

# Breakthrough

A feminist newspaper

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Complimentary copy

January 1976

## NOW challenges Stevens

"This is the Douglas seat and you just don't give it to anybody."

That was the sentiment expressed by NOW President Karen DeCrow, herself a lawyer, when she learned in late November that John Paul Stevens, a jurist who has consistently failed in his legal opinions to recognize the issue of women's equal rights, had been nominated by President Ford to replace Senior Justice William O. Douglas on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Throughout his legal career Justice Douglas, a liberal and non-conformist, had been an ally of women's causes. He voted for an end to anti-abortion laws. He opposed involuntary sterilization of welfare mothers. He was a strong adversary against sex discrimination.

As DeCrow said, this was the

Douglas seat and it could not be given to just anybody. Douglas' seat was given to a man who will likely join the Nixon court in reversing the liberal tide dating back to Earl Warren.

In the December Senate confirmation hearings, Stevens said he was more concerned about discrimination against Blacks than against women.

"NOW is disgusted at this blatant example of the white male power structure pitting women against minority males and making us all scramble for the crumbs of power," DeCrow said. "The NOW board is profoundly shocked that President Ford is not able to see the significance not only of not appointing a woman to the bench but of appointing a man who is so against women's rights that he does not even understand the issues of civil rights for women in 1975."

Although he told the Senate he believed in "the equality of the sexes," Stevens has done his best to see that the Equal Rights Amendment has a rocky road to ratification. In Illinois, he wrote an opinion in which he said that that state could require a three-fifths vote—rather than a simple majority—of the Legislature to pass the ERA. Stevens' ruling consequently made possible the defeat of the ERA in Illinois.

In another anti-feminist decision, Stevens dissented from the majority opinion which held that United Air Lines could not fire women flight attendants simply because they got married.

In a case involving hair codes and dress codes, Stevens wrote that students should know their styles may offend their elders.

"That line of reasoning made me

very nervous for feminists," DeCrow said. In her opinion, practically every women's issue that will go before the Supreme Court will "offend the elders, will offend somebody's idea of behavior for women and men."

NOW criticizes Stevens' legal opinions on women's issues because they are based on apparent personal philosophy—not on the facts and laws of the cases before him. The White House, however, praises Stevens for being a legal conservative and for being "strongly bound by precedent."

One would question anyone who is "strongly bound by precedent." There was once a precedent to deny women the right to vote; there was once a precedent for legal slavery and lynchings; there was once a precedent for segregation; there was once a precedent against abortion; and, without the ERA, there is still a precedent against equal rights for women.

The Supreme Court Justice is perhaps the most powerful public servant. That person has the duty of interpreting the Constitution and, while presidents are limited to two terms in office, Supreme Court justices are appointed for life. History has demonstrated that one out of every four justices appointed to the court serves at least two decades—a generation.

Stevens, who is 55 years old, can expect to stay on the court from 20 to 30 years.

Despite his conservative opinions, Stevens, an admitted strict constructionist, had only minimal opposition to his nomination from citizens' groups. The Senate confirmed his nomination 98-0.

The strongest protest to his confirmation came from NOW. The following is a portion of the NOW testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

My name is Margaret Drachler speaking for the National Organization for Women (NOW), an organization of 60,000 women, with over 700 chapters throughout the country.

I am here to express my grave concern regarding both the nomination of John Paul Stevens to the Supreme Court and the manner in which it was accomplished. This appointment was made by a President who has not been elected to the Presidency and who was never elected to any office by a constituency larger than a Congressional District. Each member of this Committee has a statewide constituency.

At the outset, NOW wishes to express the feelings of millions of women and men today: it is time to have women on the Supreme Court. After 200 years of living under laws written, interpreted, and enforced exclusively by men, we have a right to be judged by a court representative of all people—more than half of whom are women. The President owes us a duty to begin to eliminate the 200 years of

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## Father given child custody

"Don't punish Mary Jo Risher because she is a homosexual and more important, don't punish Richard Risher because his mother is homosexual."

The plea of attorney Frank Stenger went unheeded.

Two days before Christmas, a Dallas domestic relations court jury took Risher's nine-year-old son away from her not because she is an unfit mother, but because she is a lesbian.

Testimony from three psychiatrists and the former husband of Risher's lover did not sway the jury.

Psychiatrist Neville Murray said the child did not know his mother is homosexual and that to change his custody for a reason unknown to him would be injurious.

Dr. Robert Dian said the child would suffer considerable disturbance if forced to leave his mother. He added that the child would survive the separation, but it was not a desirable thing to impose on him.

Dr. Delores Dyer testified that the child might encounter some problems because his mother is homosexual; however, she did not believe the problems would be any greater than if the boy lived with his father.

Richard Foreman, the former husband of Risher's lover and the father of a 10-year-old girl who lives with the two women, testified he did not think his daughter was being harmed by living with her homosexual mother.

The only psychiatrist to offer a different opinion was the court-appointed analyst who told the jury he believed the boy should be given to his father "to insure he would grow into normal, healthy manhood."

Risher's fight for the custody of her son has been championed by NOW.

"Ms. Risher is being discriminated against because she is a woman" said Texas State Coordinator Martha Dickey. "The case is a feminist issue."

The Dallas-NOW office's fundraising drive to help fight the case will

be intensified for the appeal of the verdict.

A NOW resolution states "an individual's affectional or sexual preference is not a valid basis on which to deny or abridge full legal rights."

Counteracting the NOW efforts in Houston is Jeanne Elliott, a defeated Houston City Council candidate and "chairman" of the Houston chapter of Happiness of Womanhood (HOW). Elliott and her group have been raising money to help Richard Risher fight for custody of his son.

Risher's lawyer argued that the child would be better off in the "fine Christian family atmosphere" of the Risher household despite the fact that Risher had been found guilty of a criminal offense, DWI.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the next issue of Breakthrough, Susan Caudill, the former Houston Post reporter who is now with KERA-TV, Dallas, will have an in-depth article on the landmark Risher case.)**

## Film grant offered

In the December issue of *Houston Town & Country* magazine writer Harla Kaplan quotes filmmaker Janice Blue as saying:

"Film is a social tool. There is a real need for women filmmakers now that we have demystified the technology of films and the mystery of the camera. We have a responsibility to use those tools to document our lives — if women don't, no one else will."

To break down one of the barriers to women becoming filmmakers BREAKTHROUGH in collaboration with the Rice Media Center will offer a tuition (\$250) plus film (up to \$200) scholarship to the Media Center's evening Community Film Workshop course to a woman who presents the best documentary project dealing with the changing role of women in society today. It may be a portrait of one woman, a project examining a group of women, or one on the relationships of women to men, other women, their families or co-workers.

You do not need to send a resume, or show a portfolio of photographs or bring a film in hand. All you need is a serious commitment to communicate via film what is happening to women in the dramatic social changes of the 1970's. This may be done in a 1-3 page project description.

In collaborating with the editors of BREAKTHROUGH on this project, James Blue, co-director of the Rice Media Center said, "I think it's very important that women, minorities, and other interest groups have access to the tools of communication and use them. The Community Film Workshop course is designed to give a practical introduction and instruction on the use of those tools."

The evening course will begin in mid-February and will run throughout the semester. Students will work in Super-8 and 1/2" videotape.

Women interested in the film scholarship should send a project description to BREAKTHROUGH by February 4. The editorial staff of the newspaper will make the decision based on the written material submitted by the applicant. The film student and project will be reported on in the March issue.

# Viva La Brecha!

Some call Betty Friedan the "Mother of the U.S. feminist movement" because her book *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, certainly did catch us all by surprise. And we know what happened since then.

But how many of us had ever, to this day, heard of *La Brecha*, a book published in Chile in 1961.

Mercedes Valdivieso, *La Brecha's* author, was a young married woman who could have gone on living a respectable life in the upper class of Santiago society.

But she chose, instead, to write about her intense feelings of being a woman and her conflicts in a "married" relationship.

It was her first book. Thousands were sold in less than a week. It was reprinted several more times and remained the number one best seller in Chile for over a year.

Women stopped her on the street and described their lives "before and after *La Brecha*."

Chile's leading literary critic called it a "revolutionary thunder-piece."

It was too successful for some.

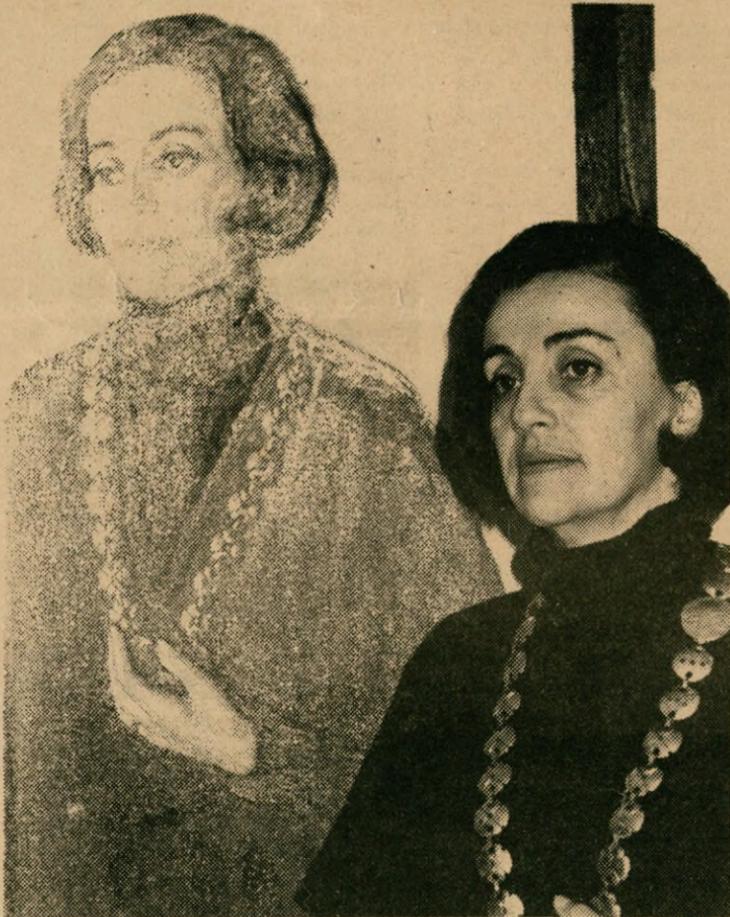
An editorial, "Times of Morbidity", appeared in *El Diario Ilustrado* (April 27, 1961). Never referring directly to her book by name (that would have further increased sales), it talked of writers who "to achieve sales . . . speak of violent intimacies, shameless in the worst sense.

"And, significantly, women write them, women who previously had made no appearance in the literary world, who used to maintain a discreet and prescribed silence. But who now emerge to relate conjugal dramas, to speak of 'breakthroughs' and liberation . . ."

Since the publication and impact of *La Brecha*, Valdivieso has lived in China and England, has written four more books, and now teaches Spanish Literature at Rice University.

The English translation of *La Brecha* is *Breakthrough*. In homage to this important book and its impact on millions of women and in honor of its author, Mercedes Valdivieso, we named our feminist publication *Breakthrough*.

A newspaper is born!



Mercedes Valdivieso, author of *La Brecha*, in front of a portrait by Spanish-born, Houston artist Pilar Cortella Rubin.

## Breakthrough

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# Houston's Linda Cryer "Woman of the Month"



Linda Cryer

By KATHRYN HOOKER

If you were raped in Houston tomorrow and reported the crime to the Houston Police Department, the Department would pay for physicians' services and emergency-room treatment to be used as legal evidence. You could receive free counseling from city and county health department nurses. These advances are due in part to the work of Linda Cryer.

Cryer, a feminist, became interested in helping rape victims through her work with the Houston Area Chapter of NOW. In 1974 she became head of that chapter's Reproduction and Control Task Force. When rape became a major concern of the task force, Cryer and others decided to form a separate group to concentrate solely on problems of rape. With other groups, they formed the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition, which provides advocates and telephone reassurance to assist victims in dealing with police, hospital personnel and the courts.

Cryer's desire to implement change led her outside strictly feminist organizations. In July 1974 she was appointed by Mayor Hofheinz to expand or create programs for rape victims within existing medical, legal and public health agencies. She became Administrator of Hofheinz' Rape Treatment Detection and Prevention Program. Since her appointment, she has been involved in these projects:

•H.B. 284, signed by Governor Briscoe in May 1975, which extends the statute of limitations on prosecuting for rape to three years; redefines "consent" to

exclude submission induced by nonverbal threats; encourages the reporting and prosecution of rapes; and permits an incamera private hearing on the victim's previous sexual activity to determine if this is admissible as evidence.

•A City ordinance passed in March 1975 which implements a State law (H.B. 857), stating that any law-enforcement agency requesting a medical examination of a rape victim for use in investigation or prosecution shall pay all costs of the examination. We repeat: Report the crime to the Houston Police Department and they will pay for physicians' services and emergency room treatment to be used as evidence. Previously it cost the victim about \$65 to be raped. Treatment for injuries resulting from the rape is not covered by the law.

•Counseling services for female and male rape victims and their families which were made available last June. City and county nurses are cooperating to provide a minimum of three months counseling by telephone conversations and home visits to help the victim readjust. City Health Department nurses have already seen almost 200 victims. Victims are referred for counseling, at their request, from the hospital emergency room.

•The University of Texas School of Nursing, through its Continuing Education Department, now offers a 45-hour educational course to train public health nurses in helping victims.

•A "rape kit" now standardizes the collection, routing, and analysis of medical evidence to be used in prosecution. It will soon be available in most major medical facilities in Houston. In other areas of the country, a standard kit has been developed in one hospital, and victims must go only to this hospital. In Houston, the Police Department has assumed responsibility for the compilation and analysis of the contents. The kit may be picked up and delivered to any medical facility or private physician's office. The victim witnesses the opening and resealing of the kit. She then initials each evidence

container and the outer kit envelope to lessen the need of having a physician attend courtroom proceedings. The Houston OB-Gyn Society has endorsed the kit.

Cryer has held a seminar for school superintendents in seven counties on Houston's rape problem. She's planning another seminar in April for public school nurses to help them deal with rape on the school grounds. She hopes programs for rape prevention will be developed for schools and health department.

She has begun to gather public support for the passage of legislation similar to that passed in Illinois. The law would establish additional hospital emergency services for rape victims. It would also prohibit accident and health-insurance policies from excluding coverage for treatment of rape injuries.

Cryer has been offered technical help by the U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in developing a City-County project to provide information and other assistance to victims of ALL violent crimes. The program would involve local law-enforcement agencies, health departments, and the district attorney's office.

Cryer said her greatest challenge has been "to get law-enforcement agencies to recognize the emotional agonies of rape victims." One of her goals is to create awareness within all agencies dealing with rape victims of the victims' psychological wounds.

"I'd like to see more hospital facilities for victims, improved crisis intervention services, and improved information services to victims while they are in court," she said.

Our Woman of the Month has a B.A. in psychology from the University of Houston and an M.S.W. from Our Lady of the Lake University. She's a doctoral candidate at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Cryer suggests that victims call these numbers for help: City Nursing Division, 222-4271; County Nursing Division, 526-1841; Crisis Hotline, 228-1505; Police Department, 222-3131; Linda Cryer, 222-4261; Houston Rape Crisis Coalition, 524-5743.



Linda Cryer, far left, at the signing of HB 284 by Governor

Dolph Briscoe in May, 1975. Present are other state officials

and statewide feminist leaders who strongly lobbied for the bill's passage.

# AAUW Honor Roll

## Guardiola emphasizes minorities



Alice Whatley.

These six Houston women were honored as "Outstanding Women of the Year" in 1975 by the Houston Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in recognition of the United Nations-proclaimed International Women's Year.

A dinner was held in early November at Cohen House on the Rice University campus and was attended by over 100 AAUW members, spouses, and guests.

Gertrude Barnstone gave the keynote address and the honorees in their acceptance speeches articulated their concern for the need of progress in their career areas.

Presiding over the evening were the local AAUW officers:



Elma Barrera.

**EDUCATION.** Dr. Alice Elrod Whatley is the Coordinator of the "Contemporary Woman Series" in the Continuing Education Department at the University of Houston. She initiated and developed the series, a program of credit-free workshops, for women in the area of employment-career development, academic degree completion and volunteer service-community issues. Additionally, Dr. Whatley has designed workshops and conferences on all levels for individuals and groups requesting assistance in meeting specific continuing education needs. She has been a member of the faculty at UT-Austin and the University of Oklahoma at Norman in the areas of adult education, home economics, teacher education, and family life education.



Janice Blue.

women (a KPRC-TV pilot, *JUST LIKE A WOMAN*) which aired in April 1975. On other projects she has director-editor-camera-woman credits: *CAUCUS*, the only record of the first meeting in 100 years of the National Women's Political Caucus convention; *COUSINS*, impressions of 2-17 year-old girls on the role of women in the American Dream; *GENA AT 7 & 11*, a personal record of a brain-damaged child from the point of view of the mother. For the past 2 years Blue has been active in media reform projects for several local NOW chapters. She is an editor of *BREAKTHROUGH*.



Sandra Kuenzi.

**BUSINESS.** Carole Pinkett graduated magna cum laude from North Carolina A&T State University and received her Master's in Business Administration from Texas Southern University. Pinkett is chairwoman of the HISD Bi-Racial Committee, the watchdog agency set up by the federal courts to monitor desegregation in the district. She is the vice-president of the Houston Council on Human Relations, a member of the Board of Advisors for the School of Social Work for the University of Texas, the corresponding secretary of the Metropolitan YWCA, vice president of the Houston and Harris County Medical Health Associations, and vice president of the Friends of the Houston Public Library.

Guardiola focuses on issues of concern to minority women as a Majority Caucus member of the National Board of Directors of NOW. She was elected October 27 at the Philadelphia National Conference on a platform reaching out to blue collar, Third World, lesbian and other women who have not felt comfortable in feminist groups in the past. She calls for a responsiveness to minority and low income women from feminists who have previously worked on middleclass white issues. This attention is needed on both the local and national level.

In February 1975, Guardiola convened the tri-ethnic Houston Inner City NOW chapter which encourages members to become active in other community and political groups. The purpose of the group Guardiola says, "is not so much to achieve power in an organization but to politicize the group and to give women the self-confidence to become active."

Task force priorities include criminal justice and woman in health which looks into the hospital district.

Health care is of prime interest to Guardiola. As a health care professional she feels she "can contribute greatly to NOW by bringing national attention to the plight of women who are at the mercy of uncaring health providers."

*BREAKTHROUGH* will be following the activities of Guardiola and the NOW National Board in coming months.



Carole Pinkett.

Alice Church, President; Marge Miller, Edwina Milner and Dr. Erna B. Jones, Vice Presidents; Lucille Ferris, Secretary; Gwen Crockett, Treasurer; and Joan Hanlon, Lynne Mutchler, and Hattie Thurlow, AAUW-Award Committee Members.

The honorees were recognized for their significant contributions in their respective fields of work.

**COMMUNICATION.** Elma Barrera attended law school and worked in the U. S. Embassy in Mexico City before going into broadcast journalism. She began at KAUM-Radio and is now a news reporter at KTRK-TV. Barrera regularly hosts Channel 13's "Mexican-American Dialogue" and anchors several weekly morning newscasts at the station. She also produces and anchors the only all-Spanish television news program in Houston, "Noticias con Elma" which airs weekly at 6 p.m. on KUHT-TV. Outside the station Barrera organized the first athletic activities for Mexican-American girls through the Magnolia Branch of the YWCA and helped organize the First National "Conferencia de Mujeres Por La Raza" in 1971.

**ARTS.** Janice Blue is a feminist filmmaker who co-produced Houston's first prime-time television magazine program for



Ellen Mendoza.

**POLITICS.** Ellen Mendoza, a magna cum laude graduate of St. Thomas and active civic worker, was the Houston Coordinator of Texans for the ERA and the ERA Chairwoman for the League of Women Voters during the 1975 rescission effort. She is an alternate to the State Democratic Party and has served on the Harris County Commissioners Court Task Force on Emergency Medical Services.

**HEALTH.** Sandra Kuenzi, who holds a Master's in Nursing in Community Health from UCLA, is a mental health consultant for the Harris County Health Department. She is the chairwoman of the Red Cross Crisis Committee. Last year she co-authored the paper "Crisis Intervention in Acute Care Areas," which appeared in the *American Journal of Nursing* (May 1975). She has served on the Action Task Force of the Harris County Drug Abuse Evaluation Project, and the H-CAP Task Force on Alcoholic Women. Kuenzi has been the coordinator for rape crisis courses for nurses at the UT School of Nursing.

To keep the spirit of International Women's Year alive in coming years, the Houston Branch of the AAUW hopes to make the Outstanding Women of the Year Awards an annual event!



Gloria Guardiola

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Breakthrough.  
Subscribe  
today.**

## Candidate visits with feminists

Feminist leaders recently met with State Rep. Lane Denton, D-Waco, candidate for the Texas Railroad Commission, the agency responsible for regulating the oil and gas industry. Denton, who was a strong backer of the ERA and other feminist legislation is seen here with (l. to r.) Peggy Hall, President of SW-NOW; Sue Wittie, an editor of *Breakthrough*; Harriet Mauzy, President of the Houston Teachers Association; Helen Copitka, Commissioner, Board of Pardons

and Paroles; Olga Soliz, Chair, National Chicana Caucus, National Women's Political Caucus; Brenda Lewis, Inner City-NOW officer; and Joan Hanlon, Democratic Executive Committee-woman and Precinct Judge #439. Denton was publicly endorsed by former State Representative Frances "Sissy" Farenthold. Farenthold and Denton were leaders in the "Dirty Thirty" coalition which pushed for disclosure of facts surrounding the Sharpstown Bank scandal.



# AP makes stew of newsmakers

AP writer Mary Campbell's soup-to-nuts summary called "Women of '75" makes for some very strange stew ingredients — all in the name of liberation.

Present and former first ladies are lumped together with attempted assassins, saints, movie stars, you name it, as long as they just happened to make news by "their worries, words, guns, and deeds."

AP's end-of-the-year ritual ran as a 4-part series in the Houston Post "Today" section, December 16-19, 1975.

Seemingly written under a beauty parlor hair dryer with a year's back issues of fan magazines for research, Campbell recounts Shirley Temple's daughter's marriage, Liz Taylor's remarriage, Ann Landers' divorce, and Ann Ford Uzielli's having-been-seen-with Governor Hugh Carey, a widowed father of 12. One full day of reporting was devoted to romance and the love-lorn.

Other "headline makers" included "the hottest model of the year" — a "black girl with white features" and a deceased woman whose jewelry estate sale brought in over \$2 million.

Ironically, 1975 was the UN-proclaimed International Women's Year. We had the Mexico City Conference in June and in November, the US counter-part to Mexico City, the Austin

Women in Public Life Conference, yet the only reference made to IWY was with regard to Australia giving up its female cyclone-naming practice in honor of the year-of-the-woman.

The feminist movement? It was dispensed with in a sentence. "Women's lib (sic) wallowed in dissension and seemed to be running out of steam." A curious statement worthy of serious political analysis. This article was not the place.

Yet Campbell did point out that two courses for women, "the opposite of women's lib (sic)", Fascinating Woman and the Total Woman were "packing in the students."

In all this can anyone imagine a series called the "Men of '75" wherein Gerald Ford, Sirhan-Sirhan, Lt. Calley, Richard Burton, and Charles Manson were thrown together merely because their names appeared in the news, "for whatever reason"?

Yet somehow we tolerate a melting pot with Betty Ford, Jackie Onassis, Liz Taylor, Lynette Fromme, Sara Jane Moore, et al.

All readers get from this kind of heat-and-serve convenience story is a strange-tasting liberation stew.

Our suggestion is that Campbell's story be canned!

JANICE BLUE



## ACLU

The discrimination which women face in the area of credit has received much public attention during the last five years. Until recently, women simply could not get credit — either commercial, home loans, personal loans, or consumer — on the same basis as men. The situation is changing, due primarily to the passage of state and federal equal credit opportunity laws, and it is important for women to know and exercise their rights under these laws in order to force creditor compliance.

Denial of equal access to credit deprives women of adequate housing, educational opportunities, and the ability to establish a livelihood by entering business, as well as the increased purchasing power of retail credit. It is the married or formerly married woman who appears to be the prime victim of sex discrimination in credit. When a woman marries she becomes an economic nonentity in the eyes of the credit establishment, and when she is subsequently divorced or widowed she emerges as an unknown in an increasingly credit-oriented society.

The pervasive effect of sex-based credit discrimination has been extensively documented by women's action groups and governmental commissions. In hearings before Congress in 1973 and 1974 the following were among the discriminatory practices cited by the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs:

1. Single women have more trouble obtaining credit (particularly mortgages) than single men.
2. Creditors generally require a woman upon marriage to reapply for credit, usually in her husband's name.
3. Creditors are often unwilling to extend credit to a married woman in her own name.
4. Creditors are often unwilling to count the wife's income when a married couple applies for credit.
5. Women who are separated, divorced or widowed have trouble re-establishing credit. Women who are separated have a particularly difficult time since the accounts may still be in the husband's name.
6. Creditors refuse to issue to a working wife an account for which she would be eligible were she not married.
7. Creditors request information about her husband's credit-worthiness before issuing an account to a working wife.
8. Creditors consider a working wife a "dependent" of her husband when determining his eligibility for credit.
9. Creditors apply stricter standards when the wife is the primary wage earner.
10. Creditors alter the credit rating of a working wife on the basis of her husband's credit performance.
11. Creditors refuse to consider alimony and child support as income for credit purposes when the reliability of the source may be verified.
12. Creditors request in-

formation concerning birth control practices when evaluating a credit application.

13. Creditors use credit scoring systems that apply different numerical values depending on the sex or marital status of the applicant.

An attempt to remedy the above discriminatory practices has been made on the state level, with the passage of laws prohibiting sex discrimination and marital status discrimination, and on the federal level, with the signing into law of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, effective last October.

The Texas credit discrimination law, enacted in 1972, provides that:

No licensee or those involved in credit transactions, may deny an individual credit or loans in his or her name, or restrict, or limit the credit or loan granted solely on the basis of sex.

Few suits have been brought under this law, in part because it has been in existence only three years, but also because it prohibits discrimination only on the basis of sex, rather than on the basis of sex and marital status. Thus, practices such as refusing to count the income of both spouses when a couple applies for a mortgage and judging divorced and separated people more harshly because of assumptions about their stability would not be prohibited.

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## Workshop planned

●Your group has decided to honor outstanding women in the community. You want to publicize the event. Where do you begin?

●Your group is planning to protest the sale of a bumper sticker at a local novelty store which treats the CRIME of rape with humor. Whom do you call to cover the action?

●You are offended by an ad running in the local newspaper showing a woman and captioned, "I want your body and I want it now." Whom do you complain to?

**BREAKTHROUGH** received calls on all of these questions while we were putting together the first issue of the paper.

Since the philosophy of the paper is rooted in improving the communications between women in this community and state and between women and the media, we decided to hold a one-day workshop for individual women and women's groups.

It will take place Saturday, Jan. 31 in the Rice Media Center auditorium. Two sessions are planned.

9AM- Noon--Is "Women's News" News? Coordinators: Janice Blue and Gay Cosgriff, Media Reform Task Force coordinators for West University and NW NOW, respectively.

Panelists: Broadcasting news directors and assignment editors and representatives from newspaper news and feature departments.

1PM-4 PM--Are Those Ads that Bad? Coordinators: Aileen

English, Assistant Prof. of Sociology, TSU, and Dr. Virginia Davidson, psychiatrist, Baylor College of Medicine.

Panelists: Representatives from advertising agencies and broadcast and print advertisers.

The goal of the morning session is to get better coverage of women's issues and events. We know we are newsworthy—how do we communicate it?

There will be practical information. For example, how to write a press release and when to call a press conference. We will give specific examples to the news directors of events we have planned or that they have covered to see how coverage could have been improved.

The goal of the afternoon session is how to improve the image of women in advertising.

Slide presentations are planned on the image of women, one specifically dealing with the way ads portray women in medical journals. Discussion will include how to personally evaluate negative and positive ads and how to communicate your reaction to advertisers.

We will have a press directory on hand with practical information containing the names of media contacts at every radio, tv, newspaper and advertising agency.

Try to "communicate" with us if you plan to attend—by post card preferably or call Aileen English (641-1277) or Janice Blue (522-0020).

Hope you join us!

The Editors

# Power--tool or weapon?

Aileen Hernandez has said she feels like a senior stateswoman in the movement.

I would describe myself differently. I'm a "VFR" - a Veteran of the Feminist Revolution.

I hope it will never be necessary for any of us to describe ourselves as DVFR's - Disabled Veterans of the Feminist Revolution.

Many of you know already that in the last year or so I have become increasingly preoccupied with concepts of power, its uses by the movement internally and externally, and the effects of all this on women.

Simultaneously, it may or may not be worth noting, I have withdrawn from any position of power within the movement. I'm not sure what conclusion should be drawn from this, though maybe as I exercised it, I had the sudden realization that we were all playing around with what could be a deadly weapon if we turned it upon ourselves. I think we need to recognize, however, that power corrupts only the corruptible, who mistake it for an end in itself, instead of a tool to accomplish our goals.

In Houston we elected Karen DeCrow our national president on a platform that commits us not just to get women into the mainstream of American life, but to change the very nature of that mainstream itself.

I think what we are saying is that to achieve equality in a society that is fundamentally corrupt, compassionless, dehumanizing, and destructive is to stop short of realizing our own full potential for social change. I believe most of us have aspirations that go beyond.

For the one equality women all over the world have already achieved is the Equality of

Consequences. No inventory of the major challenges and crises of our times discloses any from whose effects women will be exempt by virtue of our sex.

If "the boys" decide to have a nuclear exchange, it will do us no good to run outside waving our arms at an incoming missile or looming mushroom cloud yelling, "Skip me--I'm a woman!"

We know that poverty in this country is primarily the problem of all women--that most women are only a husband away from welfare.

In the face of inflation (when we are paid 40 percent less than men), in the face of unemployment (when the rate is already 35 percent higher for women than men), with the prospect of recession or depression (when we know that like minority men, having been the last hired, we'll be the first to go), with energy shortages and soaring corporate profits (from which we in our bottom-of-the-barrel positions derive no benefits), with the threat of world-wide famine, while chicken and cattle are destroyed and milk is dumped, with the rape and pollution of the public environment, isn't it time to get in on the act, to make some of the decisions ourselves, to push for changes in this bizarre social order?

Nothing we could do could possibly be any worse or more inept than what we see being done!

We undoubtedly have to do a lot of heavy thinking about the design of a new mainstream and a lot more organizing to have power enough to press it into place.

But I see the feminist movement as the only viable movement for social change left

alive and flourishing in this country. And it has always been the only one that intended to exclude no one genuinely committed to our goals for membership and participation--not by race, ethnic origin, social or economic class, religion or sex.

As an organization, NOW has no commitment to any "Isms" of the radical left or radical right--we have fended off all attempts to subvert us to so-called higher causes that will, as a by-product, solve our problems.

With Aileen, I believe that all of the social issues of our time are feminist issues and that we ignore them to our peril. To implement the resolutions still on our agenda, we must make plans with full awareness of the social context in which we are operating. National problems like inflation, recession, the threat of depression jeopardize everything we have accomplished so far, and everything we have still to do in the future. A national depression would have a backlash effect on the women's movement that could set us back fifty or a hundred years.

When budgets get tight in government agencies, corporations, educational institutions--who's the first to go?

The resistance to establishing child care cents, to implementing Title IX Guidelines, to adopting new credit policies for women stiffens and multiplies. If it's been tough raising money for our causes and candidates in these affluent years, what do you think our chances will be in lean ones? A collapsing stock market has already caused the Ford Foundation to consider cutting its grants program in half--before we even tapped their till.

As a speaker at the California NOW State Conference in October, 1973, I had said: "When we speak about redesigning society, we should be honest enough to confront the fact that such charity should begin at home. If we really intend to create a society genuinely different in quality from our present one. If we really intend to exercise power in new ways, we should begin within our own organization. The sudden acquisition of power by those who have never had it before can be intoxicating and we run the risk of becoming absorbed in petty power games that in the last analysis can only be self-defeating. And sadly, the first impulse to some of us entrusted with this new power is to imitate the way we've seen men use it. We have to use the power we have within NOW in our relationships with each other, individually and structurally, in new ways. We must begin with each other to restore to power a necessary humanitarian discipline.

I believe the state level of NOW is the most important level for organizational activities at

this stage of our efforts. We need to commit ourselves to doubling the number of chapters in every state--every year. With or without the right to endorse political candidates, we need to become so pervasive in every state that we can build the discomfort of all candidates until they are responsive to our needs. We need to become an itch they can never quite scratch enough.

With this kind of organization, we can proceed to build coalitions not only with all the dispossessed in our society--the women, minorities, the poor, the aged--but also with the disenfranchised--those members of the middle class of our society who have in the past been manipulated into anger toward those below them on the economic ladder. Their anger and hostility should be redirected upward to the top 1 percent who should be carrying far more of the economic burdens of this society than they now do.

By TONI CARABILLO.  
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## ON POWER

"Powerlessness is more corrupting than power. I hope power will change women and

give them a sense of worth so they can fight the establishment and not each other."

Flo Kennedy

## Bump a sticker

Before feminists took up the issue of rape it was a sex-linked offense in the minds of the public and the courts. Today, the mere suggestion that a woman takes pleasure during an act of violence with her life at stake is sick.

Yet, in early December, a novelty store in Memorial City displayed and sold a bumper sticker reading: HELP STAMP OUT RAPE--SAY YES.

Gay Cosgriff, a member of Northwest NOW, discovered the fluorescent red-on-black item while shopping for a Christmas gift.

She complained of its offensiveness to the owner of the store in light of the recent rape-murders of eight Houston women, one of which occurred less than a mile from Memorial City.

"Nothing doing, lady. We'd be out of business if we took things off our shelf because one person found something wrong with it," the owner said.

Cosgriff called her Northwest NOW sisters and Linda Cryer, the city's rape expert.

An action was planned.

The media were called.

"My intent was not only to remove the bumper sticker from this particular store but also to alert other shopkeepers who may unknowingly have bought this bumper sticker in a large lot. I also wanted to raise public awareness so that consumers would take the same action I did," Cosgriff said.

On Friday Morning Dec. 5th, three television stations and several radio stations were asked to meet the

Northwest NOW members at the Memorial City store.

"I was going to repeat my request to the owner... but this time--in the presence of cameras and tape recorders," Cosgriff replied.

The action was planned for 1 p.m.

KILT Radio ran a newscast on the hour reporting the planned action. By coincidence, the storeowner heard the broadcast and removed the bumper stickers.

When Susan Wright of KPRC-TV, Nancy Carney of KHOU-TV and George Hatt of KXYZ Radio arrived in the company of the feminists moments later, the owner told them he had stopped selling the bumper sticker.

"Considering what's been happening in the news recently," he said, "I agree with them..." He added that he removed it after "a lady complained."

Linda Cryer reacted by saying, "The bumper sticker is a very careless statement. It sanctions by implication the crime of rape in our society without taking into account the brutality, humiliation, terror and disgust a rape victim goes through."

"We are not through," says Cosgriff. "Our next step is to get the manufacturer, Modern Card Company, to stop printing and distributing this particular stock item."

"The media helped us bring it to public attention. We hope we will have public support," Cosgriff concluded.

be  
reasonable  
demand  
the  
impossible

HELP STAMP OUT RAPE  
SAY YES

# Editorials

## We want Gertrude

Welcome back, Mr. Mayor. In the days ahead, you will appoint the City of Houston's second women's advocate. By our definition, an advocate is a supporter, a defender, someone who argues for a cause and for change.

A women's advocate is not a mayor's advocate. She must have the TOTAL freedom to speak out for ALL women—and particularly those most excluded from the favors of society—Black, Brown, poor, old and young, unemployed and underemployed, and gay women, women in jail and women out of jail for whom there is now no direct voice.

She must work closely with "city fathers" to make them sensitive to the needs of women in the community in decisions they render.

She must be unafraid to confront recalcitrant city department heads who are content to let the city's clerical and janitorial workers remain in their "dead-end" jobs with no offer of training or hope of advancement.

She must be visible and vocal before the media and in the community as she exposes evidence of sexism and racism deeply rooted in city government.

She must be a strong, independent, and courageous woman, one who commands respect from all segments of the community by her sensitivity to their needs.

The Honorable Elizabeth Reid of Australia once said, "We do not want just women in (political institutions). We want devoted feminists...if we are talking about changing American society...or any society."

A women's advocate must be a feminist.

Mr. Mayor, there is one clear choice: Gertrude Barnstone.

The Barnstone record has demonstrated to women of all races that she is an advocate—a defender, a supporter, a champion of causes for change.

Barnstone defended and fought for the civil rights of minority children while on the school board in the 60's.

She supports the struggle for women's equal rights in the 70's.

Gertrude Barnstone is not "just a woman."

She is someone who would meet Elizabeth Reid's criteria of a feminist devoted to change.

That is the kind of advocate we want for the women in the city of Houston.

## Nurse on Board

In our view, no one understands and ministers to the needs of the patient more than the members of the nursing profession. How ironic, then, that a nurse has never been appointed to serve on the Harris County Hospital District's Board of Managers.

In the administration of health care we feel the Board of Managers has a dual responsibility: (1) to the community—The hospital district serves not only the indigent at Jeff Davis and the nine satellite clinics, but the needs of all who come to Ben Taub as emergency patients or rape victims; (2) to its employees—50% of the hospital district employees are in the nursing services. The nurse is closer to the consumer than any other health provider and comes into contact with the largest number of employees in the hospital district.

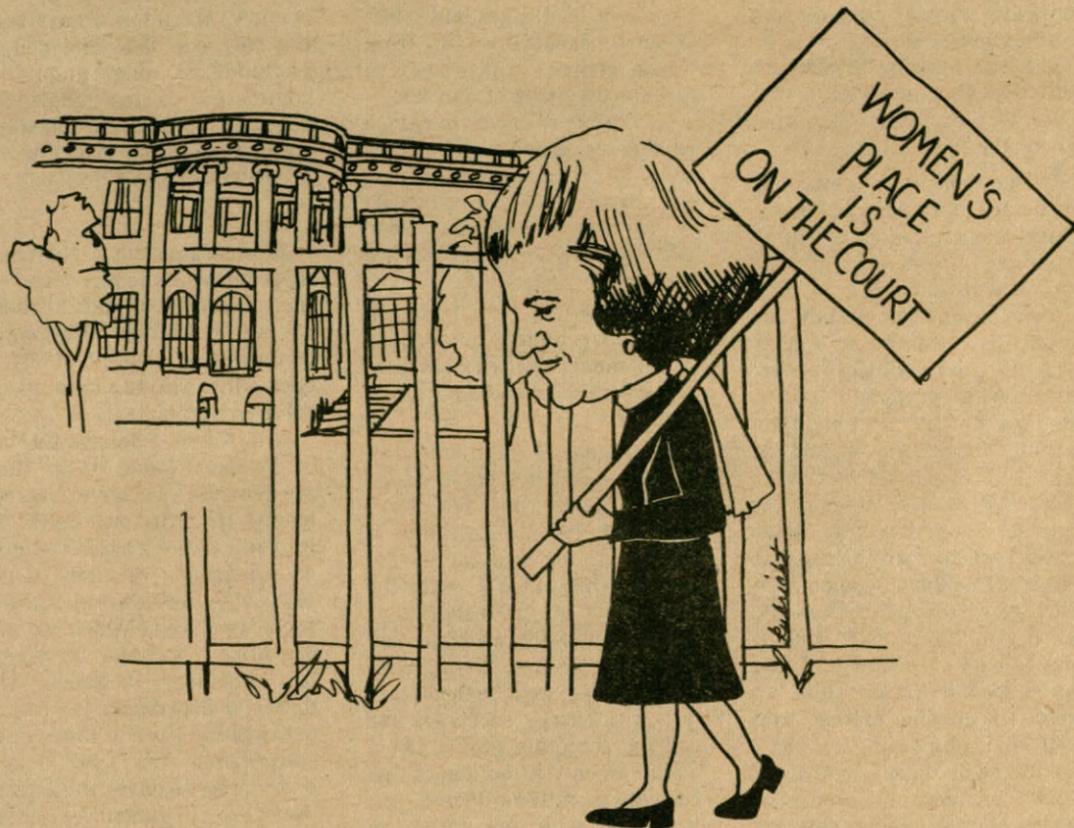
This month the posts occupied by Don Horn, Quentin Mease, and Dr. George Alexander—three of the seven Board of Manager positions—come up for a two year re-appointment by Commissioners' Court.

This month the names of two nurses, Mary Lee Guidry and Alison Druck, are being strongly recommended by the Texas Nurses Association, District #9 and supported by the Houston Inner City NOW for two of these three positions.

Guidry holds an M.S. in medical surgical nursing. She is a former faculty member of Prairie View School of Nursing and now teaches at the University of St. Thomas. She is also President of the Texas Nurses Association, District #9. Druck, an M.S. graduate in psychiatric nursing, is on the faculty of Texas Women's University's School of Nursing. She has also worked with the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition.

In the interest of better health care for the community we strongly support both the concept of a nurse member on the Board of Managers and the appointments of Mary Lee Guidry and Alison Druck to that board. We just as strongly urge the community to express that support by letter to each Harris County Commissioner and the county judge.

The Commissioners are Tom Bass, E. A. "Squatty" Lyons, Jim Fonteno, and Bob Echels. Jon Lindsay is the county judge. All can be reached at the Family Law Center, Congress and San Jacinto Streets, Houston 77002.



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE

## Letters to the editor

I would like to commend four of my sisters from the Inner City Chapter of the National Organization for Women—not only because they are minority, but also because they are truly four great women who have done so much to motivate and encourage women like myself to reach our greatest potential.

Many thanks to you, Olga Soliz, Gloria Guardiola, Cilia Estrada and Brenda Lewis. May all our sisters everywhere learn the true meaning of struggle from the example of these four women.

"To have the courage for change is to be a true feminist."

GLORIA GALVAN

I liked what you said when I called your newspaper and wanted to know if a feminist newspaper was "for women only."

You told me that feminists were women and men who supported the concept of women's equal rights.

I like that and I support your paper.

ERNEST JONES

I am the new Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Task Force for Inner City-NOW. I accepted this position because I had once been in jail myself for offenses related to drugs and that experience convinced me to work in the area of prison reform.

I now have a responsible job at a local university and I have begun working on projects in the criminal justice area. I have visited the county jails and talked with women prisoners but had not made contact with the city jail—until an unexpected visit on Saturday, December 13.

My roommate and I were driving home from a wine tasting

party at the home of my supervisor, a Rice University professor. My gear shift malfunctioned, slipped into neutral and caused my car to come to a sudden halt on the S.W. Freeway. Two police officers behind us pulled us over. We did not have identification with us. They took us downtown, charging us with obstructing traffic and public intoxication. (We were never given any tests to determine the extent of intoxication.)

After sitting on the bench for an hour my roommate, Lucy, was summoned to a small room by a matron. In less than a minute the matron emerged and called for handcuffs. Knowing Lucy had never been in jail and was very frightened, I got up to see what was happening. Two male officers grabbed me and one said he'd break my arm if I struggled. I was placed in a holding cell.

I did not see Lucy until the next morning when she told me that she had refused to take off her pants in the search. She kept telling them that she had done nothing wrong. The matron had her handcuffed to the arms of a chair she was sitting in and had ordered two policemen to hold her while the matron pulled down her pants. Lucy was humiliated and resisted and they jerked her so violently that her arms were bruised from wrist to elbow.

Anyone's car can break down. Anyone can leave ID at home. Anyone can be arrested, it appears, for "public intoxication" on leaving a cocktail party or a bar.

All of which means anyone could go to jail—anytime. Only then will the public be aware of the need for jail reform. There is no consideration given to the fact that it is your "first" time or that you are genuinely frightened—

and innocent.

I share this experience with you because it could happen to you.

LESLIE LARSON

Breakthrough will be sent free to women in the Houston City Jail and the Harris County Jail. We plan to send future copies to women in other Texas jails and prisons. We want to begin a dialogue with our Sisters in prison so that we might better understand the conditions they live in and help change that system.

EDITOR

A new Women's Advocate for the City of Houston will be appointed soon and I'm concerned with the lack of a staff for the new appointee. Considering the monumental challenges for one person as she tries to investigate the needs, establish priorities, and undertake programs for the majority of this city's population, it is absurd to expect her to answer her own phone (impossible when she is out of the office), handle all her correspondence, maintain records, and carry on all the research for projects.

As the University of Houston's Women's Advocate and the past Director of the Department of Women's Affairs in the University of Houston's Students' Association, I have experienced full staff support and assistance which allowed me time to work on special projects and carry out goals which I would not otherwise have been able to achieve.

I feel the City of Houston's Women's Advocate is entitled to the same support services made available to all other department heads in city government.

JUNEAU SHEPHERD

# What's the score?

The following is an interview with Jan Cunningham, National Coordinator of the Women in Sports Task Force, NOW.

## BREAKTHROUGH:

Historically women have been viewed as the "weaker" sex and their active participation in sports has been discouraged. Consequently, the female athlete has been seen as an "oddball" or a misfit in society. What, in your opinion, is the reason for this attitude?

## CUNNINGHAM:

The attitude that women are the "weaker" sex is primarily the result of social conditioning. Sports are considered a masculine domain where one is rewarded for action, intelligence, creativity, independence, aggressiveness, competitiveness and a spirit of adventure, traits which are recognized by psychologists and society as "masculine" traits. To become an athlete a female must put aside the "female" identified sex traits such as dependence inactiveness, submissiveness, passiveness, etc. and adopt the masculine traits. Therefore, she is seen as a "she-man" a lesbian or some other sort of social freak and her achievements are thereby rendered "exceptional" and not to be taken seriously. This type of thinking is not, by the way, limited to female athletes. Any woman who competes successfully in a male dominated field must fear success as well as failure. In succeeding in her field she "fails" as a woman in the eyes of society.

## BREAKTHROUGH:

Still, men are considered stronger and better suited physically for athletics than women. Why should women and girls be encouraged to participate in sports when their chances of success are minimal?

The physiological differences between men and women is vastly overrated. It is true that the average male is larger, heavier and stronger than the average female. However, in recent tests between well conditioned females and males with average conditioning the females outperformed the males in all areas. It is only in sports where strength and height are the predominating factors that men can consistently outperform women.

## CUNNINGHAM:

For example, 25 years ago the women's record for the 100 meter dash was 11.5 seconds compared to the men record of 10.2. Today the men's record is 9.9, an improvement of only .3 seconds, while the women's record is 10.8 an improvement of .7 seconds and only .9 seconds off the men's record.

Even more dramatically, Shane Gould's current women's world record for the 400 meter freestyle is 4.21.2, a full pool length ahead of Johnny Weismuller's men's record of 4.52.0 in 1927. Physiologists believe that as more and more women are given the advantage of diet, training and coaching methods that are provided men athletes, the gap between sexes in most physical tests could well be narrowed to 10 per or less. It is already known that females outperform males up until puberty and, as we all know, it is in puberty that social conditioning really begins to make itself felt. Then the "tomboy" is expected to lay aside her football and take up knitting.

## BREAKTHROUGH:

You've been talking primarily about competitive athletics. What about the woman who's not extremely competitive? What would sports have to offer her?

## CUNNINGHAM:

The Greeks had the theory that a soundbody was a prime requisite for a sound mind. Supposedly, that is the guiding principle of physical educators today. Unfortunately it is often lost in the mad scramble to get to the top where winning is everything and the only measure of success. There definitely should be a reemphasis on competition and a reemphasis on conditioning as a way of life.

## BREAKTHROUGH:

Any woman who participates in some sort of athletic activity, whether it be jogging, exercise or active sport will eventually come to a greater awareness of, identify with, and satisfaction with her own body. This satisfaction and body awareness is seen by the majority of mental health authorities as being a prime requisite to a healthy self-image and, consequently, good mental health.

## CUNNINGHAM:

Perhaps Olympic Francie Kraker best summed it up when she was discussing jogging in a recent issue of Ms. magazine. "With jogging, she discovered the joy of letting go, of taking off barefoot down a country road or across a field. She became conscious of the small pleasures or being fit—the harmony of mind and body, the ability to bound upstairs with ease, to sleep well and wake with a feeling of anticipation... At those times, she never doubted who she was. Winning diminished in importance when she realized that she has already won most of what she wanted."

## BREAKTHROUGH:

What do you see in the future for women in sports?

## CUNNINGHAM:

There will have to be a definite change in the philosophy of physical educators and society in general. We are going to have to begin in the grammar schools by exposing girls to the same opportunities in coaching and training that we give boys and this will have to be carried forward into the junior and senior high schools. Like integration it will be a time-consuming process and won't happen over night.

However, it has already begun. The Little League decision has opened the door to girls and now they'll receive the same training and coaching opportunities as boys have been receiving. Gradually the results of this equal opportunity will pay off and you'll see more and more women competing with and against men in sports like track, baseball tennis, golf, swimming and other similar sports which are not controlled primarily by height and weight.

Also, given the opportunity to participate together throughout their school years, boys and girls and men and women should learn to re-evaluate society's position concerning sports and they should begin participating together in all sports, whether competitive or not, on a more or less equal basis. That is to say, men will no longer feel that they must dominate all sports activities and "show off" for women and women will no longer feel that they must sit back and be passive spectators.

## Pam Spira on way to Olympic games

Hi there sports fans! Did you know the Olympics are coming this year? Did you know they are held only once every four years? Did you know that tryouts for the United States' women's Olympic team in gymnastics were held here in Houston December 6?

You didn't know that? Don't you read the papers?

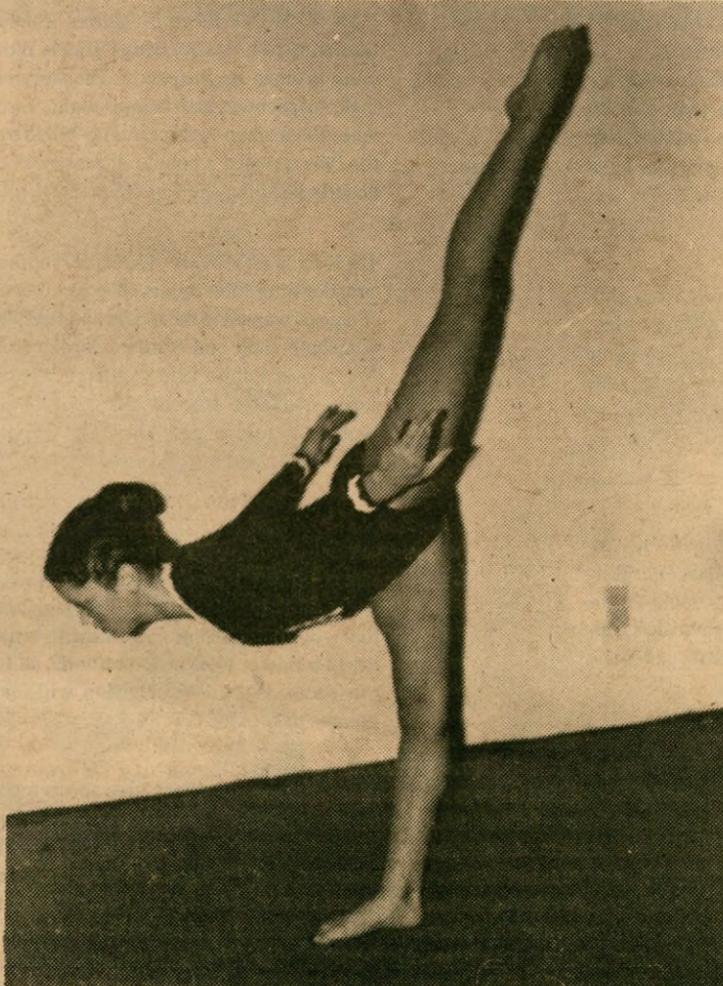
You do read the papers, you say, but you only saw the advance stories and a Page 6 photo and caption in the Post Sports Section (Sun., Dec. 7) and a dab more in the Chronicle the day after the meet.

Did you find who qualified in this, the first of three tryouts leading to the Montreal Olympics?

Did you know that a 16-year-old Houston, Pam Spira, qualified by taking a 2nd medal in floor exercises and by placing 11th out of 68 regional finalists from all over the USA?

Remember, you read it here!

PEGGY HALL



Olympic hopeful Pam Spira

ACLU continued from page 4

This marital status discrimination may actually be sex discrimination; banks which used to discount the wife's income when a couple applied for a mortgage now say that they will discount either income.

In order to attack marital status discrimination in Texas it is necessary to show the sex discriminatory effect of certain practices. The burden this imposes on women illustrates the necessity of pushing for inclusion of marital status in any future legislation.

The enforcement provision of the Texas law gives the individual a private right of action and does not force her to restrict her complaint to an administrative remedy. It allows the recovery of actual damages suffered or fifty dollars whichever is greater. Our statute also provides for the recovery of court costs, but unlike some states, does not allow attorney's fees or punitive damages to be assessed against the loser in the court action. While the Texas prohibition of sex discrimination shows the legislature's recognition of the problem, the omission of marital status discrimination and the recent passage of the Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act, with its strong enforcement provisions, have shifted the emphasis in combatting sexism in credit to the national level.

The Equal Credit Opportunity Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status by any consumer or commercial creditor. While it permits creditors to consider the effects of applicable state laws that affect credit-worthiness, it assures equal access to credit to woman regardless of their sex or marital status.

As an amendment to the Federal Depository Insurance Bill, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act is enforced through a number of federal agencies. On October 28, 1975 the Federal Reserve Board issued the final draft of its "Regulation B," which provided guidelines for these agencies in their implementation of the Act.

Several sections of the original Regulations received widespread criticism from the credit industry. While the final Regulations reflect this "foot dragging" by allowing creditors more time to comply with the provisions, the Regulations are generally considered to be comprehensive in their prohibition of a multitude of sex-based credit discrimination practices. The Regulations impose some general requirements on creditors, such as informing applicants that the use of titles (like Mr., Ms., Mrs., or Miss) on applications forms is optional, or requiring creditors to give in writing the REASONS for credit denials. In addition to these general provisions, the rather complex guidelines can also be broken down into more practical "dos" and "dons" for creditors who are required to bring their credit practices into line with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

By PATTY O'KANE  
continued in February  
Breakthrough

# Pats and Pans

A **PAT**, yes, to *Time* for recognizing women on their annual "Man of the Year" cover after almost 40 years of male covers (the last women appeared in the 30's). A **PAN** for spreading the distinction thin amongst 12 women. (Do 12 women equal one man? Will this collective cover take care of women until 2000?) **PAN** for having a male write the cover story and for his superficial treatment of feminism, the social movement that brought the great changes, his surface reporting on the "factional disputes" within NOW, and his sinister summary of the effects of the ERA.

**PAT** to Betty Ford for her honesty. Speaking before several thousand attending the Greater Cleveland IWY Congress she said, "My own support of the Equal Rights Amendment has shown what happens when a definition of proper behavior collides with an individual's right to personal opinions. I do not believe that being First Lady should prevent me from expressing my views." When *Time* magazine told her she was one of 12 "Women of the Year," she replied it was a shame *Time* could not name a "Human of the Year."

An Austin-American States**PAN**. The *Austin - American Statesman*, in reporting on Barbara Jordan's keynote address to the Conference on Women in Public Life in Austin, described the U.S. Representative as a "chunky, forceful Black . . ." Looking at the other page one newsmakers that day, one wonders if the press ever would have given "equal treatment" by describing Rockefeller as "paunchy" or Moynihan as "pudgy" forceful white males? Also on page one, a Dallas woman was described as a "37 year-old divorced mother of two." Then why not, V. P. Rockefeller, "a 67 year-old divorced father of seven?"

A slightly pained **PAT** to the Rhodes Trust which, after 73 years, has finally agreed to accept applications from women who want to spend two paid years of graduate study at Oxford. It's been a long, long Rhodes.

*Cosmopolitan* rates a Peter **PAN** for its male nude centerfolds. Don't they know that men are not sex objects?

Texas A&I is **PAN**ned for its treatment of Esther Pena, a student who was kicked off the volleyball team because she refused to wear a bra. She had played two previous seasons without one. Pena feels the bra is not the real issue. She recently presented a list of grievances ranging from the male coaches' behavior on tournament trips to poor lodging and meals.

"I was sick and tired of the way women in women's athletics got treated," she said. Pena feels that all agencies, offices and administrators on campus have failed to help her with her grievances and sees legal action as the next logical step.

Channel 39 deserves a pitter-**PAT** for having children present their news before the hour four times a day. But, they also deserve a small-fry **PAN** for having no Chicano representation. There are two Anglos (one male, one female) and two Blacks (one male, one female). And, while we're at it, why not at least one newscast daily in Spanish?

A well-deserved **PAT** to *Ms. Magazine* for its employee stock-ownership trust, whereby the controlling stock of the magazine will be divided among all the staffers. Founding editor Steinem and publisher Carbine, the principal stockholders, searched for over two years before coming up with this plan.

A (Pi) **PAN** to Lamar University President John E. Gray who backed the graduate council's rejection of the thesis of Cathryn King, a master's candidate in mathematics, because her thesis on celestial navigation included three pictures of herself in a bikini. Gray says he will continue to support the graduate council "in their efforts to maintain high standards for the scholarship on our campus. The basic issue in this case is scholarship, not morals, not women's liberation, not civil liberties," he said.

A beef **PAT**ty to the Longhorn Radio network which, in cooperation with the Gay Academic Union, is working on a series of half-hour programs to be entitled: "What's Normal? An Examination of Changing Sexual Lifestyles in our Society." Series producer is Frieda L. Werden. (Reported in *Pointblank Times*.)

The stock answer from the media to all requests that women's issues be given more coverage is lack of airtime. For over two weeks in December, **KPRC-TV** devoted about four minutes daily on "The Scene at Five" to Christmas gift ideas, featuring one specific store or restaurant daily. Four minutes of free advertising. For this Channel 2 and its free-loading advertisers receive our **PAN**-handlers-of-the-month award.

A well-deserved **PAT** to the CBS Network for its recent four-part series on battered wives. The series concluded that it was the degree of acceptability of violence in society together with the conditioning of generations of men to be "tough" that leads to this male-against-female violence. The final observation by reporter David Culhain was that "we must change the definition of what makes a man a man in our society."

A **PAT** to Martha Liebrum for an excellent report on the invisible minority, "The Chicana." The article appeared last fall in the *Post's* "Today" section and focused on a Chicana Studies course taught by Sally Andrade at the Houston Community College.

An appreciative **PAT** to Texas Supreme Court Justice Joe Greenhill on his appointment of feminist leader Helen Copitka as a Parole Commissioner on the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Copitka holds a Master's Degree in Rehabilitative Counseling and an E.D.S. in counseling psychology. She was formerly Research Director of the Houston Council on Human Relations. Her appointment will help to bring some justice into the criminal justice system.

**PATS** to James Oitzinger and Gerald Birnberg, counsels acting on behalf of the ACLU in representing a civil suit filed by a group of inmates which charged that conditions in the county jail violated the prisoners' constitutional protections against "cruel and unusual treatment." **PAT** to U.S. District Court Judge Carl O. Bue who ordered major jail reforms for Harris County, particularly in the area of pre-trial release. Reforms range from hygienic living conditions to vocational education programs. Bue hinted he would close the jails if the county did not comply with his orders.

**PAN** to the *Post* for its 5-column, front page headline (December 9): "4 City Drug Officers Wounded; Police Hunt Woman As Suspect." The story reported that a male suspect was also being sought. Two weeks later, when the woman suspect was no-billed by a grand jury, the *Post* devoted a couple of sentences on page 2 (no headline) saying she was cleared.

**PAT** to KXYZ News Director Thomas Wright for broadcasting three hours of panel discussions on the image of women in the media and keynote speeches by Elizabeth Reid and Barbara Jordan from the Austin Women in Public Life Conference, and making the tapes available free of cost to individual women, women's groups and libraries. (Program aired on KXYZ-AM and KAUM-FM).

"Grateful" **PAT** to the Ministers of Social Affairs of the European Common Market who have agreed to give women equal access to jobs. The ministers also decided that women should have equal rights concerning vocational training, working conditions, and advancement prospects. **PAN**. The decision will take at least 30 months to become law.

**PAN-1**, to all three television sports reporters for film clip after dull film clip of stand-up interviews with sport heroes. **PAN-2**, Where were all those highly-touted portable cameras when the U.S. Women's Olympic Volleyball team played their Chinese counterparts in Pasadena, Texas? **PAT** to the sports departments (particularly KHOU-TV's) for their coverage of the U.S. Women's Gymnastic Competition, held for the first time in Houston.

**PAT** for the . . . Ames Show (KPRC-TV). Ames is a wholesome change in the noon . . . and we still have hopes she will keep her opening-show promise to feature women community leaders and to emphasize her Spanish heritage. (AAUW spokeswomen could not get air time to present their IWY Outstanding Women of the Year project). **PAN** for the inordinate amount of time that has been devoted to set decorations, plants and fashions.

**PAT** to KHOU's new noon-time format, a great improvement over the meek and mild interview show it replaced. Now we have extended news coverage with a woman anchor and shorter and more issue-oriented interviews at the show's end. **PAN** for the daily everything-you-would-ever-want-to-know-about-weather report.

A **PAT** to *Business Week* (November 24) for an excellent article on "The Corporate Woman—Up the Ladder, Finally." It pointed out that after a decade of federal legislation, efforts from the feminist movement, and changes in public opinion, women were making corporate gains in areas other than personnel and consumer relations. Interesting points raised on problems women executives encounter in the "old boys' network."

**PAT** for Joan Nixon's New Year Day column filled with reflections on the old year and what could have been—the first appointment of a woman to the Supreme Court, women turning off their soap operas and campaigning for women candidates, and the AMA developing a Pill for men with the same side effects and possible hazards.

**PAT** to delegates of the AAUW's National convention for cancelling its 1977 convention site, St. Louis, Missouri, because delegates agreed the convention could not be held in a state that has not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. The hotel managers expressed concern that the 5,000 delegates would meet elsewhere. Cities in states which have ratified the ERA are being considered. (Houston is in a state which has!)

**PAN** the Houston *Chronicle* Sports Section (Dec. 11) ran a solo article provocatively headlined, "Girl Athletes Called Dykes," one of a four-part series on homosexual athletes syndicated from the *Washington Star*. The *Star* headline for the same article read, "That Lesbian Image Haunts Women Athletes"—not girl, not dyke. The *Star* also ran the other three articles on the series on homosexual football players. The *Chronicle* did not. Why not? (More on this subject from Janice Cunningham in February *Breakthrough*.)

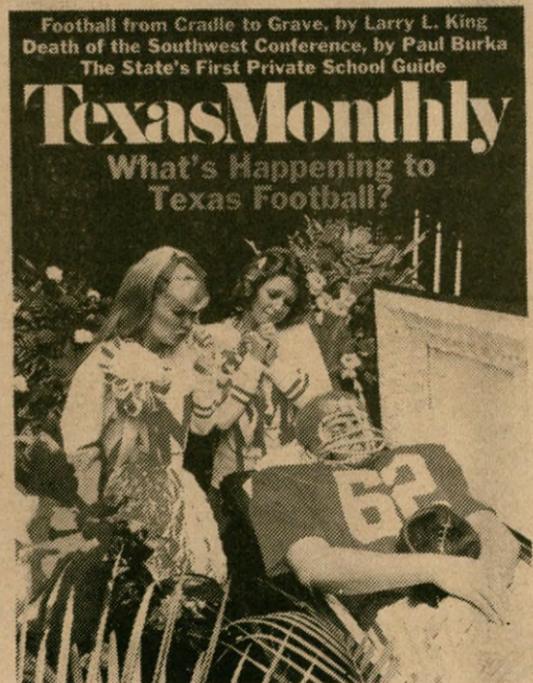
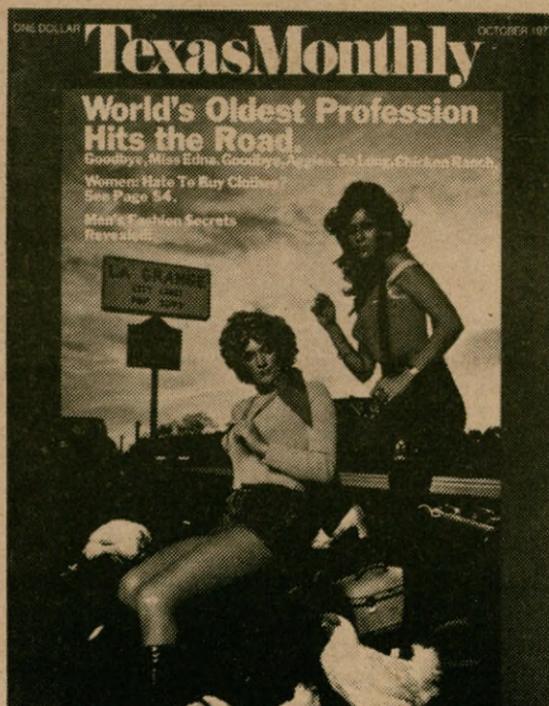
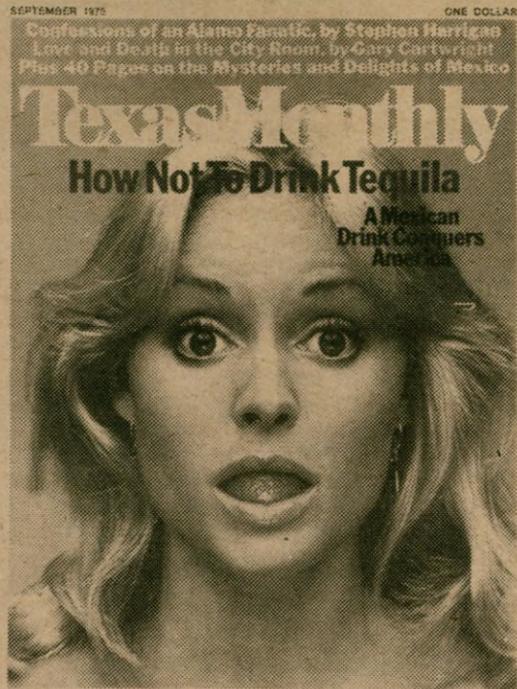
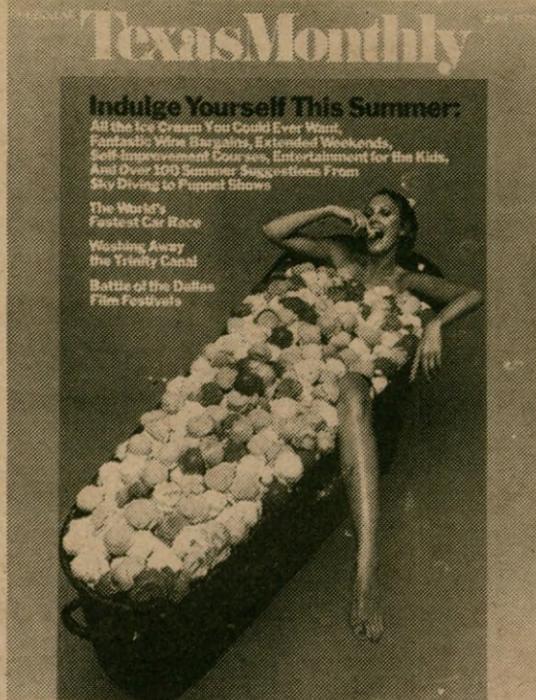
**PAN** to newly-elected HISD board member William Holland who was quoted as saying he believed Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 was wrong. "There is only one thing a girl can beat a boy doing," the 71-year-old retired school principal said. "That's being a girl."

**PAT** to Dr. Benjamin Spock for rewriting his 1947 "Baby and Child Care" book (24 million copies have been sold) to eliminate sexist language and to stress the father's role in parenting. Baby is no longer "he" but "they", or sometimes Spock says, "Let's assume it's a girl." He recommends that fathers spend 50 percent of their time with the child when not at work.

**PAN** to *Post* political cartoonist Bill Saylor for portraying in caricature "militant women's lib" as a woman in a battle tank shooting shells at a male who is armed with stones and bricks. Caught in the middle of the fire is a caricature housewife carrying an ERA placard. (Saylor should be reminded that violence is abhorrent to feminists.) Below Saylor's illustration was a Harris survey on the growth of women's rights support.

**PAN** to the White House for paying its woman editor of the daily White House news summary \$12,000 a year while her male predecessor received \$26,000. Presidential counsel Philip Buchen asserted that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is "not applicable to the White House office."

# Dead Pans



Send your suggestions for the monthly feature, PATS, PANS, and DEADPANS, to BREAKTHROUGH, P.O. Box 8346, Houston, 77004. Names will

only be used for DEADPAN entries and only if you so designate. Postage must be enclosed for anything you wish returned.

# World hope in sisterhood

The term "Latinamerican woman" immediately raises certain questions. In a world made ever smaller by communications and technology, how can one speak of women as Latinamerican, European, North-American, Asian or African? Let us accept as well known the feminine archetypes: the señoritas with their rumbas or sambas, their balconies, serenades, and flowering compliments. And then -- the French women, love; the Italians, the Germans, the North-Americans emancipated at age twenty with their automobiles and universities, who are expected after a



Mercedes Valdivieso

certain time to return to the established order, to the herd and to marriage.

An example: The Encyclopedia Britannica says that Chilean women -- some of the most emancipated in the Western World -- have been "permitted" the greatest freedom in South America. "Permitted" is the exact word because it includes the idea of one who awards freedom: in this case, man. One would have to study very seriously however, the economic and social conditions that fostered that freedom. And when one speaks of "freedom," one speaks also of "class" in Latin America. Freedom is not the same for a woman of the lower classes as it is for a woman of the upper or middle classes.

The subject of freedom does not present itself in the same form to the lower class woman. She cannot argue with parents or husband. She faces a reality called domestic service or factory work, or children to care for or a husband to serve. In Latin America, lower class women with Indian or Negro blood look forward to a common destiny: a brief childhood, briefer adolescence and a long and bitter adult life. Freedom is presented to the lower class woman by and through some man: an occasional companion, lover, husband, sons, and she pays with her servitude. The less the economic development, the more the subjection of women.

One must ask oneself if that reality is very different for the lower class women at unskilled jobs in Europe, the United States, and the rest of the world. It might be that certain

distinctions appear as basic differences. An example would be the capability of acquiring possessions for domestic consumption: automobiles, refrigerators, washing machines, etc. These are items that an advanced industrialization has placed on the market and that advertising has imposed upon us as indispensables. But basically, does an essential difference of "being" exist in the lives of these women on a world-wide level, as far as the possibility of human achievement is concerned?

Although the international press emphasizes in theory the need of an equalization of salaries and promotions for women, in fact it ridicules the implementation of such emphasis. This was clearly noted during the meeting of women in Mexico. Arguments and personal items were converted into "news," while conclusions and serious efforts were minimized or forgotten. A meeting of women was something "comic, grotesque." On the other hand, it is not comic that in Latin America the men in parliament come to blows or insult one another with reference to their respective mothers. That is of no importance and is brushed aside or mentioned only for political purposes.

The examples exist everywhere. The important thing is to observe how and to what ends the game is manipulated. And this game takes place in regard to women from the lower classes on up.

Freedom, of course, is not the same for the worker or the housemaid as it is for the university student or the lady of means. For the student there exists the dialogue with her books, the reference to that historic, sexless voice of art, the humanities, the sciences -- masculine references but without the urgency of immediate fears with respect to women.

Already the young women of Latin America are progressing beyond embroideries, music and exquisite cuisine, without disdaining any of these. They advance in spite of the nostalgic sighs of grandparents, parents, or husbands. But such sighs converge and weigh upon them like a dense cover, making it difficult to breathe. The social pressure remains. The ideal woman is the wife-mother-nestmaker-consoler and cook. Articles, magazines, columns for the lovelorn, all direct their efforts, facilitating the road toward the natural throne of woman-place of honor next to the stove, by the eternal flame of the hearth. No one attacks the throne, but rather the concept of "being enthroned." Thrones can also be overturned in the management of a great company, the presidency of a university, the cabinet of a country. An abundance of thrones would deprive it forever of its unique quality of being the only possible one.

It is true that the idea of freedom frightens many women. Changes of consciousness are the loneliest, the most painful and the most difficult to accomplish. But they are also the most decisive. We must put in balance the great words, "immutable principles," and realize that what exists is not the abstract, but the relative. Words function "in relation to," never in and of themselves. "Motherhood, love, fidelity, religion, honesty," are human concepts; they are mingled with human beings to function, thanks to them, well or badly in relation to them. One must not forget that it has been in moments of struggle when the dimension of "being" has been seen most clearly. There will be women who hide their heads and fortify themselves with "femininity." Fortunately, there will be others who abandon that sort of innocence or fear.

"Liberty" is a hackneyed word whose ultimate significance should be directed towards the full realization of the individual. As an economic class or as a human being, liberty in respect to woman is relative to money and to man, never to her own deep and conscious reality. That consciousness of identity should be set forth at the international level. The sisterhood of women is an essential requisite to its achievement. Let us hope for it.

By MERCEDES VALDIVIESO

## LA MUJER LATINOAMERICANA Y SU RELACION CON LA MUJER UNIVERSAL

Hablar de la mujer latinoamericana plantea de inmediato ciertas interrogaciones. Dentro de este mundo cada vez más reducido por las comunicaciones y la técnica en general, puede hablarse de una mujer latinoamericana, europea, norteamericana, negra o asiática? Demos por conocidos los arquetipos femeninos: señoritas con sus accesorios de rumba o zamba, de balcones españoles, de serenatas, de piropos. Y después las francesas y el amor y las italianas, las alemanas, mas las norteamericanas tan emancipadas a los veinte años con sus automóviles y sus colleges, de las que se espera al cabo de un tiempo, el retorno a lo establecido, a la cordura y al matrimonio.

Un ejemplo: es cierto que a una mujer chilena -- una de las más emancipadas del mundo occidental -- dice la Enciclopedia Británica, se le ha "permitido" más libertad dentro de Sud

América. "Permitido" es la palabra exacta porque incluye a quienes otorgan la libertad, en este caso, el hombre Pero, habría que estudiar muy seriamente cuales han sido las condiciones económicas y sociales que permitieron esa libertad. Y cuando se habla de "libertad" también se habla de "clase" en Latinoamérica. La libertad no es lo mismo para una mujer del pueblo que para una mujer de las clases altas o medias.

A la mujer del pueblo no se le plantea de la misma manera el asunto. No tiene que discutirlo con los padres o el marido. Es una realidad que se llama servicio doméstico o Fabrica de cualquier cosa o Hijos que cuidar o compañero que atender. La mujer del pueblo con mayor o menor sangre india o negra en las venas tiene en Latinoamérica un destino común. Una infancia muy breve, una juventud mas breve aun y una larga y amarga madurez. La libertad no se plantea sino en torno al sexo, a lo inmediato. Es lo único que esa mujer posee y se le plantea con respecto y, a través del hombre. Compañero ocasional, amante, marido, hijos, servidumbre a todos ellos. A menor desarrollo económico más sumisión de la mujer.

Lo interesante es preguntarse si tal realidad es muy diferente para las mujeres del pueblo, para las trabajadoras de los oficios menores tanto en Europa como en Estados Unidos o en todas partes del mundo. Puese ser que ciertas diferencias aparezcan como diferencias básicas, un ejemplo sería el de la capacidad de adquirir bienes de consumo doméstico: automóviles, neveras, lavadoras, etc. Artículos que una mayor industrialización ha puesto en el mercado y la propaganda ha impuesto como elementos imprescindibles. Pero, en profundidad, existe una diferencia esencial, de "ser," en cuanto a posibilidades de realización humana entre estas mujeres de una clase económica inferior a nivel mundial?

Es digno de mencionar que aunque la prensa internacional enfatiza la necesidad de una igualdad de salarios o de promociones para las mujeres, al mismo tiempo ridiculiza la puesta en acción de tales énfasis. Se advirtió esto claramente con ocasión de la reunión de mujeres en México. Las discusiones y los chismes se convirtieron en "la noticia," las conclusiones y los esfuerzos se disminuyeron o se olvidaron. Una reunión de mujeres era algo "cómic," "grotesco." No es cómico que en los parlamentos latinoamericanos los hombres lleguen a las manos o se insulten en sus respectivas madres. Eso no tiene importancia y se disimula o se menciona con un propósito político.

Los ejemplos estan por todas partes. Lo importante es observar como se manipula y por que se manipula el juego. Y este juego se efectúa sobre y desde la mujer del pueblo hacia arriba.

La libertad, por cierto, no es la misma para la obrera o la criada

que para la universitaria o la senora. Para la estudiante existe el diálogo con sus libros, la referencia a esa voz pasada y sin sexo activo del arte, de las humanidades, de la ciencia. Referencias masculinas pero sin las urgencias de los temores inmediatos con respecto a las mujeres.

Ya las muchachas de Latinoamérica van mas alla del bordado y de la música y de las exquisitesses culinarias, sin desdenar ninguna de estas, van mas alla a pesar de los suspiros nostálgicos de los abuelos, los padres o los maridos. Pero tales suspiros se convierten y gravitan como una capa densa que dificulta la respiración. La presión ambiente permanece. La mujer ideal es la mujer madre-companera-nido-consuelo y cocinera. Artículos, revistas, consultores sentimentales todos se inclinan facilitando el camino hacia el trono natural de la mujer, sitial colocado junto al fogón, a la llama eterna del hogar. Nadie ataca ese trono, salvo el que se le entronice. Los tronos pueden desplazarse tambien a la jefatura de una empresa, a la presidencia de una universidad, al consejo de ministros de un país. La abundancia de tronos privaría para siempre de su calidad única a ese único posible.

Es cierto que la idea de libertad asusta a muchas mujeres. Libertad es una palabra cargada de connotaciones de todos colores. Y el miedo no es la menor de ellas. Los cambios de conciencia son los más dolorosos y largos de efectuar. Los más solitarios pero tambien los más decisivos. Poner en la balanza las grandes palabras, los "principios inmutables" y darse cuenta de que no existen abstracciones sino relaciones. De que esas grandes palabras funcionan "en relación a," nunca en sí mismas.

"Maternidad, amor, fidelidad, incluso religión, honestidad" descendieron de los cielos y se mezclaron al ser humano para funcionar gracias a ellos, bien o mal pero en relación a ellos. No se debe olvidar que ha sido en los mementos de lucha cuando se ha visto mas clara toda la dimensión del ser. Habrá mujeres que escondan la cabeza y se parapeten en "La feminidad" Habrá otras que, afortunadamente, perdieron esa clase de inocencia o ... de miedo.

"Libertad" esa palabra tan traída y llevada cuya última significación debería estar origida hacia la plena realización del individuo, cuando se refiere a la mujer se plantea solo con relación al hombre. Como clase económica o como ser humano la libertad respecto a la mujer es relativa al dinero y al hombre, nunca en conciencia y honda realidad de ella misma. Esa conciencia de autenticidad se debe plantear a nivel internacional. La fraternidad femenina es un requisito esencial para lograrla, Esperemosla.

# Reviews

## A battle of wills

Michael McClure's *The Beard*, produced and directed by Gary Chason at Houston's Museum of Modern Art, 610 West Alabama, is like an object encased in a plastic bag. It moves, thrusts, rolls over as it develops a rhythm within its confined space.

The play opened here December 11. First presented about 10 years ago in San Francisco, *The Beard* gives us Jean Harlow (Claine Hartt) and Billy the Kid (Barry Gremillion) as prototypes of sex object and macho male thrown together time without end in hell or heaven or some eternity. They project themselves and relate to each other through the stereotypes they embody: she the writhing silky-silk-swathed body with contrapuntal floating boa, he in skin-tight black with boots.

While ostensibly about sex, the play is very interesting from a feminist point of view as a struggle of wills: whose will is stronger, whose will dominates. Each claims to be in control and to be willing what is happening—indeed, willing the very existence of the other.

She frequently repeats the statement that she has many selves and he must find the real one. For all of his momentary show of brutality (which results in a torn stocking and bitten toe) it is she who is in control, she who sets the pace and decides how quickly or slowly they proceed as each seeks dominance. He has moments of independence, but they seem like petulant reactions to her defiance. When they finally reach the point which was the purpose of each from the

start—sex—it is sex which is satisfying to her (cunnilingus).

It is a beautifully coordinated production, visually and audially.

The erotic aspects of *The Beard* do not seem shocking today. Apparently the play was "shocking" when it opened in the 60's. But in the interim, we have had "O Calcutta," "Deep Throat" and legions of R-rated movies to accustom us to the idea that yes, we all have a body, and the body is a legitimate subject for art without fretting about that indefinable concept, obscenity.

At MOMA's Gallery-Theater the theatrical experience is not limited to the playing area; it extends out onto the sidewalk, where large plastic woman's legs project from the front wall of the building. This recalls Niki de St. Phalle's "Moma" in Brussels several years ago; an immense plaster body of woman was thrust between her legs.

Sounds like the ultimate portrayal of woman as an object, but at any rate, at 610 West Alabama the male body is also celebrated by being objectified through art. Inside the theater, one is surrounded by erotic sculpture, painting, drawing and photography.

Bravo Sandra Stevens, Yannis Manolakos, Gary Chason et al. of MOMA! A gallery-theater of erotic art in Houston is to be welcomed. (Note: The play is held over through Sunday, February 1. Performances take place at 8 p.m. Thursdays - Sunday. Tickets are \$3.50 and reservations may be made by calling 528-3627.)

GERTRUDE BARNSTONE

## Play humor panned

**THE FRONT PAGE, Alley Theater through January 11**

SUE WITTIE

*The Front Page* is a comedy that gets its laughs at the expense of "niggers," "tarts" and seduced stenographers. One is reminded of the feature line of a recent *Ms.* article: "Why we aren't laughing anymore . . ."

This Alley Theater/Nina Vance production, partially funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, D.C., a federal agency, and sanctioned by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, painfully reminds us of the way it was 50 years ago and how far we have to go.

An incredible John Kenny set establishes the tawdry image of a 1920's press room in Chicago. The newsmen treat women only as objects of derisive scorn or equally offensive sexual imagery as they recount recent seductions. The women who are seduced are mentioned by group nomenclature such as waitresses, stenographers and other "public" women.

Negative stereotypes of women, Blacks and low-status workers are woven through the plot by the end of the first act, but the worst was yet to come. In Acts Two and Three, 4 stereotypical female characters pass through the press room. Neither the good-hearted cleaning woman, the misunder-

stood prostitute, the bitch mother-in-law nor the clinging, weeping bride-to-be come to any productive end.

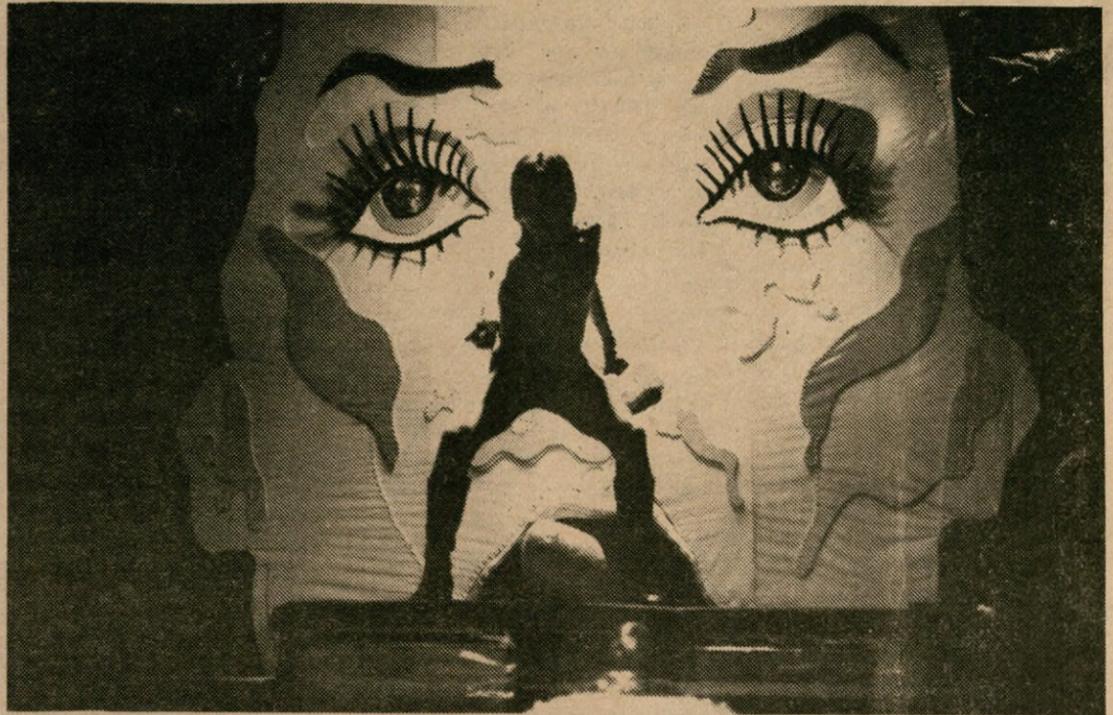
The "tart" throws herself out a window to save the life of the one man who has treated her well. Her destruction is the only "productive" end for a street woman.

The bride and her mother, portrayed as castrating manipulators, cling to men. The

methods merely differ as the mother tears into the leading man with caustic tongue while the "little woman" weeps her way to victory.

The view of women is everything contingent upon their ability to please the men of the press room. The deepest insult does not lie in the writing of Hecht and MacArthur but in having U.S. tax dollars and a Bicentennial stamp of approval on something so degenerating to Blacks and women.

Humor is a form of aggression in society and expresses those emotions not capable of being carried out overtly. Covertly they appear on stage. Perhaps theatergoers realize its "historical" nature but it remains to be seen if the status of Blacks and women has changed enough in fifty years to circumvent white male supremacy. We cannot stand by without protesting negative treatment in the arts no matter what its historic context.



By reputation *The Beard*, an erotic play which opened at the Houston Museum of Modern Art and runs through February 1, "sounds like the

ultimate portrayal of woman as object," observes feminist critic Gertrude Barnstone, but in the play "the male body is also celebrated through

art." Barnstone sees the play as a triumph over wills. And, Jean Harlow's will-be-done by the play's end.

## Assert yourself - act equal

Do you begin almost every sentence with:

"I'm sorry . . ."

"It's only my opinion . . ."

"I know this sounds stupid, but . . ."

"I kinda think . . ." or "I sorta feel . . .?"

Well then, read *The New Assertive Woman*.

There are many books telling women how-to-put-it-all-together. *The New Assertive Woman* is an all-together "how-to" book written to help women, conditioned in dependent behavior, to become independent.

One of its basic premises is that women must be aware of their personal rights (see chart, "Everywoman's Bill of Rights") and assert themselves in repossessing their basic human rights.

The authors of *The New Assertive Woman* assert that the ultimate right is to change behavior. Conditioned behavior is learned and can be unlearned. When women choose to ignore or do not claim their rights, they resort to playing games such as "the sufferer" or "after all I've done for you."

**Example:**

**Non-Assertive**

If you appreciated all I've done for you, you would want to help me more.

**Assertive**

I need the cleaning picked up. Will you please stop by and get it before four o'clock?

Another game is, "It doesn't matter to me; whatever you want."

**Example:**  
**Non-Assertive**

It doesn't make any difference. Any place you want to go—whatever you want to eat or do.

**Assertive**

I want to go see a movie. I would like to eat fish. I'm tired and want to rest and do nothing.

Unlike the manipulating *Fascinating Woman* and the submissive *Total Woman*, *The New Assertive Woman* attempts to undo years of "feminization." It tries to help a woman find her own independent identity and to be responsible to herself for her feelings, ideas, and behavior.

The authors include a test of female assertiveness:

1. Did you say what you wanted to say?
2. Were you direct and unapologetic?
3. Did you stand up for your own rights without infringing on the rights of the other person?
4. Were you sitting or standing in an assertive posture?
5. Did your voice sound strong and

calm? Were your gestures relaxed?

6. Did you feel good about yourself after you finished speaking?

Once a woman learns to be assertive, she has acquired skills that will give her more choices, more independence, more self-esteem and more control of her own life.

Women are born equal. *The New Assertive Woman* shows women how to act equal.

**Everywoman's Bill of Rights\***

1. The right to be treated with respect
2. The right to have and express your own feelings and opinions
3. The right to be listened to and taken seriously
4. The right to set your own priorities
5. The right to say *no* without feeling guilty
6. The right to ask for what you want
7. The right to get what you pay for
8. The right to ask for information from professionals
9. The right to make mistakes
10. The right to choose not to assert yourself

\*Excerpts from *The New Assertive Woman* by Lynn Bloom, Karen Coburn, and Joan Pearlman. ©copyright 1975 by Lynn Bloom, Karen Coburn, and Joan Pearlman. Used with the permission of the Delacorte Press.



discrimination against women. In our judicial system, this could be partially accomplished by appointing a woman to the Supreme Court. He failed us. Now it has been predicted that the Senate will ignore our plea for justice and confirm yet another man to rule on cases concerning the nation's majority—women. I urge the Committee to exercise great caution in reviewing this nomination. The Committee's responsibility is all the greater in these unique circumstances.

The entire process by which Judge Stevens was selected was dominated by men. The President's policy advisors were all men—only after extensive public outrage did the President even bother to add the names of two women to the list referred to the American Bar Association for evaluation.

The ABA committee which reviewed the President's list of candidates, does not have one woman among its eleven members, although in 1974 women made up seven percent of all lawyers and judges in the nation and almost 20 percent of law school enrollees. Just as in Title VII cases the courts have increasingly

## Lilith needs pad

In Hebrew legend, Lilith was the first woman.

Like Adam, she was made out of dust.

Lilith refused to be subservient to Adam on the grounds that since both had been made from the same dust, they were equal. Does she sound like a feminist?

A new city-wide women's center, one which will be a meeting place for many women's organizations and businesses, was incorporated in mid-December as "Lilith, Unlimited, Womansplace in Houston."

It appears its founders have named the woman-child before finding the woman-space.

"We are looking for a commercial property in Houston," says Lynne Mutchler, one of the founders. "We hope the community can assist us."

"We'd like to find a huge barn of a building, with a variety of room sizes so that we may have an auditorium for large meetings, smaller rooms for business offices and suites, an area for child-care facilities, spaces for a feminist library, press, and a media suite, and perhaps even a gymnasium

recognized the potential for bias in evaluations of minorities by whites and of women by men, so too the ABA committee, dominated by white men, cannot be inferred to be without sex or race bias. Thus, it is not surprising that the exceedingly few women who were submitted by the President for evaluation were not given a top score as was Judge Stevens. Nor is it surprising that the man chosen by them has a record of consistent opposition to women's rights. In case after case, he expressly opposed women's interests. These cases are important. They warrant review.

In *Rose v. Bridgeport Brass Co.*, Judge Stevens erroneously construed the law and revealed his lack of understanding of sex discrimination. In *Rose*, the plaintiff alleged that she had been the victim of discrimination when a job reclassification by the defendant employer resulted in reducing the percentage of women in the job from 55 to 10 percent.

In *Rose*, the plaintiff's statistical showing should have shifted the burden of proof to the defendant employer. However, the federal district court erroneously dismissed the plaintiff without shifting this burden. The majority of the Court of Appeals for

for sporting events as well as self-defense classes," she said.

In addition to space requirements, Kay Whyburn, another founder, spelled out other "absolutes."

"It must be located on a bus line, it must have off-street parking, and it must be fairly and reasonably priced."

Lilith will be financed in part by the rental of space to feminist professionals, businesses, and organizations.

"We hope Lilith will serve the total needs of Houston women. That is our hope," Mutchler said.

But first a building must be found and the proposals written to buy or lease it. If anyone has or knows of a suitable space, they should contact either Lynne Mutchler (3303 Elmridge, Houston 77025, 667-6932) or Kay Whyburn (2234 Goldsmith, Houston 77005, 667-8556).

Need it be said, donations of money or property will be gratefully appreciated by Lilith's founders.

LYNN MUTCHLER

the Seventh Circuit reversed, stating that the statistical information surely raises the possibility that the job reclassification has a discriminatory effect.

Judge Stevens stated in his dissent from the majority that he would have affirmed the district court's decision even though he, himself, acknowledged that the lower court had applied the wrong procedural standard in granting summary judgment for the defendant. Judge Stevens based his dissent on what he perceived to be the failure of the plaintiff to include any evidence of discriminatory intent on the part of the employer. Significantly, the Supreme Court, two years earlier, had stated that the existence of discriminatory intent is not a prerequisite to making out a Title VII violation.

In 1973, the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* held that a woman has an absolute right to choose whether to have an abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy and a qualified right thereafter. The guarantee of this Constitutional right has not been forthcoming, however, to hundreds of thousands of women who live in areas where the only available medical facilities close their doors to women and their doctors seeking to exercise this right.

Judge Stevens is partly responsible for this tragic development. Some six months after the Supreme Court's landmark decision, Judge Stevens ruled that a woman two months pregnant, trapped by a severe snowstorm in her own county—which contained only private hospitals which refused to allow her doctor to terminate her pregnancy—was not entitled to relief. Bellin Memorial Hospital was regulated by the State of Wisconsin and had received extensive Federal funding under the Hill Burton Act as well as other Federal programs.

In a case challenging race discrimination by a private hospital with Hill Burton funds, the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit found, in 1963, that there was sufficient state government involvement to extend the constitutional prohibitions against race discrimination to the hospital. The Fourth Circuit has applied this rule to the question of a woman's right to choose. The Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has found a private hospital to reflect sufficient state action on a slightly different rationale. But Judge Stevens, seeming to bend over backwards to limit this basic right due all women, rejected the Fourth Circuit precedent, finding the amount of state involvement insufficient to require Bellin Memorial Hospital to open its doors to the plaintiff's doctor.

The courts of appeals are currently divided on this issue, and the Supreme Court recently declined to review the question. Thus, the law will remain unsettled. Nevertheless, it cannot be overemphasized that the women of this nation will view a vote to approve Judge Stevens as a vote to limit the rights of many women to choose whether to have a child.

The opinion of Judge Stevens in *Dyer v. Blair* provided yet another example of this tendency. The facts were that the Illinois Senate had voted on the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) during the 77th General

Assembly and, on the strength of a simple majority, entered in its journal that ERA had passed and referred ERA to the House of Representatives. The House did not act during that session. When the 78th General Assembly was convened, opponents of ERA engineered a procedural change, the "Rule 42". Rule 42 required proposed amendments to the federal Constitution to pass by a three-fifths vote rather than a simple majority. When the vote was taken in the House, ERA received more votes than required for a simple majority, but fewer than three-fifths. It was declared to have failed. As might have been expected, Judge Stevens upheld the three-fifths rule, the practical effect of which was to defeat ERA in the State of Illinois.

Judge Stevens' propensity to find against female plaintiffs was again demonstrated in *Cohen v. Illinois Institute of Technology*, a case in which a woman, repeatedly denied tenure, alleged sex discrimination by a private higher-education institution receiving federal and state funds. In his opinion, Judge Stevens denied the plaintiff any discovery rights to establish facts supporting her state action claim on the grounds that she had failed to allege that the state had "affirmatively supported or expressly approved any discriminatory act or policy, or even had actual knowledge of any such discrimination."

Judge Stevens thus requires civil rights plaintiffs to show affirmative conduct by the state in support of discrimination. However, the Supreme Court in *Burton v. Wilmington Parking Authority* took a position far more supportive of civil rights, when it found mere acquiescence by the state in the discrimination to be sufficient:

By its inaction, the Authority, and through it the State, has not only made itself a party to the refusal of service (to blacks), but has elected to place its power, property and prestige behind the admitted discrimination.

Moreover, the burden imposed by Judge Stevens on the woman in this case went far beyond that required by other courts of appeals considering similar claims by women asserting their rights to equal employment.

The important thing to remember about Judge Stevens' participation in

*Bowe v. Colgate*, is that the real decision of this case had been made by the Court of Appeals before his appointment. Therefore, his silent acquiescence in the unanimous court's opinion on the limited and secondary issues presented when *Bowe v. Colgate* was appealed the second time cannot be taken as evidence of sensitivity to women's issues. Judge Stevens has never been the author of an opinion on behalf of a woman litigating a "women's issue" although he wrote some 240 opinions during his tenure.

The decisions in which he participated while sitting on the Circuit Court raise the question of whether

he can fairly, judiciously and impartially review those cases which would

reach him as a Justice of the Supreme Court and whether he could render

fair and impartial decisions governed by laws and facts applicable to each

case. His history as a Circuit Judge clearly indicates that he cannot. In many of his decisions he has been at

odds with his own Circuit. More importantly, he has refused guidance

from the Supreme Court decisions on these issues by which he was bound as

a Circuit Judge. His decisions have flown in the face of the applicable laws duly passed by a Congress elected by the people, both men and women. Thus, NOW believes that Judge Stevens lacks impartiality—a requisite for appointment to the Supreme Court.

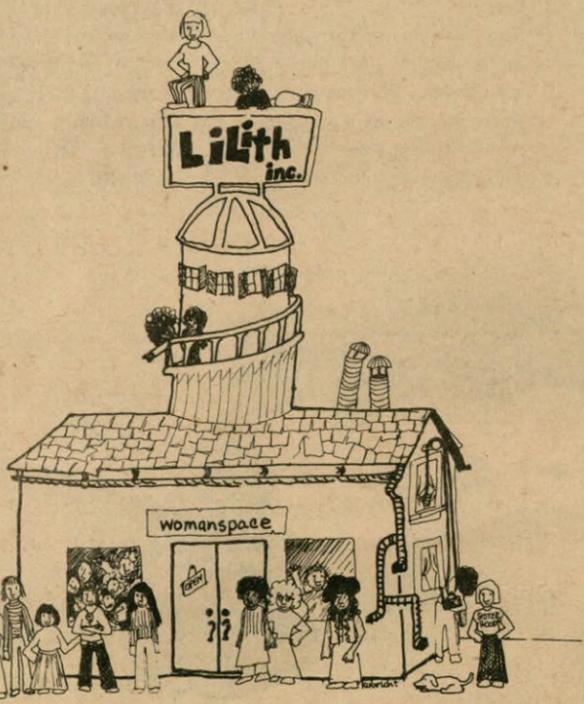
The National Organization for Women believes that from this record an antagonism to women's rights on the part of Judge Stevens is clear. For this reason, we oppose his confirmation.

POSTSCRIPT: In spite of the Stevens record of insensitivity toward issues affecting women Elaine Latourell—the only non-majority caucus member on the executive board of NOW—made a public statement saying NOW was "basically pleased" with the Stevens nomination. She added she felt Stevens had a reputation for making decisions on the basis of the best legal precedent and that "women don't have anything to fear because our issues stand up to intellectual scrutiny."

The following telegram was sent 11:30 a.m., December 9, 1975 to Senator James O. Eastland, Chairman, Judiciary Committee. Copies were sent to President Gerald Ford and Senator Charles Percy. Copies were distributed to all members of the Judiciary Committee.

The National Women's Political Caucus is appalled that Judge John Paul Stevens, the man currently under consideration for the second most important position in the United States government, has not, by his own admission, thought through his opinion on the Equal Rights Amendment. His reliance on the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment indicates his lack of understanding of the need for an ERA. The court have not categorically declared women, like blacks, to be a suspect classification which would mandate the court's close scrutiny of sex based discrimination laws. Accordingly some claims of sex based discrimination, relying on 14th Amendment protection, have been lost before the Supreme Court. These cases would most likely be turned around by the enactment of ERA. Judge Stevens' indifference to the most significant piece of legislation concerning women today is an affront to the women of this country. We urge the committee to examine him at great length to determine if he has sufficient sensitivity to the legal needs of the 53 percent of this country's population who are women.

Audrey Rowe Colom  
Chairwoman, National  
Woman's Political Caucus



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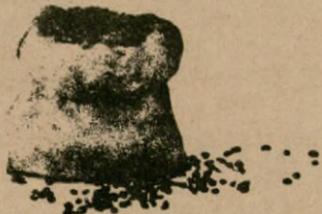
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# Crimes remain unsolved

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma State Police troopers raided an exclusive private club 10 miles outside Oklahoma City late last night and arrested the club manager and 17 members who, according to a state police spokesman, were watching a pornographic movie that shocked the veteran law enforcement officers. In the movie, a young woman was actually murdered right there on the screen," the state police spokesman said, "and the killer, a man in a black hood, drank her blood." The 17 arrested club members told the state police they paid \$300 each to watch the underground skin flick. They were released without charges. The club manager is being held for questioning. (Oct. 31, 1975)

LOS ANGELES (AP)—FBI officials here are searching for the makers and distributors of two pornographic movies in which women were murdered. Local police officials have identified the women as "two aspiring actresses from Alabama" who responded to an actress-wanted ad in a trade newspaper. The FBI says the films were made and distributed in late September and early October and viewers paid as much as \$500 each to see them.

A Los Angeles psychologist who has studied rapist-murderers and who has seen the two pornographic films reports that to some men, inflicting or seeing death is "the ultimate orgasm." (Nov. 1, 1975)

HOUSTON—A faded roadmap peppered with black pins traces the trail of violence against nine Houston women in less than eight weeks. The map hangs on the wall in the Houston Police Department's homicide division. The pins mark the apartments, houses, vacant lots, and ditches where these women were found murdered.

Their killers still roam freely on the streets of Houston.

Between 1970-1975, 573 women have been murdered and 104 of these deaths remain unsolved.

The first murder victim in 1970 was Sheila Elaine Mouton, a young pregnant working woman whose body was found in an abandoned house on Gray Street.

"That was sort of the beginning, an indication of things to come," remembers Lannie Stephenson, a now-retired detective who was the only woman in the homicide division in 1970 and who worked on the Mouton case.

The "beginning" Stephenson refers to is the five year string of unsolved murders.

The 104 murder cases are stuffed in folders in the office of Breckenridge Porter, the division's lieutenant of detectives. Most of them have not received any followup work since the original offense reports were filed.

**Fifty-one were Black women. Thirty-seven were white. Thirteen were Chicana. Three were foreigners.**

More than 50 percent of these murders occurred in the central city—Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Wards. But they have also occurred in River Oaks, Champions, Spring Branch, the waterfront, South Park, and Tanglewood.

In more than 90 percent of the cases, women were raped before or after being killed.

Homicide Capt. L. D. Morrison cites what he calls an "age old problem" as the reason these cases have remained unsolved.

"We just don't have enough people," he says. "This division has less than 50 people who are spread out over three shifts. There're at least two murders a day in this city and in addition to all these cases, we're like the garbage can. We handle rapes, aggravated assaults, assaults to murder, extortion, bomb threats, obscene calls, serious threats to take life . . . and if someone injures a dog to hunt that dog's owner, that's our baby too. Hell, what do you expect from 50 people?"

Morrison views his detectives as hardworking people; however, Stephenson who worked at the central station for 20 years, contradicts that.

"They're great when it comes to working on routine beer joint or family squabble killings, Stephenson says of her former colleagues. "The killer is usually there to surrender or someone knows who did it and will lead the cops to that person. But when it comes to cases involving few clues and few details, investigation is required. That's a hated word around the station," she says. "Nobody wants to do any real investigation. It's too hard."

**The division's inability to solve the killings of 104 women could very well lie in the police department's attitude toward almost all assault cases involving women.**

A directive issued three years ago is pasted on the wall in the homicide division.

**"TO ALL CAPTAINS-IN-CHARGE ON WEEKENDS:** Effective immediately, unless a woman has been admitted to a hospital, she will not be able to file assault charges against her husband or boyfriend until Monday morning when we can counsel with an assistant district attorney or a municipal court judge. Tell them to come back Monday."

The order is signed by then-Police Chief Herman Short.

When a woman does manage to file an assault charge, the police do not arrest the accused man. Rather, they send him a letter informing him charges have been filed. The letter asks the man to go to the stationhouse and post bond "when you find it convenient."

Currently, there are over 1,000 outstanding arrest warrants against men who have beaten their wives. The police claim they do not have the "manpower" to arrest these assailants.

State law—written by a legislature that is overwhelmingly male—tends to be just as discriminating against women victims of assault.

According to the statutes, unless a woman is beaten so severely that she requires medical attention, she cannot file a county criminal charge—one which could land the man behind bars.

If a woman has been mildly beaten, she can merely file a municipal court charge. If the man is convicted, he can be fined only up to \$100.

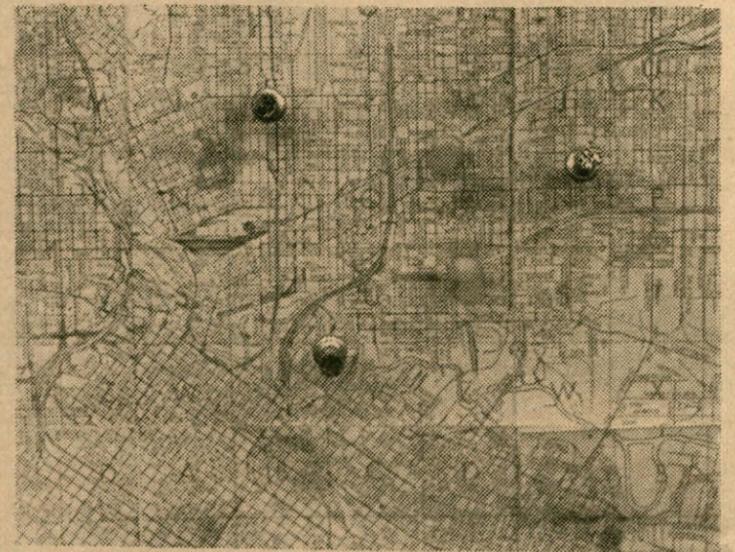
"My argument has been that the police go to great lengths to avoid taking action against husbands or boyfriends guilty of criminal assault, thereby encouraging vicious crimes."

former detective Lannie Stephenson says.

"My ex-colleagues assert that many people in Houston do not ordinarily think of violence between husband and wife as criminal behavior. In fact," she says, "they tend to think that an occasional beating is part of a relationship which gives some satisfaction to both parties."

Stephenson is convinced that it is this overall attitude that male detectives hold toward women in domestic muggings that keeps them from vigorously investigating the 104 unsolved murders still logged on homicide books.

THOMAS WRIGHT



"Man's discovery that his genitals could serve as a weapon to generate fear must rank as one of the most important discoveries of prehistoric times, along with the use of fire and the first crude stone ax."

— Susan Brownmiller in  
*Against Our Will:  
Men, Women, and Rape*

## To all newsmen

We reprint a memorandum which was issued by Ray Miller, News Director, KPRC-TV, 10 days prior to the station's signing an agreement with the Houston Area Chapter of NOW during the 1974 license renewal period. The agreement called for an increase in coverage of women's news and other programming and employment gains. The memorandum spells out non-sexist language standards which we hope Houston news directors will implement in their departments. *Breakthrough* would like feedback from the station's news departments regarding this New Year's request.

"June 13, 1974

"TO: All News Reporters and News Writers

"Let us follow a regular policy of keeping sexist stereotypes out of our copy and off the air.

"As a general rule, you can do this by avoiding words that suggest a person in a certain role is likely to be of a certain sex — police officers instead of policemen, chairpersons instead of chairmen, members of Congress instead of Congressmen, and so on. (But it is OK to call Bill Archer Congressman Archer, since you are dealing with a specific member and you know his sex.)

"Unless you know of some strong feelings to the contrary on the part of the people you are writing about use the title 'Ms.' instead of Mrs. or Miss, but this is not to say that women should be always referred to as 'Ms.' It is better to refer to them by their names. Hazel Bracken, for instance, is Hazel Bracken — or Bracken — or Board member Hazel Bracken — and does not need to be referred to as either 'Mrs.' or 'Ms.' for purposes of reporting the news.

"And the women's movements should be referred to by their proper names, or referred to as women's movements, and not women's lib movements."

"Thank you,  
" [signed] Ray Miller"

## Recipe for an oil change

Check your oil. Does it look like burned gravy? Going to fund raisers, meetings, pickets, and whatever, have you put 6000 miles on your car? If both answers are yes, well it's time for a change (oil change). I have just the recipe:

jack and two jacks stands or large bricks (optional)  
5 quarts of oil (4 for 4-cylinder cars)  
1 oil filter  
1 crescent wrench  
1 oil filter wrench  
1 large pan  
1 oil can spout or can opener

Take all ingredients out to your car and proceed to change oil. First jack your car up in the front. Just so the car won't fall on your head, always secure it under the frame (square-shaped bar running length of car on both sides) with jack stands. Next locate the oil pan. Be careful not to drain your transmission fluid. It's easy to mix the two pans up. The oil pan is forward of the transmission pan. Adjust your

crescent wrench to a perfect fit on your oil pan plug. Turn counter-clockwise. Grunts, groans and screams are permitted on difficult plugs. If it doesn't work, try a little rust lubricant (WD-40, Liquid Wrench, etc.) or a longer wrench. Have the pan handy to catch the oil. Be careful, it may be hot. Replace and tighten plug. Don't forget the plug's washer if it has one. While you are down there, see if you can locate the oil filter. If not, you may have to look under the hood. Place the oil filter wrench around the filter and again turn counter-clockwise. Here too, grunts, groans and screams are allowed. Since filters have a rubber gasket at the top, the hot engine may melt its seal. In this case a dirty word (just one) is permitted to loosen it. Catch the oil. Oil the new rubber gasket and install new filter (clockwise). Tighten ½ turn only. Pour oil into engine. Start her up! (or him, whatever). Check underneath the car for leaks. No leaks? RIDE ON, SISTERS!

These instructions may differ slightly on old or foreign cars. If your filter fits inside a metal cylinder, the one thing to remember is to remove the old gasket, oil the new gasket and set it in place on the car before re-installing the cylinder.

JAN TARVER

# To and from

**Services for Women**—At our new women's center (see story, page 12) we'd like to have a directory of services and information for women, in such areas as child care, legal services, health care, abortion agencies, welfare rights, legislation, and so on.

Any ideas? Suggestions for areas to include? Names of agencies which help women? We would appreciate your input. Send ideas to *Breakthrough*.

## Wanted—Advice for Medicare Folks

Can anyone come up with a service that will answer questions for Medicare clients? Most of the literature distributed by the local Social Security office is inadequate and not tailored to specific individual problems. Send ideas to *Breakthrough*.

**Feminist Library**—Lilith, Womans place will have a library and needs books, periodicals and everything else a library needs. Rather than give gifts individually to my friends this holiday season, I subscribed to periodicals and bought books for our new Feminist Library. Until the new center opens they will be housed with *Breakthrough*. To avoid duplication when giving your contributions, call Sue Wittie at 524-9500 to ask for titles of existing collection.

**Space for Rent**—We've got a building in the Town and Country vicinity suitable for a manufacturer's representative, a wholesaler, small business, storage or a studio. Call 464-5772.

A "Democratic Party Participation Workshop" designed primarily for women, minorities and older persons—groups traditionally under-represented at the polls and in the party structure—will take place on Saturday, January 31 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Houston Student Center (check information desk for exact room). Four separate workshops are planned: voter registration and the new voter registration law; precinct organization; conventions and the delegate system; and the Presidential primary. The same workshop is planned for North County residents that day. A meeting place has not been selected. For more information call County Coordinator Barbara Stanley at 729-1793.

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

**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 childcare 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.

The United Farm Workers are planning a march in late January to take their boycott to Galveston. Anyone interested in joining the March on Galveston should call 237-0173.

**University of Houston Sponsors Women's Programs**—Starting in late January, the University of Houston will conduct forums on women's issues. Tuesdays from 12 noon till 1 p.m. in the large dining room in the Satellite. The noon forum will be planned by both the Women's Affairs Director and the Women's Advocate.

**Evelyn Reed at the UH**—Forum Committee of the Program Council is bringing Reed, the author of *Women's Evolution* to the campus, February 4, UH Houston Room, 8 p.m.

**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*.

**Be A Part of the Communications Revolution!**—Starting mid-February, Rice Media Center announces three public evening workshops in film and videotape making.

1. For community groups, A TOURING WORKSHOP will travel to your center with super-8 sound equipment and instruction to help with your project.

2. For individuals, there will be a practical introduction to documentary film and videotape making which utilizes low cost techniques.

3. For the graphic artist, we offer a practical introduction to film animation techniques.

All equipment access included in the cost of the course. Enrollment limited. For information, call Rice Media Center, 527-8101.

**Seeking Employment**—Would like to work with real estate developer, builder or architect. Two years' experience in real estate

sales; one year with large residential builder as administrative assistant. Five years total working experience—office skills and sales background. Rita Highsmith, 463-0174.

**Personsitter Needed** for two lively boys. Good pay. Must like kids. Call 522-3343 after 6 p.m.

**Wanted—Information** regarding day-care or private school with expanded-hour service (i.e., before 7 a.m. and after 6 p.m.). Write *Breakthrough*.

**Personal**—Have gas clothes dryer, no gas tap. Will trade for electric dryer and I'll help you install it at your gas tap. 667-6932.

**Women's Self-Development Courses**—I offer one-day seminars and six-week courses for groups. The skills development course helps women use their mental, emotional and physical inner resources. I also teach transactional analysis, how to give and get strokes, how to increase one's energy level. Mary Drouin, 203 Stoney Creek, Houston 77024. Tel.: 468-8737.

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



## Women's who's who

### HARRIS COUNTY WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

Chair Sharon Macha, Office: 627-7180, Home: 723-7426

Vice-Chair Helen Hopkins, (Press) 644-3643

Priorities: Electing women to political office, Lobbying for legislation, ERA.

### WEAL--WOMEN'S EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE

President Kay Whyburn 667-8556  
Press Sheila Silverman 668-0601  
Priorities: Employment, Education.

### CULLEN STREET NOW

Convening January 28.

Priorities: Women in Transition

### INNER CITY NOW

Convener Gloria Guardiola 524-2724

Press Cilia Estrada 222-8949  
Priorities: Criminal Justice, Women and Health

### NORTHWEST HOUSTON NOW

President Sarah Cooper 468-4553

Press Gay Cosgriff 463-0359  
Priority: Education

### SOUTHWEST HOUSTON NOW

President Peggy Hall 629-9015

Press Annette Hikel 774-2395  
Priority: Older Women

### WEST UNIVERSITY NOW

Convener Patty O'Kane 237-9867

Press Marilyn Jones 528-3905  
Priorities: Battered Wives, Media Reform, Child Care

### BAY AREA NOW

Rotating chair  
Press Betty Yancey 534-6244

Priorities: Education, Rape

### HOUSTON AREA NOW

President Betty Barnes 487-2489

Press Nancy Kuydendall 664-4152  
Priorities: Masculine Mystique, Sexuality and Lesbianism, Employment

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## NOW Council meets

Representatives of the five NOW chapters in the greater Houston area and two convening chapters will hold an organizational meeting to create a Greater Houston NOW Council on Monday, February 2 at 8 p.m. at the Mercantile Bank, S.

Braeswood at Stella Link.

Plans are to make the council a coordinating body which will facilitate the flow of information among the regional chapters and between the chapters and the media.

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**Billie Carr** —National Democratic Committeewoman  
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