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self-portraits*





SUZANNE PAUL

Whitmire: A First at Last

by Dixie Lee Hawkins

"If I had known on the first of May that a black, a Mexican-American and a man from the Chamber of Commerce would get in the race and that two of them would spend over \$150,000 each, I wouldn't have done it. I run to win," says Kathy Whitmire with a confidence that helped her overcome all odds and win this year's City Controller race.

In the process of becoming the first woman elected to office in Houston and Harris County, Whitmire put together what Barbara Strong, press secretary to Mayor Fred Hofheinz, calls, "the best organized campaign in that race." Whitmire's style required more effort and planning than other types of campaigns, but it produced a 58.6 percent margin of victory.

In the words of her volunteer coordinator Carolyn Nichols, "Any woman who's interested in politics in this city should pick her brains. Kathy knows the real guts of a campaign."

One reason is that Whitmire was not the typical "first-timer." Her late husband, Jim Whitmire, ran unsuccessfully for City Council in 1973 and 1975, and she was very much a part of his campaign efforts. In fact, several supporters say privately that she is the better campaigner. Whitmire herself comments, "If I had not been politically active before this (the Controller's race), it would have been fofy. You have to be involved in the process and know the players."

From her husband's two races, Whitmire learned that a district style campaign for a legislative or congressional seat from a relatively smaller area would not work in

a citywide race, especially in a city the size of Houston. Some sort of media campaign is necessary, she says.

Whitmire has been active in several legislative races—her brother-in-law John Whitmire's successful campaigns for state representative in 1972 and 1976 (he was unopposed in 1974) and in JoAnn Gerhardt's and Karey Bresenhan's unsuccessful 1974 bids for the legislature. In addition, Whitmire served as a delegate to the Senatorial District 15 Democratic Conventions in 1974 and 1976 and to the 1976 State Democratic Convention.

The personal acquaintances and contacts from those activities helped her own campaign enormously. Some 120 "politically active" people, including five state representatives and one state senator, sponsored a benefit party for her in August.

"Many people active in party politics—not entirely Democratic—and the women's movement publicly put their names on an invitation before two of my opponents had even announced," Whitmire says.

Her previous political involvements also paid off in name identification and votes. A poll conducted last May showed she had about a 33 percent name identification, compared to opponent Steve Jones' 16 percent, even though he had run for City Controller in two other elections and Whitmire had never run for office. She attributes part of her name identification to her brother-in-law's and late husband's campaigns.

The lists of volunteers and contributors who support Whitmire also reflect her involvement in several professional and civic organizations, as well as the women's movement: the Houston Chapter of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Women Accountants, the University of

Houston College of Business Alumni Association, St. Paul's United Methodist Church and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. She co-chaired the Harris County Women's Political Caucus and served on the steering committee for the National Women's Political Caucus.

But even more critical, insiders say, were Whitmire's qualifications and her knowledge of the issues. Her key workers and advisers stress this was the most important element in the public's recognition of Whitmire as a "serious candidate."

"People will say they'll vote for a woman IF she's qualified. They usually don't stress the qualifications that much for a man," observes Dr. Richard Murray, a University of Houston political science professor.

"We had to go the extra 10 miles to convince people Kathy was a viable candidate and should be taken seriously as a candidate," campaign manager Teague Cavness says. "My assumption was that she was less likely to be taken seriously because she was a woman. Kathy was the best qualified candidate and many politicians around town agreed."

Campaign aide Carolyn Nichols believes a woman who was not a CPA simply could not have won the race.

Whitmire campaigners decided to "convince" people by stressing the candidate's qualifications in her advertising and personal appearances: "Certified Public Accountant, nine years' experience in public accounting, BBA and MS in accountancy degrees, former audit manager for a national CPA firm..." Cavness says the early decision to make qualifications one of the major issues of the Controller's race set the tone to be followed by the other candidates.

"That put the others on the defensive. We were on the offensive, and that's a psychological advantage."

Cavness says the campaign strategy was to downplay Whitmire's being a woman. To do otherwise, say the staff and candidate, would have meant defeat.

"The only way for a woman to win in such a diversified city is to stick to the issues," Cavness says. "Don't get bogged down in smoke screens thrown up by other candidates. Stick to the operation of the city and the handling of its finances."

Whitmire herself says, "My campaign was not the campaign of electing a woman candidate but of electing a qualified candidate for controller. However, it is important that I am a woman and that a woman have an equal chance in the political system. In Houston in the past, a woman has not had an equal chance, so the many, many people who worked for me had to work that much harder to overcome that."

That position put Whitmire at odds with some members of the news media, "The voters never cared if I was a woman, but some of the reporters did." She says those reporters "want to say you either are a feminist candidate or you're not a feminist. You can't be a feminist and do anything not directly related to the feminist movement."

Whitmire says she was dismayed by a front-page *Chronicle* story following her run-off victory which quoted her saying the women's movement and women had nothing to do with her election.

The caption with the accompanying photograph described her as Houston's

Continued on page 19

editorial

Remember November?

Houston voters were underwhelmed when the 1977 city elections began taking shape. Fred Hofheinz said he'd had enough and wouldn't be running for a third term. "I'm gonna stand up in the council and just throw up one day. I've got to get out or I'm gonna blow my cool," *Rolling Stone* reported Hofheinz to have told Billie Carr.

A dreary dozen candidates lined up to succeed Hofheinz. They ranged from an x-ray technician who ran with "God's backing" to an oil millionaire who ran with the blessings of the liberal community. The front runner seemed to be former "tough guy" district attorney Frank Briscoe, a former Hofheinz challenger, cousin of our Uvalde rancher/governor, and certified member of Houston's reactionary right.

Two of the three top candidates said they would abolish the job of women's advocate. They would be advocates for "all the people," thank you. The third tried his best to just not talk about the subject. It was clear; the Hofheinz-Northcutt-Van Hightower years were ending.

Progressives feared the mayor's office was lost from the start, but the controller's race offered some hope. Kathy Whitmire, though well-qualified, faced stiff competition. Each contestant seemed to have a neat block of votes staked out: Palmer Bowser the Black, John Castillo the Chicano, with the inside track on "name recognition."

One could just see the traditional liberal block shattering in an intramural row as Leonel Castillo's conservative 1975 challenger Steve Jones or former Chamber of Commerce executive Bob Brewer slipped into office.

With the first round of voting, the mayor's race narrowed to Briscoe and homebuilder Jim McConn, a former city council member appointed at the twilight of Louie Welch's tenure. Not exactly a choice to get excited about.

But despite our initial trepidation, the municipal elections turned out to be a dramatic demonstration of a new reality of Houston politics. Whitmire's decisive victory over Jones and McConn's crushing defeat of Briscoe should be a lesson not easily forgotten by the downtown business interests.

Jim McConn is no liberal, but he is an astute politician. He realizes that while the minorities, the poor, the young and the working class may not run Houston, they have a powerful voice in deciding who fills the city's top political jobs. He knows the Hofheinz-Castillo tenure was not anomalous; it really was the end of the conservative establishment's iron grip on local government.

Not that the WASP-ish business crowd has faded from view. A mere glance at City Council will show it's still quite potent, but it is the have-nots and the liberal-to-moderates who choose the mayor and controller now. Gone are the days when the Chamber of Commerce could wave its wand and anoint a Louie Welch.

November was sort of a month-long rite of passage for the city. What a coincidence that Briscoe and Welch appeared at the so-called pro-family rally while Hofheinz welcomed the National Women's Conference.

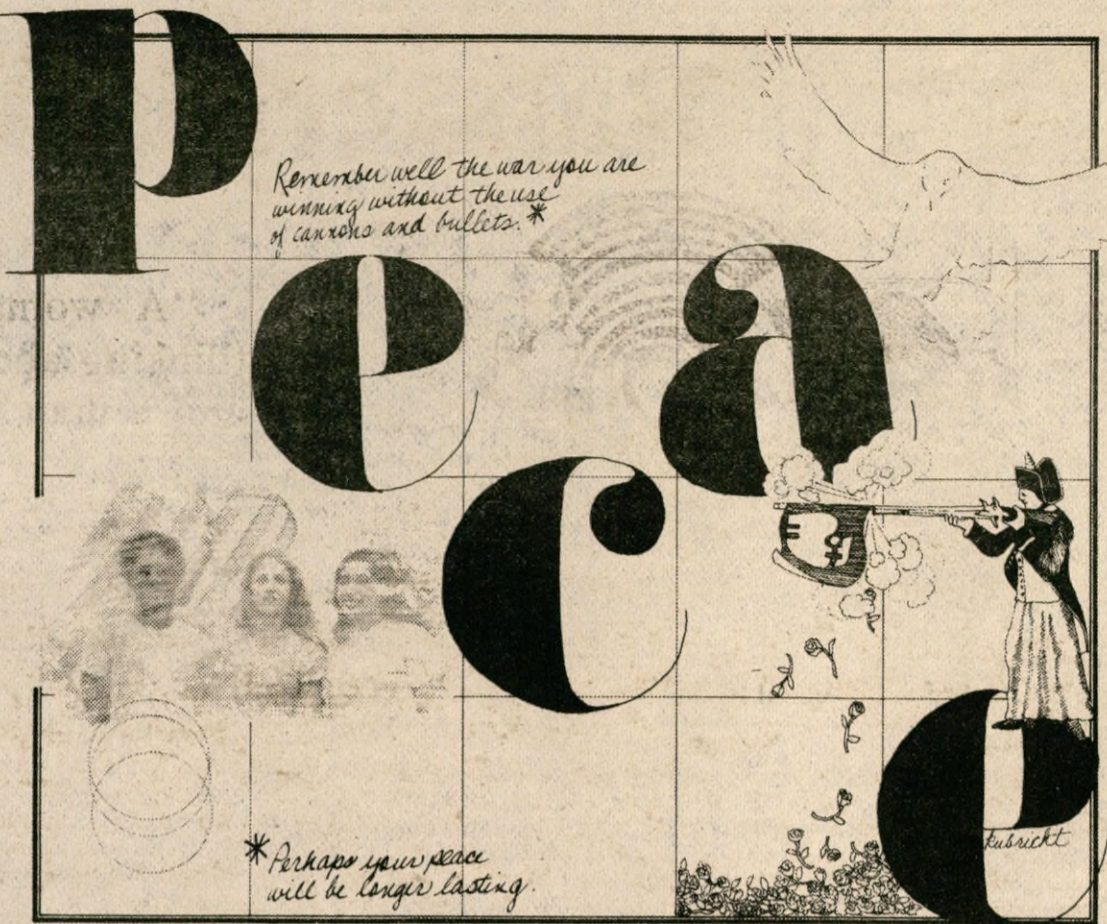
Briscoe drew 31.9 percent of the first-round votes — a lead of nearly 10 points over runner-up McConn. But between then and the run-off, folks took a harder look at this fellow McConn. While they saw no great record of liberalism, voters found a candidate who seemed honest, hard working and, most importantly, smart enough to know whose support he needs to win elections and govern the city.

Blacks gave McConn nearly all their votes, as youth, blue collars, Mexican-Americans, feminists and most liberal-to-moderates went along. In fact, nearly everyone who had not voted for Briscoe in the field of 12 went for McConn in the run-off. Briscoe had increased his share less than two percentage points, to 33.4.

It was a vivid illustration of the power of a strong coalition in Houston politics, a stunning repudiation of the downtown establishment's paternalism.

Kathy Whitmire's solid win was impressive. With good credentials and outstanding organization, a woman had broken 140 years of municipal tradition. Not only had a progressive comfortably defeated the conservatives' boy, but Whitmire had demonstrated convincingly that women can be elected to public office in Houston. She took one third of the vote in a field of five the first time around and almost 60 percent in the run-off. (Briscoe managed only a 2 percent increase in the run-off for mayor.)

Breakthrough did not back any candidates this year. But we endorse our new city leaders now as they begin difficult and enormously important jobs. We wish them harmony and success...and lasting memories of who put them in office.



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Rape crisis in Houston

by Carol Bartholdi

By the end of this year 1,300 women will have reported to the Houston Police Department that they have been raped.

This figure is disturbing enough, but it becomes even more horrifying when compared to other crime statistics. This figure does not include rapes of females under age 17. And, according to crime analyst Gary Nathanson, slightly less than one-half of the women who are sexually assaulted report the crime to law officials.

The "rape detail," or "rape squad," is contained within the homicide division of the police department. Lt. Larry Earls, who heads both, estimated that there will be 330 murders in Houston this year, based on the average monthly rate. He also estimated that there are 110 to 115 rapes every month. This translates to less than one murder a day, compared to roughly four (3.6) "reported" rapes every day.

Solving the crime of rape is a difficult task for several reasons.

There are 56 detectives in the homicide division of the Houston Police Department. Six are women. All six are assigned full time to investigate reported rapes.

Fifty men investigate the 300-odd murders in this city during a year. The six women on rape detail investigate 1,300 reported rapes which may represent only one-half of the sexual assaults committed.

Detective Jessie White, a veteran on the Houston police force, and a member of the rape squad, said that the rape detail needs more *manpower*. Not only are more investigators needed to find the men who commit these crimes, she said, but also men are needed to help. She explained that when one of the six women on the squad apprehends a suspect, she sometimes needs a male partner to ensure that the man does not attack her and try to escape. The rape division and murder division regularly work together, but, she said, "What we have to do is to rely on borrowing men from homicide."

Lt. Earls agreed with White's statements. He also said that over the years the different police chiefs have had to take people off radio patrol and put them in other police jobs. He said the police force is operating with far too few persons and far too little money.

Another problem for the rape detail is that the women who are raped rarely can give positive, clear descriptions of the men who attack them.

"They're just so frightened!" said White. "A woman is standing at a bus stop, thinking about her laundry, or cooking dinner and a man comes up behind her, grabs her, holds a knife to her neck and says, 'Don't look at me!' How would you react?"

One way in which the police are able to identify rapists who have attacked at least three or four women is through descriptions from the victims of how they acted.

Earls estimated that between 25 and 50 percent of rapes are committed by multiple offenders. He said that the rapist may repeat the same phrase to each woman he

assaults, or he may have some "weird quirk or hangup" that his victims notice.

It is not unusual for the police to pick up on the idiosyncracies of the men who commit multiple sexual assaults. Among men who have been convicted, such quirks included going to the refrigerator after each rape. Another man always went through his victims' jewelry boxes, but never stole anything.

It is these quirks that tell the police something about the men who are committing such crimes. It is these things which the police do not want the news media to report.

This is a real dilemma for a news organization. The public needs to know to be on the look out for possible attackers, and if the media can warn them to avoid specific areas at specific times, or to watch out for someone with a specific characteristic, another rape might be averted.

The police feel differently. Recently, there has been a series of rapes in the Montrose area by a man who always sneaks up behind women, injures them with a rock or brick or some other hard object and then rapes them. Almost all of this man's victims have had to be hospitalized. Most have needed plastic surgery as a result of the attack.

A radio station and a television station picked up on this man's crimes and reported them in early December. As a result, the police have toned down their efforts to find this person.

"The news reports destroyed our investigations," Earls said. "Before the reports, every night the six detectives patrolled the area where the rapist had been operating. Now, however, we have stopped trying to do field work on the case."

He and White emphasized that Montrose is a high-rape area. "I don't think that publication of details prevents rapes or causes women to be more careful," Earls said.

He and White agreed that the reporting and broadcasting of certain descriptions of a rapist's "m.o." (modus operandi) usually results in the rapist's changing his identifiable characteristics. He may move to a different area, stop for a while, or act differently. The detectives may lose track of him for a time, but the rapes usually do not stop, both officers noted.

"Sometimes the publication of rape details may lead to other rapists adopting the quirks and using them in their own crimes," Earls said.

He gave an example of a rapist referred to as the *Highway Humper*. He drove a beat up, old pick-up truck and would run into cars driven by women on highways. When the women stopped to talk about the accident, he attacked them. The story was reported in newspapers and television broadcasts. The rapist never was identified again.

Earls, White and Gary Nathanson of crime analysis agreed that more women should be warned of the danger of being raped and of the high incidence of rape in Houston.

"A woman is standing at a bus stop, thinking about her laundry, or cooking dinner and a man comes up behind her, grabs her, holds a knife to her neck and says, 'Don't look at me!' How would you react?"

— Detective Jessie White
Rape Squad, Homicide Division
Houston Police Department

Nathanson said there are several simple things which women can do which could decrease the probability of an attack.

He said that one very important thing is for women not to walk or travel alone. It is rare that a rapist will attack a woman who has either a male or a female companion.

Nathanson said that roughly 30 to 40 percent of rapes take place in a woman's apartment or home between midnight and six a.m. He suggests that women secure their homes as much as possible to prevent unwanted entries.

Nathanson said the crime prevention division of the Houston Police Department

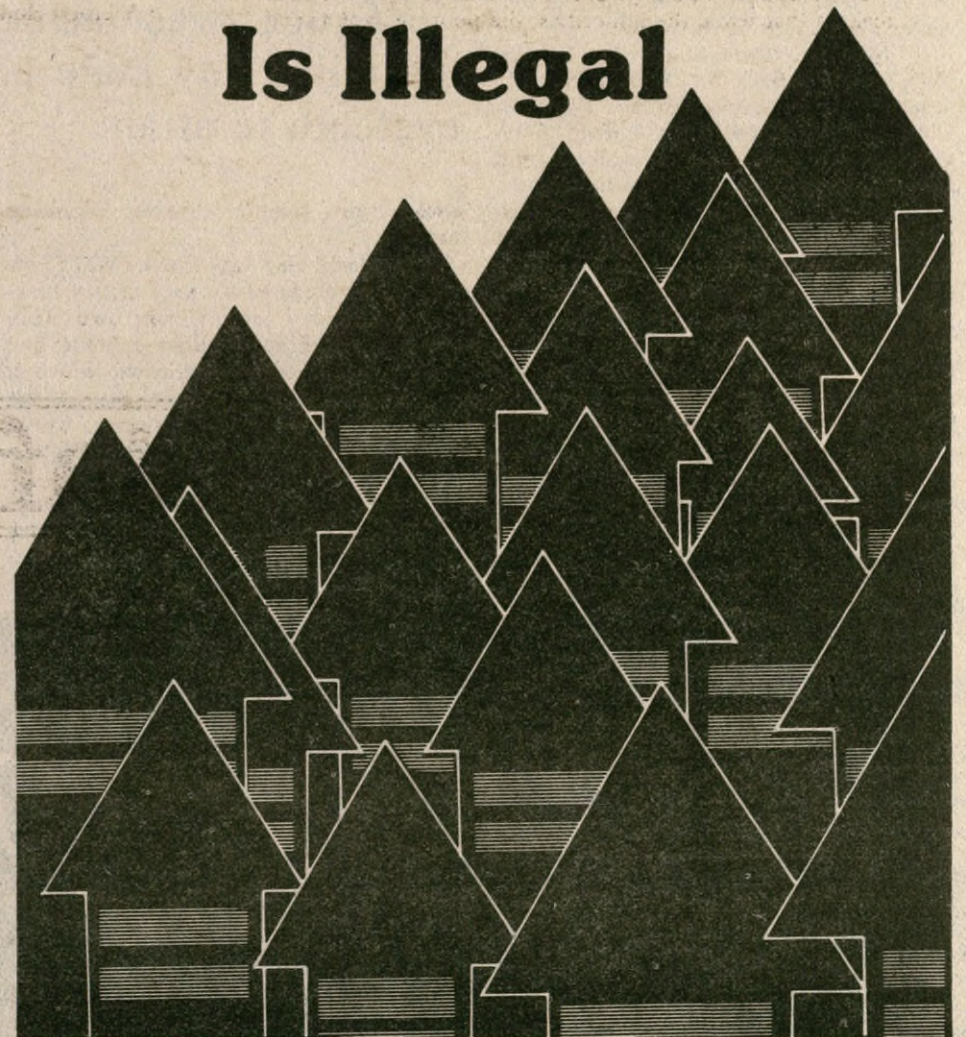
has published a pamphlet entitled "Crime Prevention for the Homeowner" which describes how a person can protect her or his home for less than \$50.

The Rape Treatment, Detection and Prevention Program of the City Health Department has published a pamphlet as a guide to women for preventing rape. This pamphlet, entitled "Rape Prevention," appears in this issue on page 20.

"A woman has to be alert at all times for possible attacks," White said. "It's too bad society today has to be like this, but it is."

See Rape Prevention page 20

Housing Discrimination Is Illegal



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gavel~to~gavel

by Cheryl Knott

From the opening bang of the gavel on Saturday morning (November 19, 1977) to the closing plenary session at noon Monday, delegates to the National Women's Conference demonstrated their new-found political savvy to a doubting public. *Time* magazine acknowledged the feat with the observation, "Order was achieved by the kind of discipline any male politician would give his eyeteeth to attain."

The discipline and the organizational prowess of the plenary session planners, delegates and moderators proved how well women have learned the political lessons of a decade. They debated and voted on the 26 points of the proposed National Plan of Action in the time it takes political-party conventions to select two old cronies to run for office.

The approved Plan of Action is the basis for a written report to the Congress and President Carter. The 26 resolutions were drafted by the IWY Commission after 56 state and territorial women's meetings were held to determine the problems faced by American women and some possible solutions. The National Women's Conference and the preparatory state meetings were funded by the U.S. government.

There was some doubt expressed in early news reports that pro-Plan of Action delegates could finish the work they had mapped out for themselves in the two and one-half days of plenary sessions. Either they would be too inept to guide the resolutions through voting, or the anti-plan delegates would use expert stalling tactics to delay and tire out the majority of delegates who supported the plan.

Neither assumption was correct. "When I look back on the Conference," Jean Saletan, Texas NOW Task Force on Older Women coordinator, noted, "I rejoice that such a diversity of women could agree on 25 out of 26 items on the agenda. Just to move a body of delegates through 26 items is no mean feat and a lot of credit goes to the presiding officer of each session."

Since at most 20 percent of the 1,797 voting participants belonged to the anti-plan faction, stalling was their only hope. Resolutions were taken in alphabetical order and the two most controversial ones, dealing with reproductive freedom and sexual preference, were far down on the list. If delegates opposed to those two could delay long enough, they would not be considered and the report to Congress



TOTSIE

"Order was achieved by the kind of discipline any male politician would give his eyeteeth to attain."

would omit recommendations regarding them.

National Gay Task Force (NGTF) officials were prepared for such tactics, however, and had a few of their own. Jean O'Leary, NGTF co-executive director, had reported that if stalling tactics succeeded in shoving the sexual preference issue off the end of the list, gay rights delegates would propose a rider to every other resolution considered.

The stratagem proved unnecessary, however, because the anti-plan delegates did not accomplish any parliamentary ma-

neuvering. They made attempts to delay by complaining that their voices were not being heard and that the conference resolutions did not reflect what the majority of American women wanted. Nevertheless, they could not hold back the majority of delegates, who were there to pass a pro-woman plan of action.

The business sessions of the Conference began with a morning of pomp and ceremony as speakers offered rousing words of encouragement to a full house of delegates and observers. In a moving spectacle, the IWY Torch was borne aloft to

the stage and a drill squad marched in costume as delegates showed their state colors. California waved yellow scarves, New York tossed Big Apples, Hawaii sported muumuu and leis.

Phyllis Tucker, Bay Area NOW member and conference volunteer described it this way: "Goose bumps and tears welling up as the Torch entered the Coliseum. Discovery that this radical, liberal person is still turned on by red, white, and blue and singing 'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!'"

Tucker heard Coretta Scott King's bodyguard run up to the stage and exclaim, "Guess who's coming in—Margaret Mead!" But he was not the only one to register awe for the noted anthropologist. Throughout the day women conferring in the Coliseum stopped to watch Mead striding down the corridors, staff in hand. By the end of the Conference, delegates were accustomed to seeing "stars" like Bella Abzug, Kate Millett, Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem walk by at eye level.

Mary Anne Krupsak, lieutenant governor of New York, chaired the plenary session through the debate and discussion generated by the ERA resolution. Anne Saunier, human resources director of Mead Corp. in Dayton, presided over the Sunday session which saw the reproductive freedom and sexual preference planks pass. Both women proved to be strong chairs, allowing debate, yet taking no-nonsense attitudes toward the anti-plan delegates whose mission at the microphones was obvious.

The first resolutions considered passed with few incidents. But only one measure, calling on the government to enforce strictly all equal credit laws as they apply to women, passed unanimously. Even the child abuse resolution sparked comments from anti-plan delegates that the federal government was trying to control what parents could do to their children in the privacy of their own homes.

However, the first real show of strength and solidarity among the pro-plan participants came with the vote on the ERA resolution. For two hours pro- and anti- individuals jockeyed for position behind each of the eight floor microphones.

An Illinois delegate, saying she was "chairman" of the National Citizens Review Committee, read two proposed amendments to the resolution, which, if adopted, would have negated the seven-word resolution that "The Equal Rights Amendment should be ratified."

The anti- faction which backed her was unable to get the amendments into suitable parliamentary form for discussion. Pointing out that she had gone out of her

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way to allow the opposition a voice, chair Krupsak recognized the next speaker who moved the original ERA resolution be voted on.

Approval echoed through the Coliseum as delegates and observers leapt to their feet. Several minutes of jubilant celebration followed, and the Conference recessed Saturday night on a wave of confidence among pro-plan delegates. Although two controversial resolutions still remained, the majority knew there was little to fear from the opponents of women's rights.

But a surprise was in store for delegates on Sunday, when an organized and determined minority caucus presented their version of the Minority Women resolution; a stronger, more assertive one than the commission had drafted.

The original resolution recognized that minority women, including Black, Hispanic, Asian and native American (Indian and Alaskan) women, face the double bind of being women and members of a minority group. It called for the government to work to overcome discrimination against them and it specifically suggested that bilingual programs and services be provided.

One-third of the Conference delegates were members of one of the minority groups mentioned, and they noticed some serious omissions in the resolution. They worked from Friday afternoon until early Saturday morning to write their own proposal. It included the original message and added that there should be no forced sterilization of minority women. In an attempt to address the problems of native American women, the resolution included a provision that supported preservation of remaining tribal cultures.

Although other conference delegates might have been surprised at the forethought and dedication that went into drafting the new resolution, they supported it wholeheartedly. A row of Chicana observers dropped their "Viva La Mujer!" banner from the galleries as the resolution was passed. Liz Carpenter, ERAmerica founder, pointed out, "We can no longer be accused of being a middle-class white women's cause."

"I've been a delegate to two national conventions, but I've never seen any group stand up for the rights of minorities the way these women did," said Maxine Waters, state assemblywoman representing the Watts area of Los Angeles, and the driving force behind the resolution. "This is the most significant thing to happen at this conference. It means that women have the ability to identify with the specific



National IWY Commissioner Coretta Scott King read part of the substitute resolution developed by the Minority Women's Caucus urging enforcement of all affirmative action programs, as well as government action to relieve the high unemployment and to enforce fair housing laws.

concerns of all their sisters. I don't think there is anything that can divide us or stop us now."

At Sunday's sessions, the resolutions passed smoothly with only minor revision or discussion. Even the backers of the reproductive freedom and sexual preference resolutions found little to deter them. Both resolutions were approved with far less discussion than had been predicted.

The reproductive freedom resolution was discussed thoroughly with a conscious effort by chair Saunier to recognize pro and anti-speakers. Debate was not just at the microphones, however. Jean Saletan reported that a young anti-observer next to her began crying when the resolution passed. Saletan said she told the woman that if she could see the poor women locked into

ghetto life with their already born children, she would cry for them, too.

The spirit of a political convention finally became apparent with passage of the sexual preference plank. Pro-Plan speaker Ellie Smeal, NOW national president, affirmed the resolution as a feminist issue, and Charlotte Bunch of the National Gay Task Force admonished listeners, "We've helped you, and now we need your help...because any one of you is subject to the ultimate threat just by being here - the threat of being called a lesbian."

A delegate who supported the ERA suggested voting down the controversial resolution, saying it would "make an already difficult job - passing the ERA - impossible." The anti-speakers stated their arguments that lesbianism is immoral and against the family.

"But don't forget, we are your sisters, your daughters, your mother and grandmother," responded Jean O'Leary. "What better way to enter the decade of women than with full sexual privileges?"

Betty Friedan, whose emotion-packed plea for passage of the ERA in the next

year highlighted the discussion on that resolution the day before, lent her support for the sexual preference resolution.

"We must help women who are lesbians in their own civil rights," she told the delegates. In a gesture of unity, she had changed her "ERA first" philosophy to a "rights for all women" one.

In the spirit of a political gathering, gay rights supporters let loose a barrage of balloons touting "We Are Everywhere" as the sexual preference resolution was passed.

Monday, the final resolution, and the only one to fail, was discussed. The national commissioners, not the state meetings, had called for a cabinet level Women's Department.

But the delegates made it clear they did not want their programs compartmentalized in one bureau of the federal government. The century and a half of struggle that had brought women to Houston for a national conference could not and would not end in a maze of Washington offices, red tape and government studies of "the women's problem."



PHOTOS BY JANICE RUBIN

Delegates stopped to watch Margaret Mead striding down the corridors, staff in hand.

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janice rubin

“Many people have professions or interests that dominate their lives. Frequently, I run into doctors or lawyers or musicians at parties and find that all they can talk about is their profession or their art. I studied architecture in college and it seemed as though we never discussed anything else. I began to feel that architects must have a very limited point of view.

However, as I started to get involved in photography, I began to realize how *all-consuming* one's interest could be. That *undying enthusiasm* with which one pursues one's interest is what breeds true quality in one's work. Some of us have been fortunate enough to have been possessed by that enthusiasm. I've been lucky to find my *niche*. I love my work.

I've been photographing seriously for about three years. I had some kind of simple-but-functional little camera when I was a kid. I mimicked my father as I watched him shoot all the snapshots for the family album. (I was my father's *son* for 10 years until my brother was born). By the time I was thirteen, I had my own family album. I always felt so proud when I'd captured some funny expression or gesture with my own camera. I didn't care if anyone took me seriously then. The photographs that I made with my instamatic were *my* photographs. I kept my picture album in my closet. It was for me to look at.

Today, as an *emerging professional*, I feel as if I am growing up all over again. Every time I make a photograph, I go through a process of trying to build that confidence in my work that I had as a child. The difference is that now I know how much there is to learn. I've discovered that in photography, as in other fields, there are no shortcuts.

As an architecture student, I used my newly-acquired CANON Ftb to record inter-

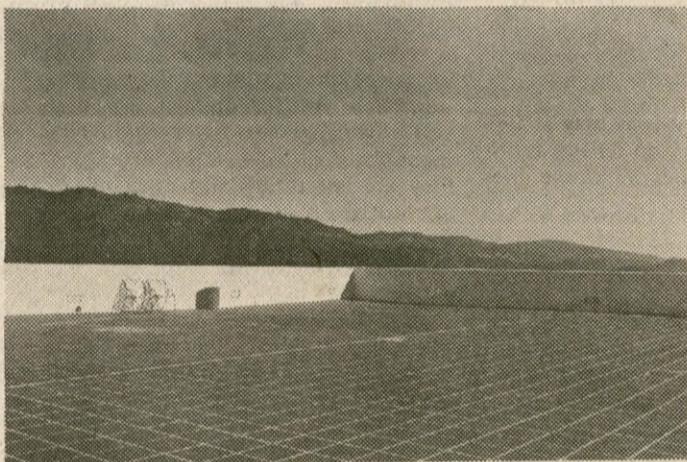
esting buildings and to document architectural details. I found it impossible, however, to confine my subject matter to architecture. One day I noticed that my contact sheets contained as many photographs of people as of buildings. In fact, I was having more fun making photographs than I ever did designing buildings! And though I greatly simplify the process of conversion — (it was tough to convince my dad that his daughter-son had decided not to become an architect) — I decided that I was

going to be a photographer.

I was greatly impressed by the work of both Diane Arous and Henri Cartier-Bresson, both have had an influence on my work. I've had a tremendous amount of help from my university instructor Geoff Winningham, as well as a lot of encouragement from my peers. That kind of support is important to me. I need to get response to my photographs. Maybe this won't always be true, but as a beginner it seems vital.”

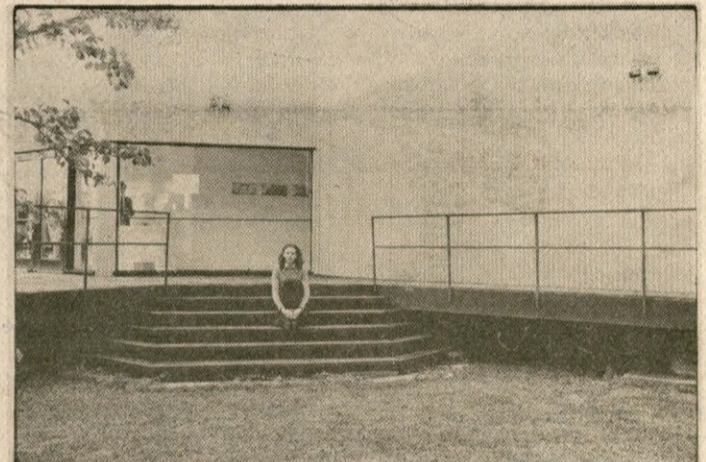


woman:inner reflection*



“I began my photographic studies at the Rice Media Center with Geoff Winningham seven years ago. More recently, I have enjoyed exposure to Gary Winogrand and Lee Friedlander. I am now continuing my studies on my own — trying to understand space and how a two-dimensional image interprets the three-dimensional space we see. To quote Virginia Woolf, “Green in nature is one thing, green in literature is another.” Photographs do not record reality or even adequately describe it, but rather create their own reality.

The commercial work in which I am involved is based on a pretense that this is not true. For a living, I photograph art and architecture which is purely an attempt to record and describe. Free lance work is



“I take pictures because it is my way of talking to myself. I feel good when I make an image that captures an emotion—it is a relief—like a big sigh.

It's important that people respond to my pictures—that's the ego part that wants attention. But sometimes it doesn't matter—some pictures are so personal that I don't want to share them—like wanting to keep a secret to yourself.

I've taken pictures all my life but in the past few months the satisfaction comes and goes more rapidly than ever. Each picture I take opens me to the next situation.

I don't think about developing a style—it's something that just happens as you increase your awareness. I question myself when I see my work on the wall. I wonder if what I see is what I felt—but now it's beginning to be less important to make enlargements. A friend told me that the total relief for him is the moment of the exposure. I sense that also because sometimes I wait a long time to process film. It's like it doesn't really matter if you see the pictures or not. The process of sensing and reacting is what photography is about. The images are after the fact; but that's why I like them—I learn from a different perspective by studying photographs casually. Now I'm getting comfortable enough with myself and the techniques of photography to make images



totsie

from imagination instead of straight-forward records of events. It's more exciting, more demanding and consequently more satisfying to me.

marilyn jones

very demanding, as I am required to wear many different hats; I have to try to be a physicist, chemist, mechanic, electrician, display artist, accountant, typist, public relations person, bill collector, equipment carrier, plus many more, often at once. The work's diversity greatly challenges one's American ingenuity.

Though my family was not parti-

cularly visually-oriented, I did grow up during the post-war media boom. Today, we live in a highly visual world, populated by what Susan Sontag labels “image junkies”. I sometimes suffer from the illusion that I have special ambitions; in reality, I am an ordinary product of our modern American society. Nevertheless, producing quality images is my challenge.”

I am glad that my father was a photographer. It means that all my life I've been aware of visual expression. In a way, it has hampered my vocal expressions—words don't come easily, especially in emotional situations—but then, neither do pictures at times.

Commercial photography is the only way I can see myself making a living. It is important for me to deal with images whether they are my own or someone else's ideas that I put on film. I don't think of long term goals anymore—the less expectations I hold the more exciting each day is.

If people ask me for advice, I tell them that what works for me is to be honest and sincere with my own feelings—and let life come in.”



“This is a purely hypothetical case history of the life of one photographer.

suzanne paul

Fantasy 1
Name: Suzanne Paul, is married, has one child, a girl; one dog, a female; and one horse, of questionable gender (really a mare, but mean as hell). She loves visual delights and has a manic desire to capture them and present images which have timeless appeal and meaning.

Fact 1
Name: Suzanne Louise de Young. I borrowed the name Paul from my husband because I thought it would be easier to remember (it is) and sounded better (it does). There is no such thing as marriage, and I don't really have any of those other things, I am merely their caretaker. They belong only to themselves. I take photographs because it interests me to do so, and so far has held my interest longer than just about anything else.

Fantasy 2
I envision myself the daughter of a great artist, composer, musician or filmmaker who innately understands the inner workings of the artist, applauds talent and quite naturally gives respect and praise to creativity. My early life revolved around museums, opera, theatre and the arts. Creative endeavors were a family tradition.

Fact 2
I grew up in an anti-cultural environment where art was basically unappreciated and anything modern was the laughingstock of the neighborhood. I don't think I was inside a museum until I was a freshman in college. I did take myself to plays while in high school and thought they were great. I decided to study art and drama in college, much to the dismay of my father, who thought I would be better off as a nurse or something else equally practical. I stuck to it despite pressure to do otherwise.

Fantasy 3
To have studied with the great masters and rubbed elbows with the idols of my medium. To have been handed grants on silver platters in order to work my butt off producing mountains of photographs which would be reproduced in volumes by publishers foaming at the mouth and fighting it out with each other.

Fact 3
I learned photography almost completely alone, teaching myself everything through trial and error. It may be a little slower, but the processes seem to be more firmly rooted this way, and it is something that you can call your own and take pride in. I



actually did come across a few inspirations, a few great photographers (still living) and did have the opportunity to receive direction from their criticism. One in particular, Thomas Baird, helped me a great deal while I was struggling to learn. He helped me reach a level of self-confidence which was very valuable at the time. Every now and then a mentor will appear on the horizon and it has really been due to a few individuals that I have kept the courage to continue. As for grants, I keep applying and hope one day to receive one and actually publish all of those books that keep dancing through my head.

Fantasy 4
Somewhere along the line I came to the conclusion that truth could be found through the camera and that I could find it.

Fact 4
Came to the conclusion that a photograph can be both lie and truth or somewhere in between, and the motives of the photographer must be taken into account, and that everyone insists on projecting his or her own impressions and feelings on any given image and that no two people feel exactly the same way.

Fantasy 5
I thought photography was easy, at least I thought I was learning awfully fast.

Fact 5
I found out photography is as easy as falling off a log (anyone can do it) and as difficult as landing on tiptoes when one does (few can do it well).

Fantasy 6
Had a one-woman show (my first) in January 1972 and thought it was excellent. Have since had several others, plus have been in several group shows and have had a few photographs published as well. I still

harbor the illusion that having shows is good for the soul and important and that one must endeavor to get photographs published and all that.

Fact 6
The first show probably stunk and I just didn't know it. I am still hoping that the rest didn't but refuse to worry about the past. My only concern now is the show I am currently working on. As far as getting new photographs published, that is fine with me as long as I get paid.

Fantasy 7
Have all along thought my discerning eye and sensitivity would be discovered and applauded.

Fact 7
It takes years of hard work to arrive in any field of endeavor and very few people are able to see as you have seen. Eventually, though, work does receive the appropriate praise and you do begin to reap rewards.

Fantasy 8
Believe that the latest evolution in my work will be discovered and applauded for all it's worth and finally don't give a damn if it's understood or applauded because I know it's good.

Fact 8
That remains to be seen.

Fantasy 9
I really believed that the art community would be a great place to be if only one could enter the portals thereof. After all, everyone else seemed to be fighting for a place.

Fact 9
The art world is not such a hot place to be and any one with any sense should stay as far away as possible if they want to maintain any integrity in their work. Casual encounters are permissible, but getting too caught up in someone else's trip can't do anyone any good.

Fantasy 10
Writing about yourself and revealing your secrets to the world will help it to understand how you feel about things and bring you closer together. Artists should express themselves verbally more often, proving they are not totally illiterate and uncommunicative.

Fact 10
Writing about yourself is one step above self-confession and only makes you more vulnerable than you already are. Whether it furthers any sort of understanding is questionable, but it is an attempt.”

“I am a free-lance photographer. That means I shoot just about anything. I have shot travelogues, conventions, concerts, portrait studies, as well as architectural projects. I have worked for oil and insurance companies, newspapers, entertainers, and even a Hollywood screenplay writer.

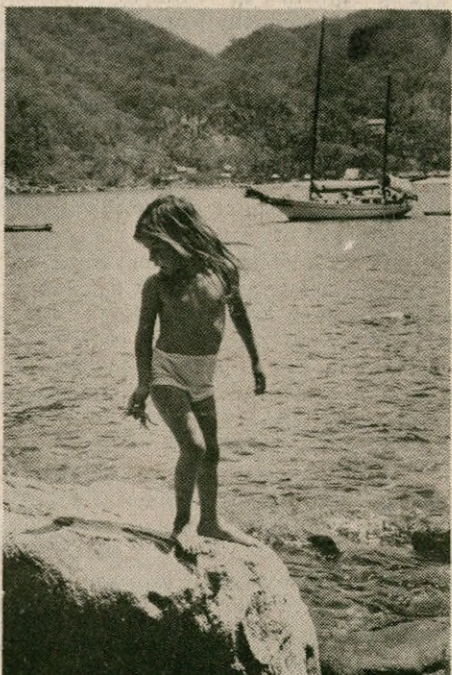
My father was a camera buff, which is where I gained my interest in photography. My brothers and I have always had access to a camera, though I now know that my father never had any hopes that we would become professional photographers. In fact, I believe that he was against it, which I can understand, creative fields are not the easiest way to make a living.

You start out by hauling your portfolio from one end of town to the other, presenting it to anyone who will give you five minutes of their time. Then, when you finally do get some jobs, it can be as long as three months before you receive your check.

In the beginning I often went hungry. I am very fortunate that my friends gave me moral and financial support. Several times during that period I thought about quitting, those thoughts usually lasted about 15 minutes.

My advice to anyone entering this area of photography is that you have to be able to find beauty in all things. I never thought that I would find a pipe-fitting for an oil drill beautiful, but I did.”

janis fowles



✿ For this cover story women photographers were asked for a self-portrait, their favorite photo and a brief biography. Their work appears in *Woman: Inner Reflection*, a photographic calendar funded by the Breakthrough Foundation. Cover photo: self-portrait by Janis Fowles.

Motherhood

A new series will follow the birth and growth of Nancy Kern and Jim Asker's baby, expected in mid-January 1978. This story looks at the way the new parents are preparing for the birth event.

by Marianne Warfield Kostakis



PHOTOS BY F. CARTER SMITH

Nancy Kern's baby will not enter this world the way most of us did. Her child will not be greeted by blinding lights, the antiseptic smells of the hospital operating room, the clang of pans and instruments, or the sound of loud voices. Nor will it be passed from stranger to stranger to be washed, tagged, and placed in a plastic box far from the person it most needs to get to know.

This baby's first awareness of the world will be in the softly lit bedroom in the house where she will grow up surrounded by her mother, father and a few friends who have come to welcome her and share the experience with her parents. Everything has been arranged to make her feel right at home—Nancy and her husband, Jim Asker, have seen to that.

Although Nancy is not scheduled to deliver until mid-January, her preparation for childbirth began over a year ago. She became interested in the practice of midwifery prior to becoming pregnant, and was already taking childbirth education classes when she became pregnant. In fact, Nancy admits to a sneaking suspicion that this all came about because for the first time she was attuned to the positive aspects of pregnancy and childbirth.

"I had never seen women nursing their babies before I started going to midwife meetings," Nancy explains. "For years I regarded pregnancy as a dread disease. But these women, the midwives, looked so happy and calm and confident with their babies, and had such respect for birth itself, that I started to look forward to experiencing this part of my woman-ness."

Nancy will be aided by a lay midwife. Midwives are not licensed in Texas, but are registered by the Texas Department of Public Health. Since nurse midwives can lose their licenses for participating in a home birth, lay midwives are used for births outside the hospital.

Women like Nancy who wish to have a home birth must rely on the city health clinics for their prenatal care since obstetricians here discourage home birth by refusing to give prenatal care to women planning to deliver outside the hospital. City health clinics will give prenatal care to home birth mothers, and they will refer a woman to another physician if any abnormalities arise.

In preparation for having her baby at home, Nancy has read many of the childbirth books published in the past few years.

Contending that "birthing is women's business," Nancy prefers childbirth books written by women. She feels that men, as gynecologists and obstetricians, have asserted their control over the birth process too long.

"I want to hear more about pregnancy and birth from women," Nancy says. "From men I would like to hear more about their experiences as fathers, friends or brothers."

Nancy credits Frederick Leboyer with revolutionizing the hospital atmosphere with his book, *Birth Without Violence*, but she sees the Leboyer approach as too formulaic for home birth. For a positive, somewhat emotional approach to the event itself, Nancy recommends *Birth Book*, by Raven Lang. Along with some historical and practical data, *Birth Book* offers tales from 15 different births. Nancy found *Common Sense Childbirth* by Lester Hazell (a woman) helpful, too, in the "practical reality" of birth as opposed to the emotional or mystical emphasis of Lang's book. She also cites *Immaculate Deception* by Suzanne Arms as good preparatory reading.

There are hundreds of books on childbirth, each with its own specialty and emphasis. Nancy advises women to choose a few that appeal to them, since most books contain sufficient basic information, but she adds a word of caution about the subtle attitudinal differences between medical and obstetric texts and the books written by the childbearers themselves.

"The textbooks refer to contractions as the 'pains' of labor. What a negative atti-

Nutrition conscious long before she became pregnant, Nancy simply continues to adhere to the principles of good nutrition in preparation for childbirth. She eats little meat, but does eat large amounts of vegetable protein, cheese, and milk. She avoids sugar, viewing it as a drug that she has had to overcome, and one she doesn't want her child to be addicted to. She claims to have none of the cravings we hear about, but she did need tremendous amounts of protein early in the pregnancy and again now in her last month.

In the past weeks, she and Jim have bought their supplies for the home birth—a plastic sheet to cover the bed, pads, Vitamin E oil for perineal massage (midwives here do not use episiotomy), shoe laces to tie the umbilical cord, Betadine antiseptic solution for cleaning the vulva, cotton balls, and alcohol to dry out the cord stump. She and Jim are "anti-equipment," believing that most of the trappings of baby care simply aren't necessary. Nancy bought a backpack for carrying the baby, and is considering a highchair, but other than these two pieces of equipment, their baby will live the way they do, sharing their bedroom and their bed with them.

Nancy says that pregnancy is "exhilarating!" She confirms that people do treat a pregnant woman differently, and that some are surprised to see her do routine things like ride her bicycle so late in the pregnancy.

"Jim is really enjoying it. He is reassuring and supportive and is very close to it

"...women's descriptions of contractions as 'rushes' or 'energy' gave me a whole new picture of birth..."



tude! Reading women's descriptions of their contractions as 'rushes' or 'energy' gave me a whole new picture of birth," Nancy says.

The newer books do encourage a more positive, spiritual approach to childbirth. Interest in midwifery and home birth have increased dramatically in the past few years. Through this increased interest, Nancy sees birthing beginning to return to "women's business." Like many women, she regrets and resents many of the myths propagated by the medical establishment—myths that formula milk is as good or better than breast milk or myths about the benefits of arbitrary feeding schedules.

"A doctor once told my mother that babies don't recognize their mothers until they're four or five weeks old," she says. "It just isn't so. In child psychology in college, I learned babies cannot see when they're born. As a birth assistant at a home birth, I held a baby who was 10 minutes out of the womb—he looked straight into my eyes. He lifted his head and looked around the room."

Nancy says she isn't out to convert women to home birth, but she does try to dispel some of the myths about childbirth. She and Jim have prepared themselves through reading and taking classes; the past eight months have been a learning process.

"We've tried not to plan too much. I want things to sort of come as they will," Nancy says.

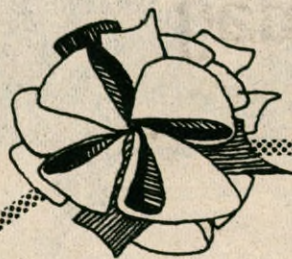
all—yet it still is not happening in his body."

Nancy confesses to fantasies about the baby—fantasies of painting with the baby next to her or just walking along with the baby in her backpack. She and Jim share a fantasy of dancing with their child.

Pregnancy is not without its worries and fears. Nancy is concerned over the effect a child will have on their lives. She knows that their lives will be permanently altered, and she worries about her own privacy and not having enough time to herself. She has experienced the mood swings common to pregnant women, but she looks at the depression more as an indication that her energy is at a low ebb and that she needs more rest or quiet, rather than as something permanent and disturbing.

Nancy's pregnancy and childbirth will differ from her mother's pregnancies—they will be much simpler. There will be no bottles to sterilize, less paraphernalia to cart around, and no getting up in the middle of the night for scheduled feedings. When her baby is born, it will not be whisked away to a nursery to be cared for by strangers, but will remain close to her where its needs can be met naturally and easily.

Nancy's philosophy reflects the process: "The most natural and relaxed way is always the best."



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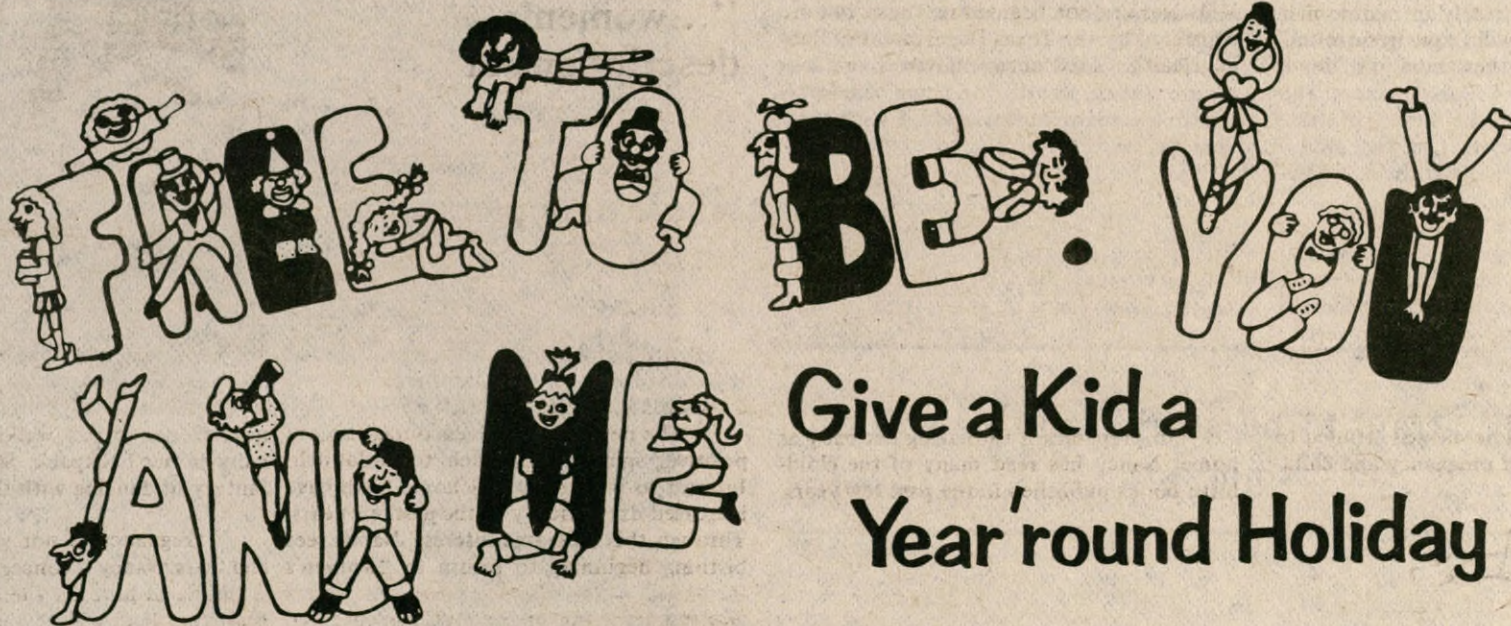
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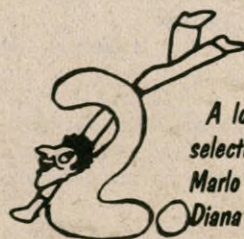
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on film
JULIA

by Victoria Hodge Lightman

"Old paint on canvas, as it ages, sometimes becomes transparent. When that happens it is possible, in some pictures, to see the original lines: a tree will show through a woman's dress, a child makes way for a dog, a large boat is no longer on an open sea. That is called *pentimento* because the painter 'repented', changed his mind... The paint has aged now and I wanted to see what was there for me once, what is there for me now."

— Lillian Hellman, in *Pentimento*

The film *Julia* will be a disappointment for those who had great expectations of seeing two of the industry's finest actresses, Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave, play their most provocative roles. Director Fred Zinnemann (*From Here To Eternity*, *A Man For All Seasons*) seemingly deprives us of their talents by allowing them so little time and dialogue on screen. Zinnemann could have easily allowed us to overdose on these two remarkable women, both the actresses and the characters they portray. He chooses not to, however, and in doing so remains true to Hellman's portrait of Julia in her book *Pentimento*. Fonda plays Lillian Hellman as a young playwright and protegee of Dashiell Hammett (Jason Robards); Redgrave is Julia, a revolutionary idealist studying medicine in Vienna.

This is a film about two intelligent, sensitive women involved in creative and productive lives, and who take upon themselves a courageous adventure. Lillian, a Jew, carries Julia's \$50,000 across the border into Berlin in the hopes of freeing 500 political prisoners. Last year Hollywood would have cast Newman and Redford as the protagonists.

In the opening shot, Zinnemann paints a beautiful canvas of a solitary rain-coated figure in misty dawn fishing from a small rowboat. The picture then becomes transparent and makes way for a powerful,

ling with *The Children's Hour* and trying to contact Julia. Instead she comes in contact with the dark undercurrent of pre-war Europe and suddenly realizes the danger for Julia. We see a newspaper headline report that local Nazis have attacked the Florisdorf district of Vienna. Two hundred socialist workers are dead. Then we see Julia bravely trying to repel the Nazis with a wooden stick. They are dressed like overgrown schoolboys, in similar uniforms and little round hats, a sadistic excitement in their clean-cut faces. Eins, zwei, drei, and they toss a student over the railing; the sound stops as the body falls to a dull thud of a death. Julia goes down in the violent crowd on the balcony.

This film gives a dramatic account of the profound friendship between Lillian and Julia. It is shown as true loving between women, both sensuous and platonic. The scenes of childhood establish this deep-rooted friendship and state a basic truth: Lillian is dedicated to Julia and Julia is dedicated to her utopian ideals. As a child, Lillian follows Julia's guidance at a meal where sherbert is served between courses by a white-gloved butler. And again when Lillian dares to follow her across a fallen tree above a rushing stream. We see them dance together in white nightgowns — Julia, of course, is leading. These incidents show us Lillian's blind faith and total confidence in Julia and explains why she undertakes the dangerous journey to Berlin.

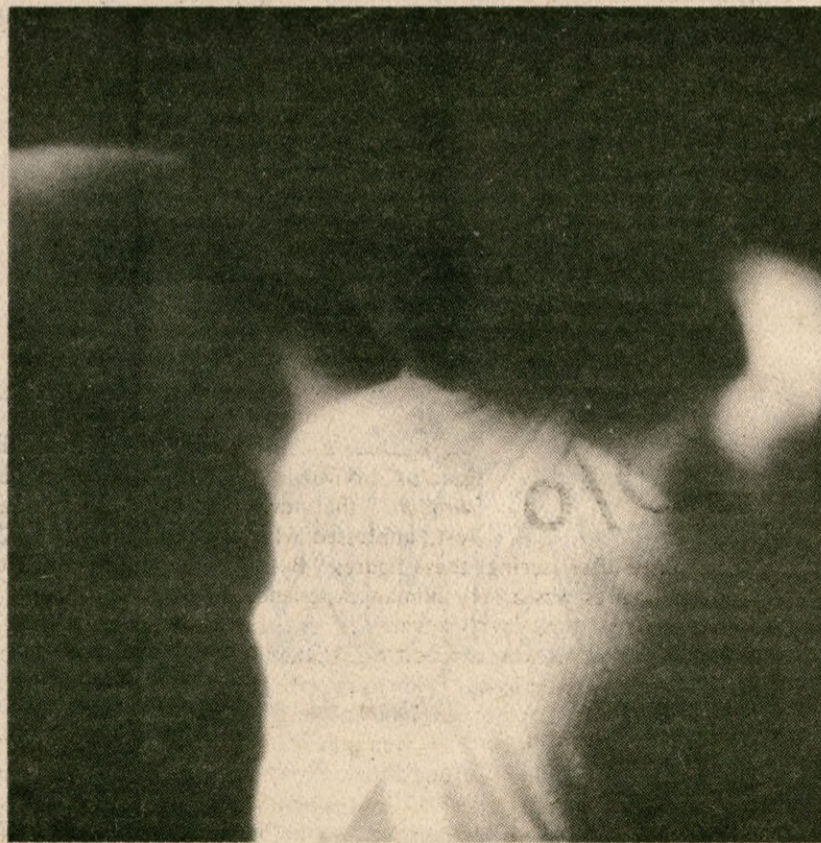
The parallels between past and present are drawn tightly. At three separate times Zinnemann emphasizes this by using a line or two of dialogue to precede the flashback. We hear Julia's voice telling Lillian not to walk across the fallen tree, but to go beneath and wade across. Then we see the scene and the dialogue is repeated in visual context. Back in the present we hear the same warning, in slight variation, brought to Lillian by Johann (Maximilian



Jane Fonda and Vanessa Redgrave star in Fred Zinnemann's film *Julia*, a dramatic account of a profound and loving friendship between women.

Apparitions

Photography by Totsie



Totsie

"...you are afraid to be afraid, and so will do what sometimes you cannot do..."

steaming locomotive coming towards us from a night-lit station. The latter image seems to characterize Julia, strong-headed, willful, pushing forward — as well as foreshadowing Berlin; the former image is Lillian, quietly still, waiting and reflecting.

Through flashbacks, the film covers about 20 years of Lillian's and Julia's friendship from their early teens until Julia's death. The year is 1934. Lillian is involved in an intensely personal struggle with her typewriter and the words that refuse to flow. She abandons it for the moment and walks out to the porch of the beach house into a brisk, windy night. She is seeking refuge and reassurance from her mentor, Dash, who ignores her complaints and tells her to put on a heavy sweater and bring along the liquor and the smokes. Lillian yells at the top of her lungs, "I'm not here to take orders, I need advice! You're not a general Hammett, and I ain't the troops."

The editing at this point is quick and precise. Cutting from one image to another with childhood scenes interspersed, the levels of emotion and suspense building rapidly. Lillian is now in Paris, still strugg-

Schell): "...you are afraid to be afraid, and so will do what sometimes you cannot do..."

Zinnemann seems to take great care that this film comes across as realistic, for those who haven't read *Pentimento* and don't know that it is based on a real-life experience. Especially for those of us who are of a younger generation and who have come to see World War II through the eyes of directors like John Ford and Howard Hawks, where Americans always seem superficially unaware of the war until Pearl Harbor is attacked. And in any case, John Wayne and his troops always pulled us through while the women — the pretty nurses and USO ladies — kept their spirits high.

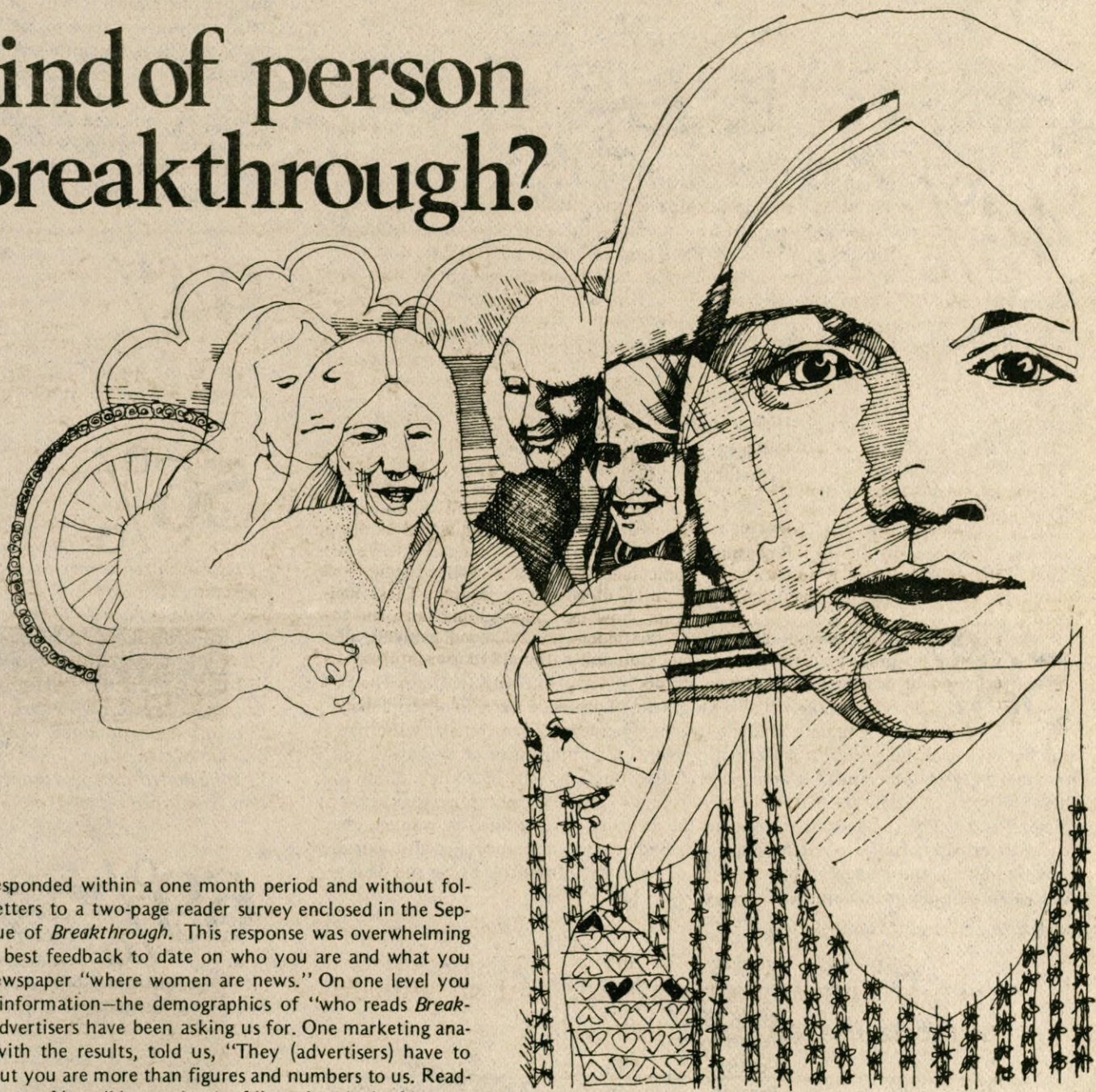
Lillian and Julia are women who gamble with life; they pursue their special goals and strong ideals. They are women who have multi-dimensional lives. It is about time! Honestly, can you remember the last film in which you saw one woman turn to another and say, simply, "I love you."?

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What kind of person reads Breakthrough?



25%

of our readers responded within a one month period and without follow up calls or letters to a two-page reader survey enclosed in the September 1977 issue of *Breakthrough*. This response was overwhelming and gave us our best feedback to date on who you are and what you think about a newspaper "where women are news." On one level you gave us survival information—the demographics of "who reads *Breakthrough*?" that advertisers have been asking us for. One marketing analyst, impressed with the results, told us, "They (advertisers) have to

take you seriously after (seeing) these figures." But you are more than figures and numbers to us. Reading the questionnaires was a very human experience. You did not simply *fill in the blanks*. You expressed your feelings about *every* category of question, squeezing a written reply where often no space was allowed, as in the section on credit cards where one woman executive penciled in, "Call me up and I'll tell you about my experience trying to get oil company credit cards." In a question where we distinguished between *family* income and *personal* income, several full-time homemakers assertively wrote in "half of the above" family income as their personal income. And, when it came to the paper we felt self-indulgent reading more than 50 strong endorsements in any one evening. In fact, we were accused by one male reader of being either "naive" or "designedly self-serving" when we asked if there was a *need* for *Breakthrough*. But it was a sincere question. We wondered, for example, why you rarely wrote "letters to the editor". We had the feeling, at times, that we were into a one-dimensional communication with you. We needed feedback. So we asked you and you told us, unequivocally, that anger is the greatest motivation in writing letters to any news medium. "Unfortunately, delight comes second," one woman subscriber wrote "and you delight more than anger me." You made us feel that the paper was *your* advocate — a forum to put into words what you felt about issues in the community — You asked for more investigative journalism. You wanted the paper to take even more of a stand on issues. You have made us fantasize about what would happen if we could have a team of *Breakthrough* reporters doing hard news — full-time — around the state. A Lubbock *Breakthrough*. An El Paso *Breakthrough*. Maybe, one day we will be a Texas *Breakthrough* with bureaus in every major Texas city. In the meantime you have made us feel that we have a strong base of support in order to continue to grow. And knowing you better from the honesty of your replies will make us a better news medium. Thank you for taking the time to communicate to us.

“... women
and other
human beings”

“Is there a need for Breakthrough? Are you kidding!”

92% of our readers are female, 8% male. In our questionnaire we listed “F” before “M”, leading one male respondent to comment, “I almost checked the first box out of habit.” Ethnic breakdown came to 91% White/Anglo, 5% Black, and 2% Brown/Hispanic. Several Spanish-speaking readers took exception to the term “Brown” and indicated their preference for other designations, such as, “Hispanic, Latina, or Chicana.” Predictably, 60% of the age range fell heavily into the 25–45 year category. The next time we do a questionnaire, we will break that 20–year span into 25–34 and 35–49 ranges. And we will remember to include “marital status.” (No one caught us on that!)

AGE CATEGORY

18–25	4%
25–45	60%
over 45	23%

44% of our readers have a master’s degree or above — a doctorate, law school or other professional degree. (WOW!) Does this mean that all the Houston area members of the American Association of University Women are *Breakthrough* subscribers? If not, why not? We hope this does not mean you need a sheepskin to read our newsprint tabloid. Perhaps we’ll never reach that mass audience, but for now we’ll take comfort in the view of one reader who exclaimed “. . . Thank God (you’re) above a fifth grade reading level.” Eat your hearts out, *Post* and *Chronicle*!

High school	1%
College	17%
Bachelor’s	36%
Master’s	28%
Doctor’s	8%
Professional	8%

58% of all readers (and 58% of our female readers) are employed full-time, a bit higher than Houston and national (1975) labor statistics for employed women: 46.9% (city) and 40% (nation). The 10 occupations listed with greatest frequency were, in order: college or graduate student, teacher, homemaker, secretary, writer, researcher (science), nurse, director (school or agency), administrator or executive, and psychologist/psychotherapist. A wide variety of occupations were listed in addition to these: a polarity balancer, person Friday, refinery operator (female), repairperson (male) and a women’s advocate. Reflecting the diversity of roles filled by women, one reader described herself as “purchasing agent, bookkeeper, insurance specialist, nurse, cook, laundress, and manager for household of six ranging from an 18-year-old daughter to a 96-year-old invalid mother.”

Full-time	58%
Part-time	13%
Self-employed	19%
Income from:	
Spouse	14%
Parents	.1%
Other sources	12%

56% of the family income fell into the “over \$20,000” range (move over Texas *Monthly*). Only 16% of personal income was as high. It seems clear that income from two salaries accounts for much of the difference. Despite the small number of male respondents, 45% of their *personal* incomes fell above \$20,000 (one was over \$200,000), whereas only 14% of female respondents have *personal* incomes in the over \$20,000 range. One woman attorney from Ohio quibbled with equating income with money. “I did a divorce the other day for an electric frying pan and a Mixmaster.”

Income	Family	Personal
under \$4500		13%
\$4500–7000	3%	6%
\$7000–10,000	6%	14%
\$10,000–15,000	17%	28%
\$15,000–20,000	18%	23%
over \$20,000	56%	16%

You were asked “. . . how often do you spend money on the following (28) items?” and to check frequently, occasionally or never. The accompanying chart shows how you spend your disposable income (money left after rent, groceries, and taxes).

72% indicated that books were the most frequently purchased item with restaurants (59%), magazines (52%), dues/contributions (43%), clothes (34%), travel (32%), tuition/lessons (31%), and fast foods (30%), following. This complements the other findings. A well educated readership will purchase books and other reading materials with greater frequency than the general population. (Reading was also the number one leisure activity of respondents.) Active people — in the work force and in the community — tend to eat out more, spend more money on dues, classes, and tuitions, as well as on clothes. And, the higher income level has the money and luxury to travel (32%), to attend movies (26%), concerts and plays (19 and 15%). This readership also seems to be highly influenced by the Surgeon General’s report on smoking: 71% of you indicated that cigarettes were the leading item *never* purchased. Of interest too, for a “women’s publication” is that only 10% checked cosmetics, 6% jewelry and 12% hairstylists. Some of those who checked hairstylists wrote in “for haircuts only.” For our readership, at least few have time to sit under a hairdryer.

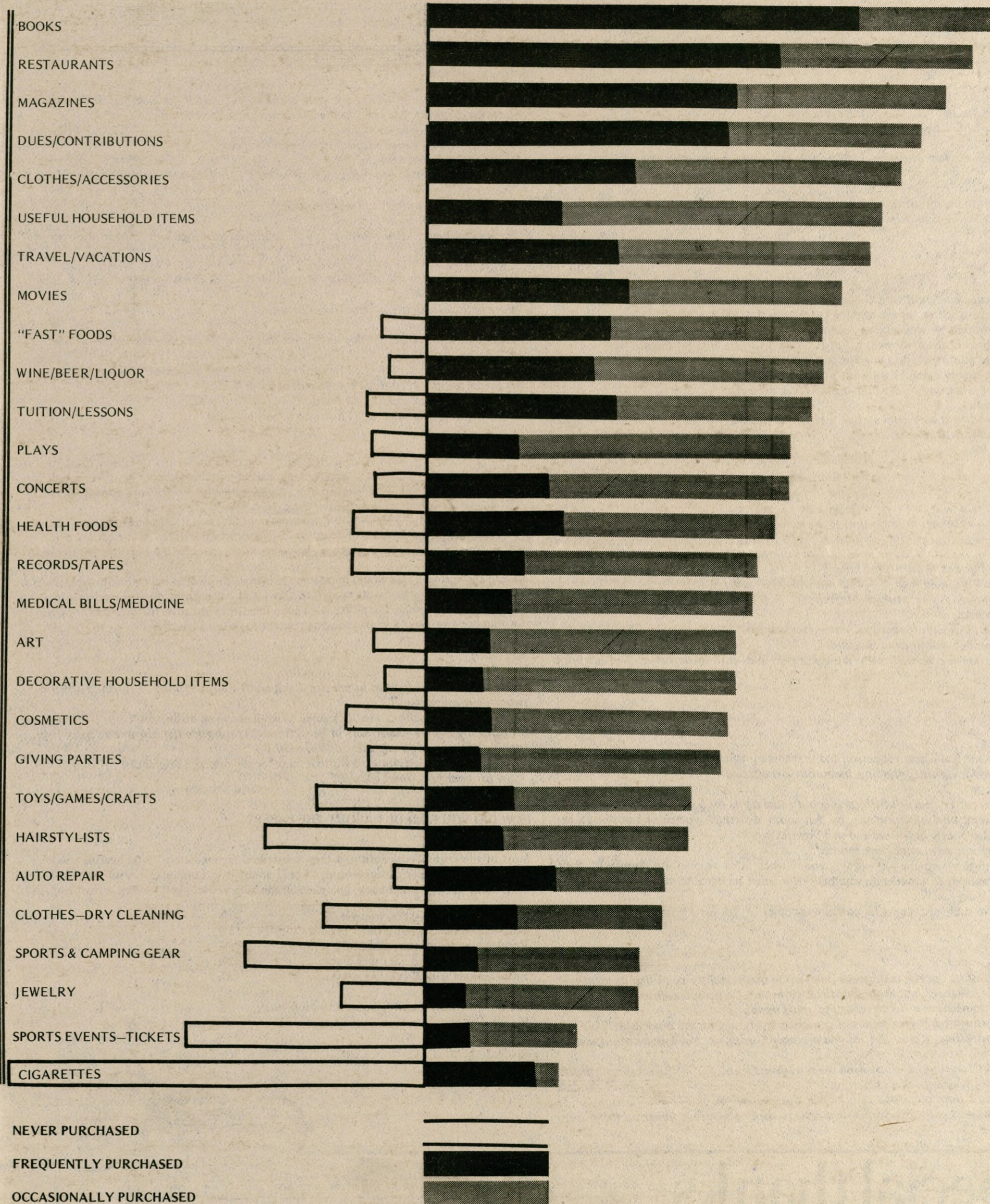
94% of respondents voted in the last election. This compares with 65% of the general public voting in the 1976 presidential election and 20.3% of voters going to the polls in the last city election. Surprisingly, the 94% voter statistic did not surprise us. A mailing last summer to prospective subscribers began with, “You are a person whose support we need in our efforts to develop a strong network of communication among politically aware women and men.”

56% of those responding have contributed time and/or money to political candidates. Of those, 40 percent consider it a positive experience: “More times than I like to remember or could afford!” “I have lost count (how many times)—I enjoy it!” “I regard citizen contributions as a protection against corruption that results from ‘fat cat’ contributions.” “It’s the least I can do to try to effect change.” “I keep doing it even though my candidates usually lose!” “It is obligatory to be politically active.” “I feel it is my patriotic duty. . . each person must feel ‘it begins with me!’” Another 10 percent view their contribution experiences negatively: “I’m often disappointed when the candidate or party does not live up to my initial opinion of him or her.” “I contributed time and money to Bob Gammage’s campaign . . . feel like I wasted my time. He turned his views around once in office.”

69% attend at least one extra-curricular meeting a month. 9% attend more than 10 meetings a month. Although the number of meetings one attends outside of work cannot be equated with one’s degree of community involvement, active individuals are likely to be active in the community. Of the respondents who attend zero meetings, about half take classes, which may cut their involvement in the community. 54% of women and men attend classes, either part-time or full-time.

47% checked the label “humanist” when asked “which description best suits you?” 40% said “feminist,” 23% noted “I don’t like labels of any kind.” No one said “I am not a women’s libber.” Several readers checked more than one box. One respondent wrote along the margin, “Feminist applies but I don’t think many understand it correctly, so I don’t use labels.” Another checked “feminist” and wrote “soft sell” next to it.

100% of respondents answering the question is there a need for *Breakthrough* answered “Yes!” “Are you kidding?” was the most typical response. “Oh, come, come,” one reader chided elegantly. “The need is a gaping chasm.” Several indicated it was the only Houston newspaper to which they subscribed. Others pointed out that the local dailies bury women’s news, or conversely, sensationalize it to fit their editorial direction. Others said: “Definitely! It should be published daily! What local or national coverage is there apart from *Breakthrough* and Ms.?” “Most publications continue to treat women as ‘the little homemaker’ or a sex goddess.” “Reassuring to have it there.”



"It makes me feel like a real person..."

IF SOMEONE SHOULD ASK YOU ABOUT BREAKTHROUGH' HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT TO THEM?

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE BREAKTHROUGH SHOULD DO IN TERMS OF FORMAT AND CONTENT—TO ATTRACT A WIDER READERSHIP OR MORE ADVERTISERS?

"An important publication for women and other human beings."
"Feminist but not radical — positive, not defensive."
"It is the feminist paper in town. Best way to be informed about news and activities for women."
"Growing, relevant, engaging, creative, liberal, open, community oriented, responsible."
"Good, in that it points out problems of women and discrimination against them. But sometimes there is a surfeit of feminine articles and points of view, like there's nothing else in the world of importance."

"A 'woman-made' local Texas Observer."
"An excellent source for establishing contacts in the city."
"Very informative, well-written feminist paper dealing with news and events of interest mainly to Houston women."
"A locally published crusading feminist newsletter which will raise your consciousness to an unbearably painful level while making you say 'Thank God I am a woman!'"
"I think it is reasonable. My husband says it is 'extremist'."
"Never boring."
"Every woman should read a paper written by and for women . . . Men could benefit from reading such a paper—especially if they are fathers of teenage daughters."
"A local Ms —"

"A must for the person who wants to know what is really going on."
"Where women are news' — a local current 'Herstory'."
"Tenacious reporting—sometimes strident editorial matter. A bit over-zealous on some issues, but generally fairly presented."
"Even MCP's should read it, to find out what the enemy is up to."
"Breakthrough is like a breath of fresh air . . . It is a feminist newspaper that features people, mostly women."
"A woman's paper, produced by women for women."
"Breakthrough is Women in Houston!"
"Do you believe women really are gaining ground—read Breakthrough and learn the truth."

"I enjoy it . . ."
"It makes me feel like a real person and that there is an exciting future for me."
"Well written, vigorous, scathing, humorous, penetrating."
"Humorless."
"Breakthrough is a paper which cares about equal rights for both men and women."
"A 'different' kind of newspaper, by and about 'different' women of Houston—a necessity. Also poorly organized and sadly ineffective."
"It has become an essential link for me."
"An intelligent medium for learning about what other women are doing with their lives; . . . appeals to a moderate who believes women are equal to men."
"Quality is uneven."
"I prefer to show my file folder containing copies."

"An interesting, spotty, courageous publication that is still trying to find its identity."
"Realistic, balanced, not angry, but finally insistent. No paranoia—just pride."
"Breakthrough does in-depth reporting, spots trends. . ."
"Breakthrough has been a source of consciousness-raising for my boyfriend."
"Very interesting. If you like Ms you'll probably enjoy it. Not hysterical but sensible and thought-provoking."
"I wouldn't say a word — just hand them this issue (Sept. '77 — "Risk Takers") and let it speak for itself — seeing's believing."
"Distinctive from other papers in that it doesn't have all this (——) about war, financial success and important world leaders shaking hands. I subscribe to no other newspaper."

"Put headlines on the front page that promise 'dirt' inside, or put Farrah Fawcett Majors on the front. (Do you really want to increase circulation that much?)"
"More photographs, fewer words."
"Need more light-hearted features to offset serious ones."
"Some fiction would be nice."
"Features should appeal to men as well as women. — It's their liberation, too!"
"The content is great, but somehow the format makes my friends feel they are going to find something too radical or sensational."
"White space is not wasted space."
"To achieve better state coverage, set up volunteer correspondents around the state. I'll take El Paso."

"More national and international feminist news."
"More on Texas issues."
"Include how-to articles dealing with areas that have traditionally been male-dominated."
"Women who try and fail need recognition, not just the successes. This would be reflective of reality, an essential component of truth."
"I would enjoy a columnist with humor."
"More self-help information . . . how not to be ripped off."

"More on survival kits for single parents trying to balance work, family and personal relationships."
"A little less idol worship for prominent women in the news. . . No one's perfect."
"Stick to journalism and avoid becoming too personally poetic, artistic, or political (in areas other than women's issues, e.g., some caution should be used in referring to the police department)."
"I like the format . . . I would hope surveys such as this would indicate to prospective advertisers that women with moderate views and buying power who read ads buy Breakthrough and that, therefore, it's a good investment to advertise in Breakthrough. I would hope you could avoid changing content to please advertisers."

"I try very hard to support businesses which are feminist-oriented . . . I would rather a woman get my money."
"I use (Breakthrough) as a buyer's guide to women-owned businesses."
"I generally admire (advertisers in Breakthrough) for having the guts to buy space in a publication some may consider controversial."
"Your ads are straight-forward without 'cute' or sex-oriented references. . . Good!"
"Get off your (a——) and sell ads."

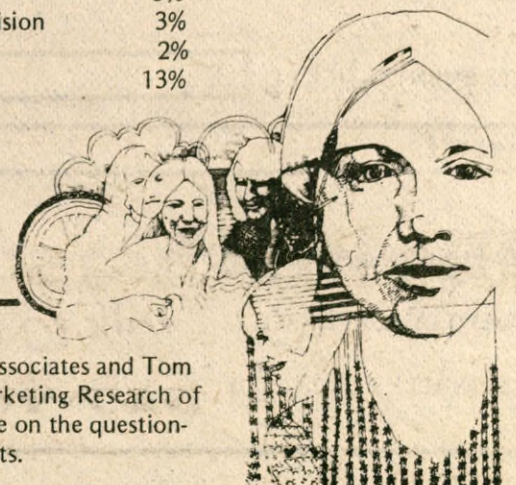
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE PAPER?

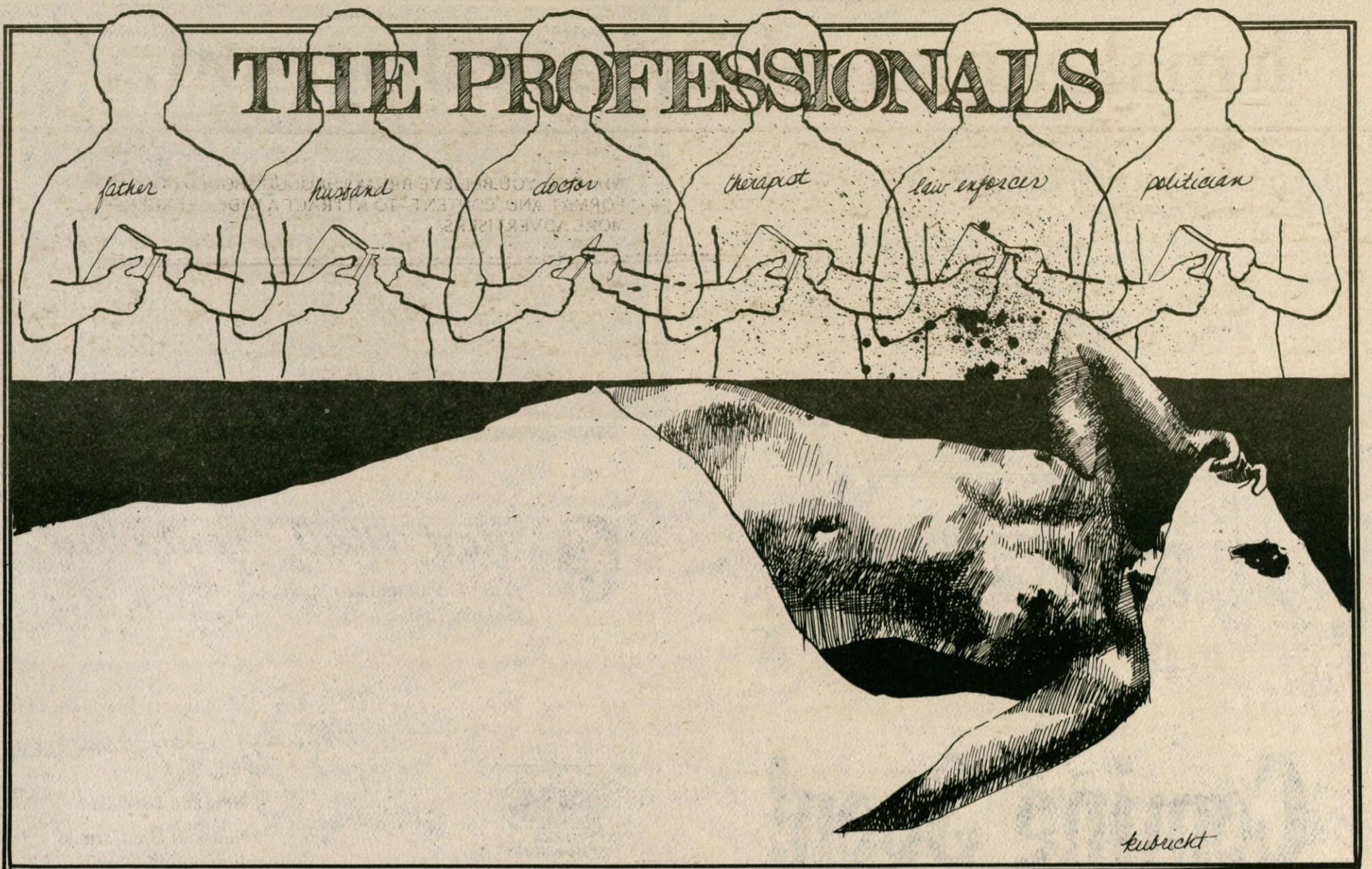
Most of the respondents indicated they subscribed "immediately" after hearing about it or seeing the paper. Another said, "I read about it in Lubbock. . . subscribed almost immediately. In Lubbock, you need all the help you can get!"

From friends, coworkers, relatives	26%
Through women's groups, other organizations	15%
Received complimentary issue	14%
Picked it up in a store, at other place	12%
From contact with Breakthrough staff	12%
Gift subscription	3%
From ad, or program on radio or television	3%
By word of mouth	2%
Don't know	13%

special thanks

Advertising executive Ruth Barrett, of Barrett & Barrett Associates and Tom Rowan, a professional marketing consultant with Gelb marketing Research of Houston, who both volunteered their time to give us advice on the questionnaire and some helpful observations about the survey results.





WOMAN : Person & Patient

"(A woman's) helper, her physician or other therapist is quite likely to share common social assumptions about her personality and behavior, and to treat her accordingly."

—The Psychology of Women by Juanita Williams

"Common social assumptions" about women and how they affect the doctor/patient relationship will be the subject of an eventful two-day seminar on *The Woman as Person and Patient: A Psychiatric Perspective*.

The Baylor College of Medicine Department of Psychiatry is hosting the public seminar scheduled for January 19 and 20 at the Warwick Hotel. Dr. Virginia M. Davidson, an assistant professor in Baylor's psychiatry department, organized the seminar which she views as an opportunity for professionals and the public to talk about the emerging roles of women and the resultant broadening of society's views about women.

"The time has come for the field of psychiatry to reexamine the role of the psychiatrist as cultural mediator," Davidson said. "Our concept of mental health and mental illness is being redefined and I think the women's movement has something to teach us."

Dr. Robert Seidenberg, author of *Corporate Wives*, addresses just this idea on the opening day of the seminar with his paper on *What Psychoanalysis Can Learn from the Feminist Movement*.

Another topic of particular interest to the women's community will be *Using the Concept of Oppression as a Therapeutic Tool*, presented by Dr. Carol S. Wolman, a feminist psychiatrist from San Francisco. Wolman will describe the emotional, intellectual and moral connotations of the word oppression, and show how the therapist's use of the word affects the therapeutic relationship. She will also give specific examples of how the word is used in clinical settings with the emphasis on sexuality, family relationships, marriage, motherhood, work and career, and relationships within the mental health system.

The women's movement brought focus on the problem of battered wives, and

the seminar will address this issue in a paper on *Battered Women* by Dr. Elaine Hilberman.

"Prevailing social norms and public policies reinforce the wife's role as her husband's property so that violence which occurs in the privacy of one's home is not considered a public issue," Hilberman will point out to those attending the seminar.

A violent family is the socialization agent for the next generation of violent individuals, Hilberman contends, yet medical, social and criminal justice institutions conspire to preserve the integrity of home and family—even the violent home and family. In her report, she will describe the profound psychological impact of abuse on women and on their children, and the symptoms by which clinical therapists can identify victims of abuse.

Julia Mazow, PhD, a former English instructor at the University of Houston, will examine the ways in which American literature reflects past and present views about women in her paper *The Psychiatrist as Cultural Mediator*. Because many literary works present the psychiatrist as a cultural mediator and an interpreter of social sanctions for women, Mazow focuses on the relationship between women and their healers in specific pieces from Oliver Wendell Holmes' *Elsie Venner*, an early presentation of schizophrenia, to Erica Jong's *Fear of Flying*.

Other conference topics will cover *Psychosomatic Medicine and the Woman Patient*, *The successful Professional Woman*, *Genetic Aspects of the Fear of Competition*, and *Sex Differences in the Developmental Aspects of Shame*.

Registration fee for the two-day conference is \$75. The seminar has been approved for 11 credit hours in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association and meets the requirements of the American Psychiatric Association for 11 continuing education credit hours. Further information is available from the Office of Continuing Education, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas 77030.

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Coming Soon!

by Maxine Atlas

A "happening" to benefit all women of the Houston area is in the making. From the many groups serving women's needs in the community, a coalition has evolved with the collective purpose of establishing a Houston Area Women's Center where the whole spectrum of women's needs will be served.

"It is to be a facility where all people can meet to further the particular goal of equality between the sexes and the general goal of human rights, and to provide organizational, educational and therapeutic support for women," in the words of Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, the City of Houston Women's Advocate who also serves as the newly elected president of the planned Women's Center. The program envisioned is innovative in its combination of therapeutic support and political and social organizing.

The Women's Center will provide:

- Shelter
- Psychological services
- Legal counseling
- Child care
- Transportation
- Referral and information
- Community education
- Support and consciousness raising
- Recreation
- Health care
- Health education
- Family counseling and education
- Resource center
- Meeting rooms
- Job bank
- Cultural events
- Alcohol and drug abuse education and counseling
- Human sexuality/body awareness education

Van Hightower applied for funds for organizing a center. She, with representatives of the Center of Rehabilitating Alcoholic Women (CORA) and the Coali-

tion of Abused Women, met at a conference on alcoholic women where the need for such a center was discussed.

The University of Texas School of Public Health was also involved in the problems of rehabilitating alcoholic women and became one of the groups participating in the planning, organization and funding of the center. Other groups which have joined the coalition are the Houston Council on Human Relations and Women's Information, Referral and Exchange System of Women in Action. In addition, a broad-based community support has emerged for the center.

A small grant from the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) provides salaries for three staff members who are involved in coordination, proposal writing and clerical work. The Houston Council on Human Relations, sponsor of the CETA grant, has provided for the staff space.

A Board of Directors has been formed, and officers elected at the December meeting are Van Hightower, president; Helen Covert, vice-president of Center of Rehabilitating Alcoholics, will be the vice-president; and the secretary-treasurer will be Art Littell, Professor of Biometry, University of Texas School of Public Health.

The immediate goal is to establish an Abused Women's Center for which the target opening date is March 1978. A location has not been selected, nor has it been determined whether to build, purchase or lease. All possible sources of funding, including federal, state and local, as well as foundations and individual donors, are being examined. The premiere fund raising party was held in early December. Donations to support the center should be sent to Houston Area Women's Center, 2518 Grant, Houston, Texas 77006.

hous'ov·kol'man

n. 1. A woman-owned business specializing in quality graphics and printing. 2. A large red brick house in the heart of Montrose. – *adj.* Having many and varied features. – *v.* Producing design, illustration, camera work, printing and bindery. – *adv.* 1. To increase the client's business manifold. 2. To satisfy the client.

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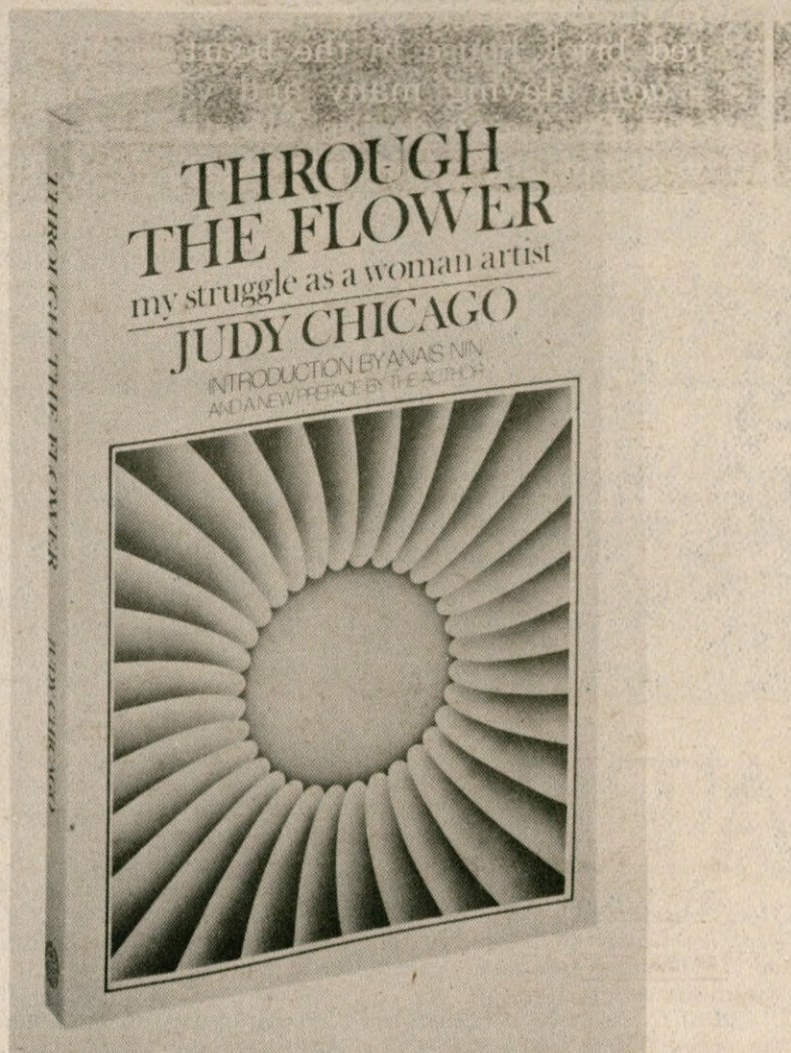


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THROUGH THE FLOWER
My Struggle as a Woman Artist
Judy Chicago
Preface by Anais Nin

\$4.50, paperback

In this straightforward autobiography a leading woman artist chronicles the growth of her creative identity. Writing of the frustrations of women artists—past and present—Judy Chicago defines the cultural obstacles that women have had to overcome to develop and fulfill themselves. She deals frankly with her own struggle to liberate herself from role-conditioning, to equalize her relationship with her husband, to make a place for herself in the world by expressing her experiences as a woman through her work. She also describes her attempts to build an alternate art community based on the needs of women creators: *Womanhouse*, the feminist environment at the California Institute of Arts; *Womanspace*, the West Coast exhibition center for women; and finally the beginning of the Feminist Studio Workshop, the first educational institution for women in the arts. An extraordinary book filled with amazing positive energy and one of the outstanding contributions to the literature of the new woman's consciousness.

March, \$8.95; 54 pages of black and white photos; appendix; index.



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June Singer, Ph.D.

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Inside each man and woman is a complex duality of personality traits that are recognizably masculine or feminine or an unequal blend of both. In this book, June Singer illustrates the process by which a person can profitably embrace these at once complementary and contradictory attributes within his or her total personality, secure in the knowledge that this duality is not only normal but one of the healthiest expressions of an individual's self awareness. An "invaluable book for both men and women," wrote Anais Nin. "A provocative look at human sexuality." —Stanley Krippner, Ph.D. "There have always been thinkers with sensitive antennae who comprehend phenomena at their very beginnings . . . June Singer is such a thinker."—*The Cleveland Press*.

June Singer, Ph.D., is one of Chicago's most prominent Jungian analysts. Her previous books include *The Unholy Bible: A Psychological Interpretation of William Blake* and *Boundaries of the Soul*.

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JANICE RUBIN

SISTER KATE

by Sue Kaufman

"All together at last!"

It was Kate Millett speaking softly over my left shoulder through the din of cheering thousands on the floor of the Houston Coliseum.

Betty Friedan had just finished her speech of support for the sexual preference issue and Kate's words sounded like a soft sigh of relief.

It was the complete Gestalt. The end of the Lavender Menace. And for Kate Millett it had to be a particularly triumphant day. Perhaps more than any other leader in the movement, Millett had over the years taken the brunt of the homophobic attack on lesbians. This is not to say that others, too, had not received the same treatment from the media and "sisters," but Millett's battle had been waged on the public stage — in the media spotlight from the beginning.

From that very first moment in 1970 when *Time* magazine had, for whatever reasons, decided to make this woman's sexual identity a public issue, Millett's every utterance and pen stroke was evaluated in the lavender light which she was said to be casting upon the entire movement.

But this Sunday in Houston was Kate's vindication. The previous day she had spoken to cheering throngs outside City Hall telling them that the movement was alive and thriving — "We are here to stay!"

Millett didn't come to the conference floor as a delegate, but with the help of delegate and media friends she had managed to procure floor credentials. By the time the sexual preference issue had come up she was firmly ensconced beside the Wisconsin delegation and wearing the orange crepe paper arm band signifying support of the sexual preference issue.

During the tedious afternoon of pacing the conference floor Millett had been well worked over by the print and electronic media.

"Do they always ask the same questions?" I finally asked her after the umpteenth reporter had left our view.

"Always," Kate said. She explained the dilemma of the one-way conversation that inevitably ensues with the press.

"I know nothing about them, who they are, what they think. And they know everything about me." Grueling, at best tiring, this life Millett leads, enshrined as a movement hero whose entire private and public life has been fused into the symbolic representation of "Women's Lib".

But the Irish in Kate carried her through. A bit hesitant to the first interviewer, by the second she was revved up and purring. And by the time the woman from the *New York Times* magazine had saddled her in front of the podium where we sat, she was really into the in-depth dialogue she appeared to crave.

There were flashes of Kate the scholar, commenting on the quality of the parliamentary procedure going on. Then a

whiff of "Sister Kate...vain and needy" (as she calls herself in *Flying*), strutting before the feminist press area obviously enjoying the attention.

And of course there were the wisps of the insecure Kate. The Kate whose hands trembled slightly before the first interviewers. The Kate who feared being evicted from the floor, even when Gloria Steinem came over to say how glad she was to see her there. CBS and NBC found her next, the camera crews getting the still shots. It was as if they had a timetable of when the lesbian rights issue was on. The speakers came one after another, and then through an open channel in the sea of bodies before us, we could see Friedan approaching a microphone.

Millett's conversation with Friedan in *Flying* flashed in my mind... "Betty, you've got to hear me out...gay liberation is valid for the same reason as feminism."

And of course at that time Betty wanted Kate to shut up about "gay lib" and Kate wouldn't.

Millett — they'd laid the ultimate guilt trip on her.... "It'll hurt the movement."

As Friedan herself had written about that sleeting day in December 1970 when she had refused to wear the lavender arm-

band in the march along Fifth Avenue... "I begged them (lesbian activists in general, Millett in particular) not to do it. I said the women's movement was too important to too many people who were not necessarily lesbians at all and had no intention of becoming such, to be sacrificed to such a cause. I said this would do a terrible disservice to a lot of good women in the women's movement who happened to be lesbians in their sexual preferences. And I and others hadn't known or couldn't have cared less about that until now. But if they insisted on making such an issue of lesbianism — introducing it as such an insistent sexual red herring in the women's movement — I was sure it would boomerang into an era of sexual McCarthyism that might really paralyze the women's movement and hurt them and everyone..." (quoted from *It Changed My Life* by Betty Friedan).

Now, seven years later in this southern city, the two of them separated by a thousand craning necks, the moment had come. Would Betty renounce her former stand? Would she reiterate her fears? Would the issue fail to win the support of the delegates?

If there was a single word to describe Millett's face it would have to be "apprehensive." By then Kate had heard the rumors that Betty was going to come out in support of the issue. But what stock can one put in rumors at this point in the movement's history?

Betty began and retraced her position. She talked about her fears out of the past. She talked about the need for passage of the ERA. She admitted she's been violently opposed to lesbianism and said that as a woman raised in "Middle America — in Peoria, Illinois," she had had trouble with "that issue."

"We have all made mistakes in our focus on this issue. But we have all learned. Now my passionate priority is the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, or we will lose all that we have fought for in the last 15 years. And because I know and you know that despite what our enemies say, there is nothing whatsoever in the Equal Rights Amendment that will give protection to homosexuals, I believe that we must help the women who are lesbians gain equal protection of their civil rights... I suggest we waste no further time and ask you to join with me and vote our support of this resolution!"

It was anti-climatic from there. The vote. The cheering throngs and the victory snake-chain through the coliseum. Millett didn't need much encouragement to join in the pandemonium.

A quick pat on the back, and she was into the middle of the crowd, along with the hundreds, thousands of others who cheered the decision...back into the mainstream one might say.

But it's a very different mainstream today.

And Millett's personal struggle and the struggles of many others have made it so.

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SUZANNE PAUL

Kathy Whitmire with her campaign manager Teague Cavness (center) and Mayor Fred Hofheinz following Whitmire's swearing in on December 14, 1977 as the new city controller.

Whitmire con'd from page 1

"petite" City Controller-Elect, a description rarely used by the news media in reference to equally "petite" Sen. John Tower or former Mayor Louie Welch.

Throughout the campaign, Whitmire believes being a woman was not an "overt" issue until her run-off opponent, Steve Jones, made it one.

After the general election, Jones ran broadcast spots emphasizing the candidates' respective sexes, Whitmire's feminist activities and her endorsement by the Gay Political Caucus, but did not attack her qualifications.

"He was the one who overtly opposed the women's movement and believed that attacking the women's movement would discredit me," Whitmire says of the initial field of five candidates. Whitmire also disputes Jones' apparent reaction that he lost to her because she is a woman.

"The fact that I'm a woman considerably helped our volunteer effort," she says. "The fact that I'm a woman considerably hurt our fund-raising effort. The volunteer effort and the women's movement were vital, but I don't know if that would have been enough. There were so many other elements. I had the best qualifications of anyone and the support of some of my colleagues. I think probably qualifications and volunteers were the most important. There were so many volunteers who were so enthusiastic and motivated to elect a woman. I would venture to say more people-hours were put into my campaign than anyone else's."

Whitmire reports another lesson she learned from her husband's 1975 City Council race. "Jeanne Elliott didn't have the campaign level of Jim (her husband) or (Louis) Macey. She made that run-off in

a field of 11 candidates because she was the only woman."

Taking that one step further, Whitmire adds that one woman will drain votes from another woman in the same race, and she was surprised it did not happen to her. "I was scared to death of it, but I expected it to happen because it would have been a politically smart thing to do, even if she (Elliott) never stood a chance."

Before the general election, a voter preference poll showed John Castillo to be in first place, Whitmire in second and Bob Brewer in third.

"I guess they didn't perceive me to be that big a threat...the mentality is that a woman can't be taken seriously even if the polls show that she is."

The Whitmire campaign had counted on a run-off from the very beginning and campaign manager Cavness says they all took great pains to be as organized as possible. "I think it's well worth the trouble to go to the extra effort in the organizing and not skip over anything."

Cavness, a native Houstonian, learned her political organizing in Atlanta, her home from 1968 to 1975. She "accidentally" became involved in Maynard Jackson's campaign for mayor and then worked on his staff following his election. Cavness returned to Houston two years ago and is now a partner in a public relations firm.

Cavness and partner Bill Radding were largely responsible for planning the media aspect of the campaign, with Cavness determining how many ads to buy in which time slots and pages in which publications. Whitmire describes Cavness' efforts as "very effective. We got a lot more for our money."

Although opponents Bob Brewer and Palmer Bowser spent a great deal more money on their general election advertising, Cavness says the Whitmire campaign used its money "better." Instead of hiring consulting firms and expensive "political media

experts," Cavness says, the various elements were brought together from within the campaign.

Richard Murray helped with some of the polling and data interpretation and volunteer Jerry Woods targeted precincts for maximum campaign effort and analyzed election data from previous pertinent campaigns.

But Cavness says the reason her candidate won is, "We stuck to issues." She is reluctant to isolate elements of the campaign and say one thing or another led to victory because, "People who think along those lines lose elections. You can't say what is most important."

And if the candidate had been a man instead of a woman? "We would have done exactly the same thing and would have had less trouble doing it," she says.

Whitmire had engagements and speaking appearances every day to get as much personal exposure as possible. Cavness describes the efforts as "a daily building process. You get volunteers any way you can." Volunteers block-walked, made telephone calls, got out mailings, distributed signs and bumper stickers, raised money, gave their own money, worked at headquarters, distributed "push cards" at the polls on election day and recruited other volunteers.

Carolyn Nichols, who headed the volunteer effort, says she is an "organizational freak. I work in systems concepts. You create a system to do a task and you make the system work for you." Her task was to find and coordinate volunteers, and one of the systems she created was the volunteer card, a pre-printed three-inch by five-inch card with spaces for name, phone number, comments and methods of campaign aide—block-walking, financial contributions, phone work or whatever.

Any candidate or campaign staff member will talk at length about the importance of volunteers, but obviously, volunteers are even more critical to candidates without big money. In Nichols' words, "For women candidates, let's forget about the \$1,000 and \$5,000 contributions, at least for now."

Even if women candidates know people with that kind of money, they generally can't get it, Nichols says, adding, "Women are on the outside looking in regarding political money."

"One of the things I learned from funding-raising is that \$10 from 10 of my friends is what a \$50,000 campaign budget is made up of."

She also says there is a psychological advantage in getting a contribution from a person, "if someone gives you just \$1, they're committed. You've got their vote because they feel a special interest in you."

"I have high hopes this will be a door," Nichols says. "Just having one woman in city government can be very important and make a difference if she's willing to work for you...I'll bet Kathy will help other women get into office."

"We have to learn to work in coalitions," Whitmire says. "Women activists were very effective, but we didn't do it all ourselves...I think what we've done is proven a woman can win and that a woman who does believe in feminism and has worked in feminist causes can be a candidate who can address issues outside the women's movement and can appeal to people outside the women's movement."

"Now I want to show people a woman can be a good City Controller and financial manager and that will probably do more good than many of the things I did for the feminist movement, such as speaking for the ERA."

"Whenever we're out of the office, the Breakthrough phones are answered courteously and your messages are taken efficiently 24 hours a day by

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STRATEGY TO PREVENT AN ATTACK

Always Be Cautious No Matter Where You Are Or What Time Of Day It Is...
Rape Can Happen To You.



A. In the Home

1. Doors

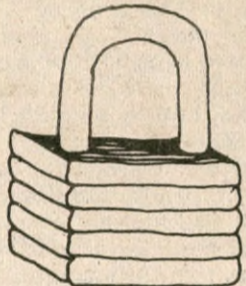
- There should be lights at all entrances.
- Doors should be solid so they cannot be kicked in. If yours are less than 3/4" thick wood, weak, or hollow-core, replace or reinforce them.
- Change exterior door hinges to the interior or install non-removable hinge pins.
- Doors should fit securely in their frames. If the fit is loose or the frame is weak, have the frame reinforced.
- Install a wide-angle peephole for a full view outside your door.
- Don't leave notes on your door, or newspaper on your porch advertising you are not home.
- Keep doors locked at all times.
- Instruct young children never to answer a doorbell or knock.

2. Windows

- Keep curtains and/or blinds on every window.
- Keep your curtains and blinds down at night, especially if your home is easily accessible from the street.
- Have weak or loose frames reinforced or rebuilt.

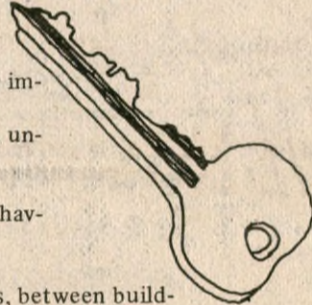
3. Locks

- All windows and doors should be in place and have either a Dead-Bolt or Drop-Bolt lock. These operate with a key inserted into a cylinder.
- When moving into a new house or apartment, change all locks.
- Protect the cylinder with a guard plate. This metal device secured to the door prevents the cylinder from being removed.
- Avoid snap or spring locks which work just by closing the door without requiring the use of a key.
- The best lock is no good if it isn't used. Use it all the time.



4. Keys

- If you lose your keys, have locks or cylinders changed immediately.
- Don't hide the keys in obvious places (i.e., the mailbox, under the doormat).
- Be wary of whom you give your keys to.
- Separate house and car keys when parking your car or having it repaired.



5. General

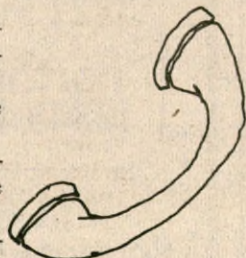
- Be aware of places where men might hide; under stairs, between buildings.
- Know some of your neighbors and which ones you could trust in an emergency.
- Use your initials rather than your first name in the phone book and on your mailbox.
- If you hear a prowler or burglar in your house, get out of the house through a back door or window and go to a neighbor's house to call the police. Avoid any confrontation.
- When you are not at home, never leave only the outside porch lights on. This is a signal you are not home. Leave a bedroom or bathroom light on also.
- When returning home at night, have your keys ready before you get to the door. This precaution will prevent you from taking time at the door to search through your purse for your house keys.
- If you return home and you feel something is not right, don't go in. Call the police and have them help you check the house.
- If a stranger comes to use your phone, get the information and make the call for the person.
- When alone and answering a door ring, call out, "I'll take it, Bob", or "I'll get it, Tom." Make sure your voice is loud and clear. Never reveal either in person or on the phone that you are alone.
- Dogs can be a deterrent to a would-be intruder.
- If possible, avoid going into a public laundry room alone at night. These are prime target areas for attackers.

B. Visitors, Repairmen, Deliverymen

- Repairmen who represent utility companies carry identification cards. If a man has none, get his name and phone the company he claims to represent before you admit him.
- A large number of attacks occur because women allow unidentified strangers to enter their homes. Never say to a repairman, "Come in", and then check his identification. Make him wait outside the door until you are satisfied it's safe to let him enter.

C. Telephone Calls

- Don't give your name, number, or address to a telephone caller. Ask who he is calling, then tell him he has the wrong number.
- Never give a caller any reason to suspect you are alone in the house.
- If a phone call is becoming obscene or frightening, hang up immediately. If the caller persists, blow a whistle loudly into the mouthpiece.
- If threatening or obscene phone calls persist, report immediately to the phone company so your number can be changed or your phone monitored.



Rape Prevention

D. Elevators

An apartment or office building elevator is a made-to-order cage in which to trap female victims. It is small, soundproof, confining, and can be halted between floors for an unlimited period of time.

- When entering an elevator, always stand next to the control panel. Look for the emergency button.
- Don't get on an elevator occupied by a man or men that make you feel uneasy.
- If there are other passengers who get off the elevator except for a man that makes you uneasy, get off with them and wait for the next car.
- If you are alone on the elevator and a man or group of men get on and you feel uncomfortable, get off. Respond to gut reactions...It is better to offend someone or even to look foolish than to get raped.
- Allow other passengers to push the button for their floor first, then push yours.
- If you suspect trouble, push the alarm button and as many buttons as possible so that the elevator will quickly come to a halt at the next floor.

E. Walking

How you look is important. An attacker usually expects a passive victim, so if you walk slowly or in a daze, you will appear vulnerable. Walking at a steady pace, looking confident, and knowing where you are going can make a difference.

- Try not to overload yourself with packages, a large purse, or books. Pockets are more practical. Keep your hands free. (Most men on the street have their hands free).
- Wear shoes and clothes that you can run in if you need to. Tight pants and long dresses make it difficult to move. Clogs and platform shoes shouldn't be used if you are walking alone. Capes, scarves, and long necklaces are easy to grab.
- Try to avoid walking alone at night. It is always best to work out transportation with people you work with, are friends with, or with whom you go out or to school.
- Walk only on busy, well lighted streets.
- At night, don't walk through dark parking lots, parks, or other places where men might hang out or hide.
- Don't walk too close to the inside of the sidewalk; near bushes, alley entrances, driveways, or entrances to private places.
- Try to vary your daily routine. Do not use the same route and times each day. If you cannot vary your routine, have friends and neighbors watch for you when coming home.
- Carry a whistle wrapped around your wrist or any noise making device that can be heard from several yards away.
- If you're alone, be especially aware of what's around you. Listen for footsteps and voices nearby. Look around to see if someone might be following you. If you think so, try crossing the street. Stay near the streetlights. If you decide to break into a run, yell, "Fire", or "Help". Go to the nearest lighted place and get in quickly.
- If you are waiting for a friend outside, a bus, or the light to change, notice how you stand. You should be balanced; don't keep your hands in your pockets. (Your elbows are easy to grab, and in no position to respond quickly.) Don't lean against streetlights, fences, or signs. Be aware of cars that might pull up near you or keep passing you.
- If a car approaches and the driver is bothering you, run in the opposite direction of the way the car is traveling. The driver will have to make a U-turn to chase you. The time this takes him may allow you to get away.
- If a man asks you for directions from his car, do not walk over to him. If he speaks too softly, stand where you are and ask him to speak louder.
- If you are being followed as you approach your home, go to a neighbor's home. Do not try to go to your home. The attacker may force his way in as you open the door.
- Don't give friendly answers to men who attempt to strike up conversations on the street. Walk briskly and with purpose.
- When you arrive home by taxicab, ask the driver to wait until you are inside the house.

F. While Using Transportation

1. Driving

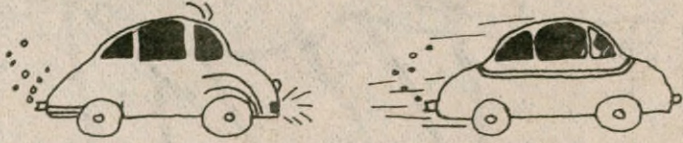
- Keep the car doors locked at all times even if you intend to be gone only a few minutes after parking the car.
- The more lighted your house, garage and driveway, the better.
- Always check the back seat before entering. A potential attacker can hide there and wait for the driver to return.
- Prominently display an article of male clothing in the car. Someone with harmful intentions often has no way of knowing whether you'll be returning to the auto with a male companion, even if you left the car by yourself.
- Install an auto-burglar alarm.
- Let someone know your destination, route and expected time of return.
- Keep your car properly maintained.
- While driving, keep your doors locked and windows rolled down a little bit.
- Try to travel on busy, well lighted streets.
- Make sure you have enough gas to get where you're going.
- Always leave the car in gear while at stop lights or pedestrian crossings. If someone tries to get into your car, blow the horn and drive away quickly.
- Do not stop for another car even if it has flashing red lights unless it is a marked police car, ambulance, or fire vehicle. There have been cases of criminals stopping their victims at night by using flashing red lights.
- If you wish to help a stranded motorist, go to the nearest telephone and



Rape Prevention

call for assistance. Many women are robbed or attacked because they stopped to help what appeared to be someone with car trouble.

- n. If a stranger tries to open the door, mash the accelerator pedal—fast. If traffic conditions prevent you from moving forward, back up and blast the horn. The noise probably will scare off the attacker and attract attention, which is the last thing in the world he wants.



2. If You Think You Are Being Followed by Another Car

- a. Do not allow your car to be forced to the side of the road. If someone tries to crowd you to the curb or off the road, be tough and aggressive no matter how frightened you are. Lean on the horn for a long period of time. Let your pursuer know you are just as determined as he is.
- b. Get his license number and car description. Then, promptly notify the police. If he hasn't succeeded with you, there's a good chance he'll soon go after another woman. The police want to get him behind bars just as badly as you do.
- c. Do not pull into your driveway. Drive to the nearest police station or into a busy service station.
- d. If another motorist indicates that your car is not working properly while driving, do not stop or get out of your car to investigate. Drive to the nearest service station or a friend's house.

3. If Your Car Breaks Down in an Isolated Area

- a. If you are stranded in a car that will not start, turn on the emergency blinkers and raise the hood if you feel it is safe to get out of the car. Then get back in the car, lock the doors, and roll up the windows.
- b. Do not accept rides from strangers.
- c. If someone stops, do not get out of your car to talk. Momentarily open your window slightly and ask them to call for assistance.
- d. If someone tries to force his way into your car, turn on the lights, blink your bright lights, and sound your horn.

4. Parking

- a. Always park your car in well lighted busy locations. Avoid alleys, dark underground garages and dark side streets when possible.
- b. If parking during the day and returning at night, check for street and building lights.
- c. Always lock the doors.
- d. Do not get out of the car until you are sure there are no suspicious persons in the area.
- e. When you come back to your car, have your keys in your hand. Check that the front and rear seats are unoccupied before getting into the car.
- f. When parking in a pay lot, leave only the ignition key in the car. Don't give anyone a chance to duplicate your house key.
- g. When you arrive home, leave your car lights on until you have opened the garage door and checked that no one is hiding in the garage. Check your house and yard for anything suspicious. Have your house key ready before you get out of the car.
- h. You might consider installing an automatic garage door opener that simultaneously turns on your garage lights.

5. Jumping Out of a Moving Car

There may come a time when you might have to jump out of a moving car. (This also holds true if you are forced into a car.) Make sure you can roll to a clear spot away from other moving cars. Throw your shoulders first with your right hand near your body. Tuck your head into your neck and keep your back curved. Let your feet follow. It'll hurt, but if you fear you will be killed and you aren't near any stop lights or signs, it may be your only choice. Try to remember the license plate number of the car.

6. Hitchhiking



670ld, Section 81(c) of the Texas Motor Vehicle Law states, "No person shall stand in roadway, for the purpose of soliciting a ride, contributions, employment, or business from the occupant of any vehicle." It is a violation of state law to hitchhike. Therefore, don't do it under any circumstances.

FACE TO FACE CONFRONTATION

- A. The person intent upon rape characteristically seeks to separate the intended victim from any outside help. Remain as calm as you can and try to avoid becoming isolated with the assailant. Your own initiative and imagination is your best defense.

1. To avoid a possible confrontation, try to recognize a warning signal early enough. (e.g., stranger lurking around your car.) If something does not seem right, most people tend to deny their own fear response.
2. At the earliest suggestion of a possible rape, you should immediately attempt to run from the scene toward the nearest populated area. You should drop all your belongings, and scream "Fire" to attract as much attention as possible. The immediacy of your attempted escape is critical.
3. If this fails, and the rapist is not carrying a weapon and is not physically overpowering, you could attempt verbal confrontation as a second step.

Most rapists are seeking a startled, stunned, passive woman who submits sexually with minimal resistance. The rapist must see you as a difficult, aggressive opponent, not a cowering, passive individual groping for a response to his threat of rape. Physical resistance may also be considered if he doesn't have a weapon.

4. If the above steps fail, the rapist is carrying a weapon, or is physically overpowering, you should try to establish sympathetic communication with him. The rapist will feel guilty and control his own behavior more if he feels he is attempting to rape a real person rather than just an object. You should thus focus your conversation on a real problem the rapist has, e.g., relating to women, while conveying concern for him. Some rapists will attempt to block such communication by such comments as "Just shut up and be quiet," but you should persist in your efforts unless physical aggression is threatened.
5. If all the above approaches fail and rape is completed, you should try to convey that, although you didn't want to be raped, it has happened. If you reflect a desire for secrecy, it is less likely that the rapist will consider killing you to avoid his own capture. After you are in a safe environment, immediately contact law enforcement to bring about his arrest.

B. Passive Resistance

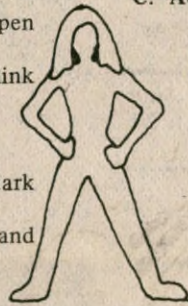
This is to provide you with a method of self protection which, if it fails, will not cause you further physical harm, unless you believe your attacker is going to kill you. The philosophy is that the rapist is a violent, dangerous person, and will meet your resistance with further violence and injury to you. The goal of passive resistance is to persuade your attacker through talking not to kill you and/or not to complete the rape act.

1. Remember, hysteria never was anyone's best defense; try to remain calm.
2. Try to establish some line of communication with the assailant. You should not plead or beg because this enhances the assailant's feeling of power over you. You should talk with him and try to make him see you as an individual rather than as an object. Do not anger him by making slurs on his masculinity.
3. Women have successfully feigned VD, pregnancy, or mental illness to convince men not to rape them. Women have also vomited or urinated when desperate.
4. Use your imagination! Try anything, as long as the rapist cannot view it as open resistance or violence.
5. Never feel guilty about anything you must do to survive a rape situation.
6. Use anything you think might work for you, as long as it won't make the situation worse than it already is.

C. Active Resistance

Active resistance is designed to repel the attacker. Your goal is to react immediately using your own body and/or any legal weapon to startle him and then escape.

1. If you just throw your hands out for striking, they can be grabbed by an attacker and used to get you down. Any strikes with your hands in fists should go right to the face; eyes, ears, nose and mouth.
2. If an attacker is close to your body, use your elbows for striking the neck, his sides, or even his stomach to take him by surprise.
3. If you're grabbed from behind, throw your head back hard against the attacker's face or throat.
4. If he's real close to you, never forget your voice in his ears, and your teeth.
5. If you want to kick, don't just throw your leg around him; aim at his knees, this will knock him off balance. (If you aim too high, you might lose your balance.) Always kick with your rear foot and the toe of your shoe.
6. Crush down on his instep with your heel.
7. Put out a lighted cigarette in his face.
8. Use hair spray, perfume, or a plastic lemon filled with ammonia in his eyes.
9. If you are carrying an umbrella, place one hand near the center of the umbrella and the other behind it. Use in a quick, jabbing motion (to neck or stomach.) Also, place hands on both sides of it and use as a pushing force to face or neck.
10. Just as boxers use shadow boxing to sharpen their skills, so women should practice holding a variety of different weapons and jabbing, poking, and striking out with them, to get the feel of each. Remember, the short, upward jab is more effective than an overhanded, easily warded off swing.
11. A recommended judo technique is to flip either hand toward the bridge of the attacker's nose with fingers extended and the palm of the hand up to attack the eyes. This should cause momentary blindness enabling escape.



LEGAL WEAPONS AS PROTECTION

Section 46.02 of the Texas Penal Code states "a person commits an offense if he intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carries on or about his person a handgun, illegal knife (blade over 5½"), or club." Section 9.32 of the Texas Penal Code states "a person is justified in using deadly force (causing death or serious bodily injury) against another to prevent the other's eminent commission of aggravated kidnapping, murder, rape, aggravated rape, robbery, or aggravated robbery."

- A. In using a weapon, you must be both quick and effective. The element of surprise is essential as rapists count on the victim being paralyzed with fear. If you hesitate, he may grab your weapon from you and perhaps use it against you. Nothing is as useless as a weapon buried in the bottom of your purse. It must be in your hand.



IF RAPED

If you are raped, please take the following steps:

- A. Notice everything you can about your attacker; his face, height, speech, clothes, the direction he takes when leaving, his license plates, etc;
- B. Preserve all physical evidence. Do not bathe, douche, wash or change clothing or linens. Do not touch any object handled by your attacker;
- C. Immediately call your law enforcement agency and be willing to prosecute;
- D. Immediately notify your physician and/or go to the closest hospital emergency room to receive a medical examination and treatment, and;
- E. Discuss your feelings with friends, family, or counselors in the community. Do not try to cope alone.

network

Network is a new monthly feature intended as a forum for Breakthrough readers to communicate with each other or with the newspaper. Network will replace our letters to the editor and To and From page. Please send announcements, letters or art to Breakthrough, P.O. Box 88072, Houston, Texas 77004.

Come to the Caucus Casino Party and Auction, a fund raiser for the Harris Co. Women's Political Caucus. At the River Oaks Garden Club, January 21, 8 p.m. Don't miss it.

A Super Party honoring Rep. Lance Lalor is planned for Friday, January 13 at 7 p.m. Live Entertainment and Art Exhibit. Cash bar. At St. Thomas Art Gallery, 3905 Yoakum.

Three Commemorative Issues **OVER 100 PAGES** of historic news coverage on the **National Women's Conference** from Houston Breakthrough "where women are news" **SPECIAL \$3.00**

A support group for women in diversified professions - from the arts to the business communities - met in early December to form a network for mutual contacts. If interested, come to the follow up meeting on January 14, at 2027 Bolsover. If there are any questions, please call Alice McCarthy 524-5105.

Women interested in forming a Houston Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art will meet at 8 p.m. on January 10, at 2112 Dunlavy. Call 523-6917 for information.

Books are the most frequently purchased items by our readers, according to our recent reader survey. This has given renewed energies to our book review project. We will get it off the ground this time. Interested writers please call 526-6686.

Female plumber wanted to perform sewer cleaning and plumbing services for large, established company. Experience preferred, but will train. Jay 224-9401.

birthday party & annual awards

Nominations are being accepted for *Houston Breakthrough's* Second Annual Media Awards and the Woman of the Year Award. Five awards will be given for coverage of women's issues and important news assignments given to women in print and broadcast media during the previous year. The Woman of the Year Award will go to the Houston-area woman who has made the most significant contribution to the advancement of women's rights in 1977. Please complete the ballot below and send it to the *Breakthrough* office by January 15. Then plan to attend our second birthday party on Sunday, February 12, from noon to 5 p.m. at 1708 Rosewood where award winners will be announced.

ballot

My nominations for Media Awards are:

PRINT MEDIA to _____
for _____
(name and news affiliation)

RADIO to _____
for _____

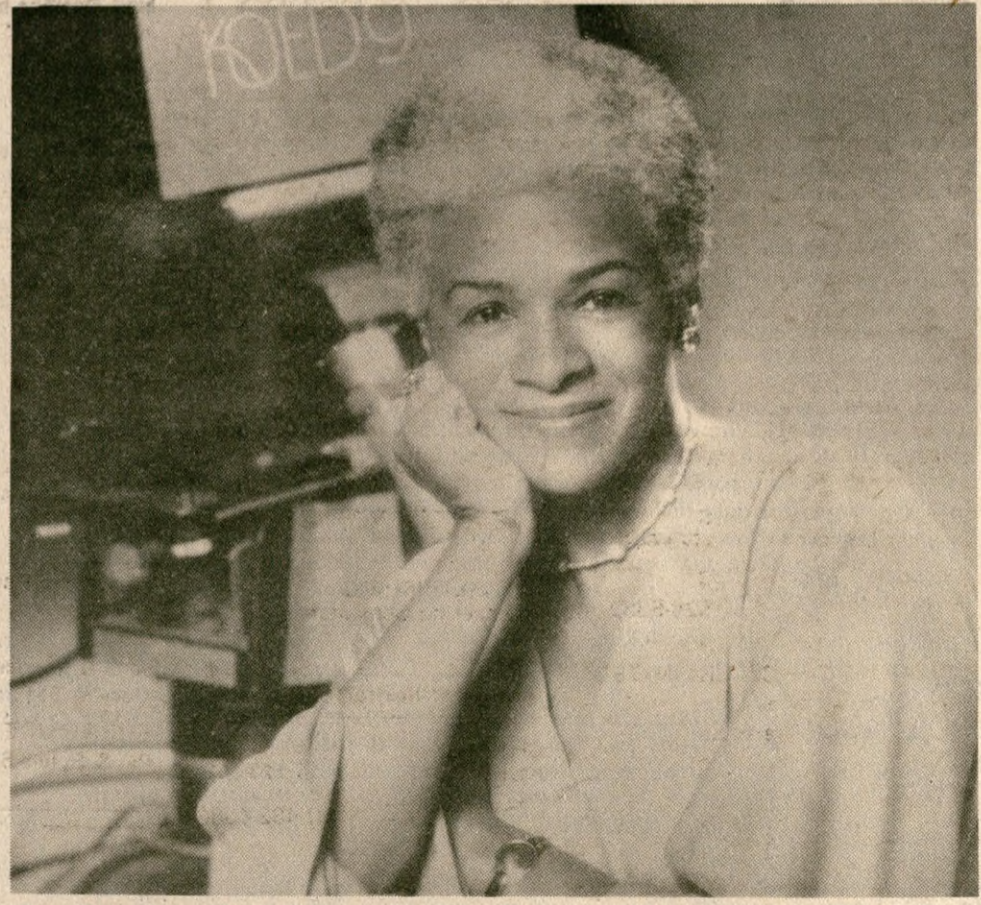
TELEVISION to _____
for _____

My nomination for the Woman of the Year Award is: _____
for her _____

Mail by January 15 to *Houston Breakthrough*, P. O. Box 88072, Houston 77004.



COLISEUM WOMEN by Adela Calbillo showing Adela and her mother on the conference stage at the National Women's Conference.



Gerri Lange, popular San Francisco personality and community leader, will host *Turnabout*, a new weekly series set to premiere January 30 at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 8 (KUHT-TV). Utilizing an up-beat magazine format with live interviews and filmed reports, *Turnabout* will provide an up-to-the-minute exploration of the constantly changing world of today's woman. Each half-hour segment will be devoted to one major subject: coping with stress, both on the job and off; juggling professional and personal lives; adapting to motherhood or divorce; sex stereotyping; finance, and many others. Each show will include at least one major interview, in which subjects will discuss problems they have faced and solutions they have discovered. Often, the interviewee will be a celebrity—opera singer Beverly Sills, tennis champion Billie Jean King, actress Shirley MacLaine, anthropologist Laura Nader, and singer Nancy Wilson are among those scheduled to appear. Executive producer for the series (produced by KQED/San Francisco) is Martha Glessing who describes the series as "a look at the questions and the issues which are facing women today. We intend also to present options and possible solutions which have worked for some women. We think that by presenting the problem, and then interviewing women who have faced that problem and surmounted it, we can help many people find answers for their own lives."

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Art Consultants 528-0397

LEARNING UNLIMITED
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Pamela B. Hamilton 468-7002

J. WHITEBIRD 523-0777
Writer, Editor and
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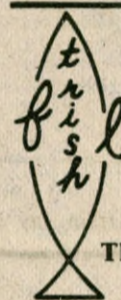
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Interests and Activities:	My children, collecting stereographs, trying to form a bi-lingual rape crisis project and a Chicana nurses association (<i>Guadalupe</i>); Drawing rainbows, chasing rainbows, Mexican folk dancing, tape recording songs (<i>Adela</i>)
Persons Most Admired:	Lydia Mendoza, Elayne Zorn, and my mother, Julia Rivera (<i>Guadalupe</i>) Pippi Longstocking (<i>Adela</i>)
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