr. Height, and the Honorable Barbara C. Jordan, keynote speaker.

MJ Risher fund drive

Mary Jo Risher, whose nine-year-old son was taken away by a Dallas jury the day after Christmas, is beginning a national campaign to finance an appeal in the custody battle now drawing national attention.

Contributions for the appeal can be sent to Friends of Mary Jo Risher, P. O. Box 174, Dallas, 75221.

European Skin Care/Hair Removal/Make-up

Ms. Terry Higgs

Esthetique

401 Avondale/Houston, Texas 77006
At Fast Eddie's Haircut Parlor/(713) 526-7555

**Support
Breakthrough**

HAFFCU reports

The Houston Feminist Federal Credit Union is well on its way to achieving financial independence for women.

At the close of the first operating quarter HAFFCU had:

Loans	\$20,765
Shares	\$27,311
Membership	244

The Feminist Credit Union is working to end sex discrimination in credit granting by providing its members with credit opportunities long available to most men.

For membership information call Merryl Leatherman 527-9108 or 522-2454.

To and from

FEMALE ROOMATE WANTED: Montrose area. Call 629-8688.

ASSERTION SKILLS TRAINING Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the McNitt House of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive. The cost is \$20. There will be four Monday evening follow-up sessions from March 29th thru April 19 which are optional for an additional \$20. The trainers are Diane Giles and Joan McKirachan, professional group leaders recognized for their competency by Consultant-Trainers Southwest. To register or for further information call Diane (464-9651) or Joan (467-8912). This workshop is sponsored by Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church and is open to everyone. The size of the group will be limited to 24 participants.

Money Matters. Gretchen Davis Stephens knows each of us has special insurance needs. Don't let an accident take your finances by surprise. Call Gretchen for all insurance needs, including estate and retirement plans. Gretchen Davis Stephens, Three Greenway Plaza East, suite 1130, 626-2770.

Job Openings at Breakthrough-- Circulation Manager -- Fulltime. Responsible for bulk mailing of monthly newspaper, distribution of papers to local and state bookstores and newsstands, coordinating circulation drive, handling new subscriptions. Salaried.

Advertising Director--Fulltime. Innovate a total advertising program. Service new accounts, develop new accounts, initiate a promotion drive for paper, and coordinate an account executive system. In addition to a weekly salary, commission will be paid. Call Breakthrough office, 526-6686.

Cartoonist Needed-- Breakthrough is looking for ideas for a feminist cartoon strip. Send written ideas or art work to Breakthrough.

HAFFCU: Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union's annual meeting will be held March 11 at 7 p.m. in Capital National Bank's auditorium. The purpose of this meeting is to report on the current status of HAFFCU and elect board and credit committee members. Use entrance on 1300 block of Travis or 900 block of Polk.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CLASSES: Self-help classes about birth control, vaginal infections and VD, the menstrual cycle, and breast and cervical cancer are starting soon. Call Glenna Cloud formerly with the Feminist Health Center in Berkley at 523-6994 for more information.

WORD FOR WORD: A poster that lists ten common expressions which show discrimination against women in employment is a fund raising project for the Chicana Caucus of the Texas Women's Political Caucus and the Houston Inner City Chapter of NOW. One example of discriminatory language: "He climbed the ladder to success," but "She slept her way to the top." Send \$1.00 (postage paid) to Gloria Guardiola, 2507 Richton, Houston, Texas 77006.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: A one-day workshop on employment compliance will take place March 6 from 9 to 4 at the Embassy Room, UH Student Center. It will be an intensive educational training seminar for women interested in the area of employment discrimination. The workshop is free to all Houston Area Chapter NOW members. For more information, call Nikki Van Hightower, 782-5914.

Wanted: Feminist Speakers-- Breakthrough is anticipating a Speakers Bureau. We need the names of feminists who are knowledgeable in specific areas: legislation, minority women, credit, housing, lesbian rights, older women's needs, education, abortion, health care, media and all other areas that concern women. If you feel you can provide a service by speaking on any one or more of these issues before community, business, school, and civic groups, please write Breakthrough.

Child Care at Rice--Rice University provides no child-care facilities for its faculty, staff or students. The Child Care Task Force of the West University Chapter of NOW is interested in establishing an on-campus child care center to serve the needs of the Rice community. If you are in any way associated with the University and would like to help us get started, please call Debby Apple at 665-0823.

Feminist Study Group forming, to read and discuss feminist nonfiction. Call Lynne Mutchler for time and place of first meeting. 667-6932.

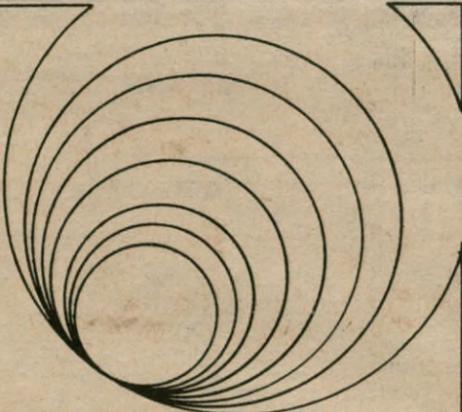
PREPARATION FOR GRE-SAT: Dr. Alice E. Whatley of the UH Continuing Education Department is coordinating workshops in math, vocabulary, and in test preparation for people

planning to take GRE or SAT examinations. A math refresher workshop is offered on six Wednesday mornings, Feb. 25-March 31, from 9:30-11:30 AM. (\$40.00 per person). A vocabulary enrichment workshop is offered on four Wednesday afternoons, Feb. 25-March 17, 12:15-2:15 p.m. (\$30 per person). A study techniques workshop is offered on two Wednesday afternoons, March 24-31, 1-3 p.m. (\$15 per person). For further information call Dr. Whatley at 749-4182.

DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S MEDIA: The Index-Directory is the only up-to-date (as of December 1975) national list of women's media in the U.S. Includes over 150 women's periodicals, over 30 women's presses, as well as news services, columns, radio-tv groups and programs, video-film-theatre, speakers bureaus, bookstores. Available from Media Report to Women, 3306 Ross Pl., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20008. \$6.

WOMEN AND THE LAW CONFERENCE: The seventh national conference on Women and the Law will be sponsored by the Women and Law Caucus of Temple University School of Law, March 12-14, 1976. For information write Women and the Law Conference, 1719 North Broad Street, Pa. 19122, or call (215) 787-8946.

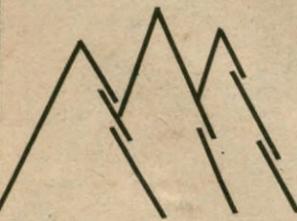
creative
handmade
jewelry



HISHI, SILVER, TURQUOISE, CORAL
WOOD, AND OTHER NATURAL OBJECTS
NECKLACES MADE TO ORDER
McQuire Enterprises
5012½ Chenevert
Houston 77004
713-526-6714
wholesale and retail

CHARLEY
KUBRICHT-FORE

illustrator/designer house of coleman 713/523-2521



Pit-cooked meats
Home-style vegetables
Opening March

BIG TIMBER BAR-B-Q

Brittmore and Old Katy Road
Owners-operators,
Gay Cosgriff, Jim Ward

Janet Whedbee

INSURANCE PLANNING FOR WOMEN

3701 KIRBY DRIVE, SUITE 1166
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

BUS. 526-2391
HOME 723-4646

**Subscribe
Now!**

**Subscribe
Now!**

*(brak' -throo') any significant or sudden
development that breaks down a barrier to progress*

() I want to be a charter subscriber
at \$5 for 1-year of Breakthrough

name.....

address.....

city..... state.....zip.....

() Enter a 1-year gift subscription
at \$5 and send Breakthrough to:

name

address

city state zip

Please mail check with order to:

Breakthrough P.O. Box 8346 Houston, Texas 77004

If you would like an extra copy of
Breakthrough this is a partial
listing of book stores, shops and
news stand where it's available in
Houston:

News Dealers:

Ace News
Bellaire News Stand
Galleria News Stand
Big City News
Guys News Stand

Book Shops:

Village News
Westheimer News Stand
World News Stand
Abraxis
Aquarian Age Book Shop
B. Dalton, Town & Country
Brazos Book Store
Libran Book Shop

Retail Stores:

Pathfinder Book Store
Sam Houston Book Store
Anderson Fair
Gypsy Market
The Moveable Feast
Big Timber Bar-B-Que
First Unitarian Church

Others:

Rep. Ron Waters' Office

Universities:

Texas Southern University
Student Center
University of St. Thomas
Student Center
University of Houston,
Information Center
University Center
Rice University Book Store
Rice University Media Center

Around the State:

Abilene - Sander's Book Store
Ezzell's Book Store
Austin - Women's Center
Common Woman Bookstore
San Antonio - The Book Keeper
Breakthrough is building a
Texas-wide network! If you or
someone you know is interested
in being a resource and
distribution person in your area
around the state or in Houston -
please contact *Breakthrough*,
P.O. Box 8346, Houston, Texas
77004. 713-526-6686.

Breakthrough

A feminist newspaper

P.O.Box 8346 Houston 77004