

Houston
Breakthrough
Where Women Are News

Vol. 1 no. 9

December 1976

50 cents

**INTERVIEW WITH
A BATTERED WIFE**

How many times can you say you ran into a door?
How many times can you say you ran into a door?
How many times can you say you ran into a door?
How many times can you say you ran into a door?



**YULETIDE
BLUES
FOR SUPER-
MOMS**

**LEONEL
CASTILLO
and
CILIA TERESA
ON MACHISMO**

**FREUDIANS SLIP
ON HITE
REPORT**

'Tis the season of wife beating

Sociologists, psychologists, caseworkers and law enforcement officials report a higher incidence of wife beating around holiday times. In the interest of public awareness—and, hopefully prevention, we present this interview with a battered woman living in the Houston suburbs.

Leah* is a white upper-middle class woman in her early thirties. She has 2 children and lives in a Houston suburb. She is a teacher and her husband is a social worker.

*Names have been changed.

By Barbara Brown

B: Could you ever tell ahead of time when your husband was about to beat you?

L: No. I never knew what would set him off. I tried to find out by talking with him. I told him if I knew what I did to cause it I'd try not to do it. He never knew—used to give the excuse he was under pressure on his job.

B: When was the first time he beat you?

L: We had been married a little over a year. I was pregnant for the first time—we were in college and lived in a small town. I was very sick—too sick to get myself up and go to the doctor. Tom wanted me to go to the doctor. All of a sudden he pulled me out of bed and dragged me across the floor. Of course, the doctor wanted to know where the bruises came from—what could I say? How many times can you say you ran into a door?

B: Did you notice any signs of violence before you were married?

L: Not really—but my family did—they were against him and had looked into his background. His father was an alcoholic and beat his mother. Tom never wanted me to talk about his father or suggest he was like his father. Tom himself had been chased down the street by his father with a shotgun. His mother checks into the hospital every summer for her terrible migraine headaches but feels a marriage must be kept together. But I didn't see all this. Because my family told me not to see him (I was 19), it just made me all the more determined to do it. I hope I'll have enough sense not to do that with my daughter!

B: Did your husband drink heavily, too?

L: He really didn't, but one time he said sweet drinks would trigger him off—and depressing music.

B: Did he abuse the children?

L: Usually it was directed only at me—but he whipped them with a belt and hit one of them hard enough in the face to make her nose bleed.

B: Did you ever try to leave him?

L: I did leave a few years after that first time. I had had a wisdom tooth pulled. We were living in Detroit and I took my child over to my mother's so I could rest. He stormed over and ordered me home, tried to grab the child. I filed for divorce and we separated for a year.

I finished my degree and started to teach. He came after me—he got a job with the Welfare Department and said he'd changed. He seemed to have changed and wanted to get his masters. I worked to put him through his masters and then he wanted another child. He never really enjoyed the first one and when we had the second one she was in his way, too.

When the youngest was 9 months old I found out I was

operations as a result of the abortion.

Then he decided to have a vasectomy. Right after that he began to change. He thought I must be attracted to any man around because they could have children and he couldn't now. I tried to tell him I was relieved he couldn't have children. I was satisfied sexually with him although like all women I sometimes faked it, too.

Then he decided we should

Tom insisted we go out with them again—when we got home he was drinking a lot and accused me of a lot of things. I reminded him he had pushed me into it—had insisted. Then he started to choke me. When he finally let go I had nasty bruises on my neck and had to wear scarves till they went away. Like a dummy, I let it go—tried to forget it.

Finally I wanted to go for counseling. He was very upset

came to a head. My child was going to camp and I was going to drive her and visit my parents because I hadn't seen them for a long time. He wanted me to just put her on a plane to camp. I told him to leave me alone, I would make the decision. He picked up the phone, dialed my parents and said—'tell them you're coming.' I talked awhile and then said I'd see them in a few days—at that he tore the phone out of the wall. I knew my parents would wonder what was happening so I went to the bedroom and called them back and said we must have been disconnected. He followed me, tore the phone up, too and threw it at me. I realized I was totally without communication to the outside world. I locked myself in the bathroom—he knocked the door down and dragged me out. The older child woke up and told him to stop or he would have killed me. He grabbed her and threw us both out the front door. Then the younger child woke up and he threw her out the bathroom window. My older daughter said she was going next door and call the police. I said, 'No, you can't do that at 11:30 at night and tell them what's going on.' But I told him through the door I would call the police and have him put in jail. Then he opened the door, he followed me from room to room and wanted me to make-up. The next day he called from work and asked if I was still upset with him. I told him to get his stuff and leave or I would put it all out on the lawn.

B: Did you file for divorce?

L: Yes. I was lucky. My father said he would loan me the money for a lawyer. I was warned Tom would try to take all the money out of our accounts but like a fool I sat around and said he wouldn't do that. But he closed them all and took everything. I had to file charges against him.

B: Do the children visit him?

L: Yes, but so far he hasn't abused them. The judge told

him he would go to jail immediately if he hurts the children.

B: Did you ever fight back physically?

L: Only once—I stabbed him in the arm with a fork. I knew my only defense was my teeth since he's a lot bigger than me. But I found out it angered him to the point it was worse when I fought back.

B: Did you ever call the police?

L: It's easier said than done. He would hang the phone up. The children were asleep in the other room. I had nowhere to go. You have to have them arrested, then they swear out a peace bond. Then they let them go and he comes after you in a worse way than ever. What

"You have him arrested. He swears out a peace bond. Then they let him go and he comes after you worse than ever. What good is it to wave a piece of paper at him while he's beating on you."

pregnant again. I wasn't happy about it and Tom insisted I go to New York for an abortion (I couldn't get one closer then). I got there and found since I was 3 months along the regular place wouldn't take me—they sent me to this horrible hospital. I called Tom and said I wanted to come home and not do it. He insisted I stay. When I got back I later had to have two

become a swinging couple. He took me to one of those places but I refused and left. He kept bringing home magazines and insisting. I told him I couldn't get sexually involved without my emotions being involved, too. He kept pushing me at a friend of ours—said it would be safe because the friend was married, too. Finally I did get involved. Then on New Year's

—didn't want me to go—said he would go alone. He never mentioned the beatings to the therapist and after 4 or 5 sessions, decided he didn't need her. He was a social worker and thought he knew better. He started coming to where I worked—if he couldn't find me he would accuse me of seeing other men.

Last July the whole thing

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS EVE. Your husband has beaten you up and left the house. You know he'll be back. Something has snapped and you decide to get out quickly and take your three children with you. You have no relatives here and no friends close enough to confide in. You have about \$10 in the house. Once before you called the police but when your husband found out he beat you worse than ever and you know this time you have to leave and stay somewhere to get real help.

Trying to put myself in this situation, I presented the following agencies with the predicament of the "battered woman." Here were the responses.

8:50 p.m. Crisis Hot Line — Busy.

8:51 p.m. Crisis Help Line — (listed nearby in phone book.) 'We would tell you to get out of the house to a friend, neighbor or relative—if you wanted a place to stay we really have no place for you—(we hoped you might know of some referrals to give us!) We refer to the Salvation Army and the Houston Christian Mission but they are usually filled. Houston AA will help the wife if the husband is an alcoholic.

9:00 p.m. Salvation Army — 'We take people for temporary emergencies—tonight we had one bed left but someone is on the way for it. We take little girls of any age but boys only up to age 6. An older boy would have to go to a different shelter. We are full nearly every night. We refer women to Calvary Mission and Women's Christian Homes.

9:05 p.m. Crisis Hot Line — Busy

Calvary Mission — Busy

9:10 p.m. Houston Christian Mission — Busy

9:11 p.m. Women's Christian Homes — 'We take only single women for rehabilitation. We are usually full but refer women to Salvation Army, Houston Christian Mission and Harris County Welfare.'

9:16 p.m. Houston Christian Mission — 'We are full—there are not enough of us to go around. Houston is just becoming aware that women need help. We take women often—they can stay as long as they want—we've had them as long as two years. We have many more requests around the holidays and on rainy nights. Sometimes the Sheriff's Department picks up women who are wandering on the streets and brings them here. I had one woman who was beaten by her husband—she was 8-months pregnant—had the baby then went back to her husband. We usually have to turn away 15 to 30 people a month. We refer to the Women's Christian Home and Calvary Mission.

9:24 p.m. Crisis Hot Line — Busy

Calvary Mission — Busy

9:27 p.m. Al Anon — 'We only have shelters for the alcoholics themselves for 24 hours—if she was in danger and had nowhere to go we might try to go get her but we have no regular place to refer her.'

9:33 p.m. Harris County Welfare — 'If there was a threat to the children we might go out on that occasion but we couldn't do anything unless children are being abused. We have to be a little cynical about getting involved in these situations—often women make horrible allegations from years past. Every worker handles the problem differently—there is no set policy. We don't have that many resources—we mainly deal with seriously injured young children. We call law enforcement—they take it more seriously if we call, although not always. There is a reluctance on their part to get involved.

9:40 p.m. Calvary Mission — 'We would make space—we try not to turn away anyone when children are involved. We are always crowded. Tonight we have 76 people upstairs and 24 downstairs—7 single women, a few couples and the rest with children. We can usually take 100 pretty good. We live mostly on donations and it's usually the people without anything who donate what they can. The rich usually don't donate. Last year I think about 18,000 people went through this mission. The only thing we ask is that people not drink while they are here but not everyone can stick to it.'

It should be noted that each of these agencies deserves tremendous credit for the many people they do help. After hearing about the constant lack of money, over-work and over-crowding, it was hard to remember we live in a very rich nation. Needless to say, the priorities of our government do not include women in need.

Barbara Brown

Continued on page 12

Editorials

Smut is smut, but ...

Smut is rampant in Houston. The range, degree and availability of degenerate materials and performances here rival that of New York's Times Square and Baltimore's The Block.

There is no doubt that pornography exploits women. "Our bodies are being stripped, exposed and contorted," Susan Brownmiller has written, "for the purpose of ridicule to bolster that 'masculine esteem' which gets its kick and sense of power from viewing females as anonymous playthings, adult toys, dehumanized objects to be used, abused and discarded.

"Pornography is the undiluted essence of anti-female propaganda," she wrote in *Against Our Will*. But the pornographer is an unwitting propagandist. His or her aim is not to promote perversion but to exploit it. Sales of the junk are symptoms of a sickness in our society but not the cause of it. Unlike offensive political propaganda, smut would vanish overnight if people didn't buy it.

The moves here and across the nation against pornography are both encouraging and frightening. Condemnation of filth demonstrates we are disgusted and tired of the attitudes which support it. But the path toward legally restricting pornography is laden with pitfalls which could destroy our freedom—and still not change the attitudes.

There is a difference between being assaulted by pornography and having it available. Few will deny a community's right to legally restrict billboards, window displays and children's access to pornography.

Unfortunately, Geneva Kirk Brooks and her small, militant band of Citizens Against Pornography (CAP) have already sought more. Their efforts before City Council smack of McCarthyism and witch (or warlock) hunts. They want dossiers on professors. They claim some schoolbooks are obscene. They say they want to ban smut, but will they stop before they get to James Joyce and Shere Hite?

"Drawing the line" will inevitably offend the artistic sensibilities of some and have a chilling effect on all forms of expression. Censorship is the predator of every original idea. Besides, censorship won't work. The pristine newsstands and theatres of Franco's Spain did not change degrading attitudes and behavior toward women. And censorship would divert overtaxed law enforcement and judicial resources from serious crime—like rape.

Breakthrough has consistently criticized obnoxious, sexist material—and will continue to do so. But we have not asked that the government smash presses—and we never will.

Much can be done without changing the law. Pressure groups have changed attitudes about violence and racism. Houston newsstands have become more discriminating in displaying sexual literature in the wake of CAP's protests.

Anti-pornography crusaders, learn to play by the rules, do not try to change them. Write angry letters, complain to merchants, walk picket lines. These are your constitutional rights.

But beware that freedom-loving Houstonians will fight to the end your efforts to "protect" us with the force of law from words and pictures. For censorship is the ultimate obscenity.

Houston Breakthrough

Where Women Are News

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MARK STINSON



SORRY HONEY... YOU'RE TOO SHORT TO BE A COP!

letters to breakthrough

I just received your November issue, and want to say thank you for your editorial on Karen Silkwood. Karen died two years ago while trying to get her important health and safety message to the public through the media. It is a beautiful tribute to Silkwood for *Breakthrough* to continue to carry on with that message. The role played by the media will, I'm sure, be critical to learning the truth about the Silkwood case. Again, thank you for your part in the public educational effort.

For peace, equality and justice.

DONNA WARNOCK
National Coordinator
Supporters of Silkwood
Washington, D.C.

Editor's note: Readers wanting more information on the Silkwood case may write to S.O.S., 2111 Florida Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

As a grandmother I am totally pro-feminist.

I lived the experience of earning a living for myself and my child in the great Depression. My ex-husband did not contribute any financial help. I had no money to obtain a lawyer and secure that aid granted by law.

Equal rights? I was aware that men doing the same work I was doing received double the income I was paid.

We all know, as women and mothers, what is expected of us. In or out of wedlock, we are the ones responsible for 'our' offspring. They are the woman's problem. She is solely accountable.

Men can ignore and escape all responsibility and still be considered moral, good men. It appears men are accepted as being in some never-never land, uncounted and unaccountable.

Now, the government and politicians are using the abortion issue like a football game. The church is involved in the pro and con of this issue. The presidential election had two men who refused to come out for abortion. When will the ones who are really involved be considered in this question?

Again, as in ages past, it appears women are not included in such important decisions. Are we losers again?

J. LAMONT
Palacios, TX

I was very happy going to Dr. (name withheld). I didn't have to wait long and he helped me feel good about myself. But recently my husband and I talked to him about the birth of our first child. When we said we were thinking about home birth, he became very defensive and said, "I am against it and I will not deliver at home!"

Two weeks later, we received a letter refusing his services to us saying "I feel that it will be impossible to establish a close patient-doctor relationship with you and your husband." He gave me 10 days to find another physician.

Therefore, I am 4-months pregnant and must find another doctor, as his letter was very final in its refusal.

[Name Withheld]

Editor's note: Midwife Martha Frosh says, "This is a typical, reoccurring problem." Frosh is with HOME, Houston Organization for Midwife Education and says her group knows of only one doctor in the city who will give both pre-natal care and medical back-up in home birth deliveries. Judy Kier of ACAH, Association for Childbirth at Home, concurs with Frosh's findings. If you [or our readers] wish to contact either group about home births, you may call HOME [668-9934] or ACAH [661-9994].

I saw Jo Anne Gerhardt's interesting article on women at the Alamo. Professor Rose Marie Cutting and I are working on a book on Texas women from a variety of perspectives. (We are) curious if the essay (in the November *Breakthrough*) is a part of a larger research effort. If so, we would like to include it in our edited book on Texas women. Should you know of others involved in research on Texas women, I would appreciate knowing of them and their research interests.

BONNIE COOK FREEMAN
UT—Austin, TX

Editor's note: Yes, Gerhardt's article is part of a larger research effort. Any other reader involved in research on Texas women may write Dr. Freeman at the College of Education, Education Bldg. 528 UT-Austin, Austin, Tx. 78712. Or Professor Rose Marie Cutting, Dept. of English, Calhoun 15, UT-Austin, Austin, Tx. 78712.

Coming soon! another 'height report'. Meanwhile.....

Will women wear 'the badge that cares'?

By Wade Roberts

The badge that means you care doesn't necessarily care about you—especially if you are a woman.

The Houston Police Department's new minority recruiting campaign—coupled with agility and height requirements—virtually eliminates women, of any race, from police cadet classes.

The newest cadet class provides an illustrative example: of the class's 75 cadets, 36 are white and 39 are minority.

Police Chief B.G. "Pappy" Bond has made considerable hubbub over the racial breakdown, citing it as proof that the department has made a concerted effort to end the days of the white-dominated police force in Houston.

Those recruiting efforts, however, fall somewhere short of successful when one considers that the 75-person class numbers only three women among the potential officers.

The problem is two-fold: the new, slick recruiting campaign does not include women among the groups the department is trying to attract; and, once attracted, most women are eliminated by physical requirements for entering the police academy.

The two police officers in charge of recruiting, Capt. L.L. Wunsche and Sgt. E.R. Williams, deny that the recruiting campaign excludes women.

"That's just not the intent of the program at all," said Williams. "The campaign is geared to minorities—and that certainly includes women."

"I'd like to think that it is directed toward women," said Wunsche. "The recruiting program was designed specifically to attract minorities—but we didn't exclude women."

But city women's advocate Nikki Van Hightower thinks differently.

"The recruiting program now is directed exclusively toward black males," Van Hightower said. "It just hasn't touched upon women."

"They just aren't interested in women," she continues.

Van Hightower said she's glad to see the department doing something to attract minority members to careers as law enforcement officers. She's not, however, completely satisfied by the department's efforts.

"The police department has a real race problem—and minorities have been discriminated against in the past," Van Hightower said, "I guess the only way to reverse that is to launch a heavy recruiting campaign designed to attract the minorities."

"But women have been discriminated against, too," Van Hightower maintains, "and they deserve a chance."

Ed Norton, an advertising agent who handles the police department's recruiting campaign, verifies Van Hightower's assessment of the campaign's thrust.

In a conversation with *Breakthrough*, Norton said "Sweetie, I don't want to argue with you. You can't change the thrust of this campaign because it's aimed at Blacks."

Although Norton's agency, Goodwin, Dannenbaum, Littman and Wingfield, is advertising heavily in minority pub-

lications, Norton refused even to consider buying advertising space in *Breakthrough* in an attempt to reach women.

"You can butt your head against the wall as much as you want," he told *Breakthrough*, "but I'm telling you that the campaign is programmed for Blacks."

Van Hightower said, while she finds the advertising campaign offensive, she would rather concentrate her efforts on changing the department's physical requirements.

"There's no point in bringing women down and recruiting them when the requirements are so tough that almost all women are automatically excluded," Van Hightower said.

"There's no point in making a fuss over the recruiting campaign alone," she said.

Wunsche and Williams agree with Van Hightower that most women applicants find it impossible to pass the agility and height requirements.

"If applicants can pass all the requirements, then we let them in, regardless of their sex or race," Williams said.

"And we have quite a few women applicants coming in who just don't meet the physical requirements—because they were written for men," he admitted.

Williams said the tests are designed to gauge upper-torso strength—which most men, but not women, naturally possess. He also said the tests are not a true measure of agility and that an agility test could be written so women would pass and men would fail.

While the recruiting program fails to encourage women to apply for admission to the department, the physical requirements are what actively exclude women.

A total of 2,253 persons applied for the current cadet class, and 77 were accepted, said Wunsche. Of the 1,301 white males who applied, 36 were admitted. Of the 709 Black



New HPD Cadet Class

males, 21 were admitted. Of the 241 Mexican-American males, 15 were admitted. Of the 120 Black women, three were admitted. Of the 85 White women and seven Mexican-American women, none were admitted.

Wunsche agrees that the low admission rate of women applicants is because of the strict physical requirements.

"I'm personally disappointed that we have not recruited and hired more women," Wunsche said, "but we certainly aren't going to improve on the record as long as the physical requirements remain as strict as they are."

Those standards, Wunsche said, may change soon. He said the department has hired a consulting firm to study all of the department's admission standards.

The firm will issue a report later this month, he said, that may recommend changes in re-

quirements found to be not job-related.

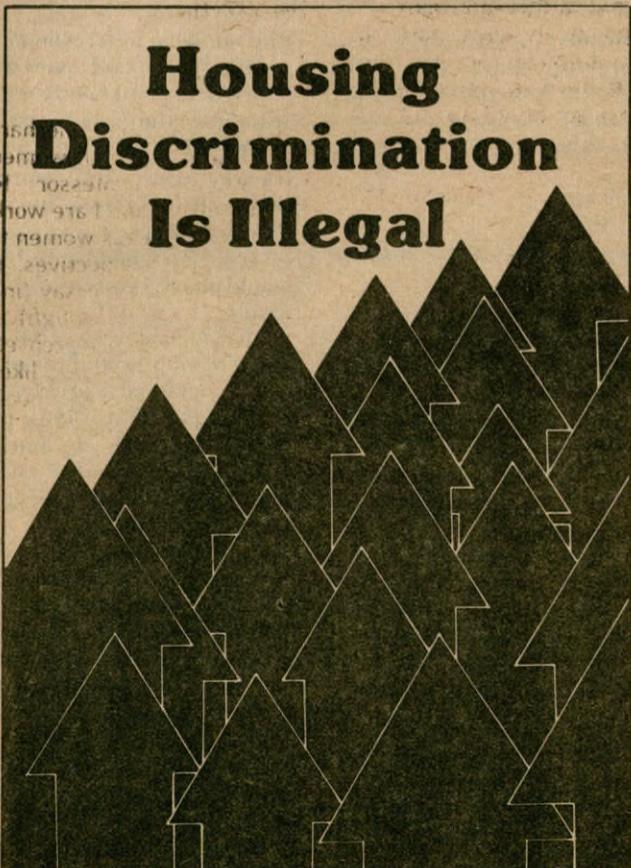
Mayor Fred Hofheinz, during a press conference held after opening ceremonies for the new cadet class last month, hinted that change of the physical standards may very well follow the report's release.

Just in case, however, a Houston chapter of NOW has filed a federal suit challenging the constitutionality of the physical standards. If the department is not quick to change them, the matter could be decided in court.

"I think they have a very valid case," Van Hightower said, "and a good chance of winning it unless the requirements are changed following the consulting report."

"Then, after that's out of the way," she continued, "we can do something about that offensive ad campaign."

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So much for faking it Women express sexual honesty

"How have most men had sex with you?"

—"In and out."

—"Small amount of foreplay, then intercourse till he comes, The End."

—"How most men have tried to have sex with me can be summed up as Insert A into B. Dull, dull, dull, dull."

—The Hite Report

By Suzanne Gray



Author SHERE HITE [l.] with NANCY AMES listening to a call-in question on Ames' KPRC-TV show.

Shere Hite discovered that our whole society's definition of sex is sexist.

This discovery published as *The Hite Report* came after four years of research and came from the responses of over 3,000 anonymous women, ages 14 to 78, to a questionnaire on female sexuality.

Almost nine-tenths of the book is made up of direct quotes.

The women reported that sex generally followed the reproductive patterns: "foreplay" followed by "penetration" and "intercourse" (thrusting) followed by orgasm (especially male orgasm) which is then defined as "The End" of sex.

Hite maintains this definition is cultural not biological.

Speaking with the same honesty and openness that characterizes the responses in her book, Hite told *Breakthrough*—

"It is not female sexuality that has a problem but rather society that has a problem in its definition of sex and the subordinate role that definition gives women."

Clitoral stimulation is central to women's sexuality, asserts Hite. So she framed one question for her survey that most professional sex researchers have not asked: *Do you regularly achieve orgasm during intercourse without direct massaging of the clitoris?* Only 26% said yes.

One woman responded "I went along for 34 years carrying the burden of not having vaginal orgasms, never telling anyone because I felt something was wrong with me—I thought I was frigid."

"As you know, it was Freud who declared that only an orgasm during intercourse could be considered a 'mature' orgasm," says Hite. "Although this is ridiculous, as biology has now shown, the prejudice still lingers on."

Hite credits sex therapists Masters and Johnson for establishing that all orgasms are caused by clitoral stimulation.

But she harshly criticizes them for using only women with a previous history of orgasm through intercourse in their research and for assuming that

women should receive enough indirect clitoral stimulation through intercourse alone. The inability of many women to climax was labeled "coital orgasmic inadequacy" or "dysfunction." Hite found what the team of Masters and Johnson labeled as a failure for most women is in fact a normal response to inadequate stimulation.

These early findings made women think of themselves as strange or different.

"The fact that I cannot come during intercourse must mean that I do not like it, or have a shame or fear of it, even though I think I like it," wrote one woman.

The Hite Report reveals that most women know how to have orgasms whenever they desire—82% of the respondents said they masturbated and, of those, 95% could have orgasms easily and regularly through masturbation.

Hite feels the stereotype that says it is more difficult for a

they should also feel free to use the knowledge they have gained about their bodies while they are having sex with others.

The report says women have been so convinced by our culture that orgasm during penetration is the right way to experience sex that they often won't admit what they really want out of embarrassment, fear of rejection or fear of being thought abnormal. Some

"These answers were more than I ever hoped for—long, personal letters from women of all backgrounds and points of view, full of beautifully written, moving descriptions of their feelings, and things they had experienced. Of course, the replies were all anonymous, so I have never met any of the women; as much as I wanted to write to some of them, it was never possible, and the whole exchange has remained an anonymous and powerful, deep communication, almost a soul to soul communication, from the women who answered to all the women of the world. Receiving these replies was one of the most emotionally fulfilling experiences of my entire life—and it is this I want to share with other women who read the book."

—Conversation with Shere Hite
November 15, 1976

woman to have orgasms than a man is not true. "Our society's insistence on a certain way for women to climax (only through intercourse) deprives women of orgasms and results in their being defined as 'dysfunctional.'"

Men "make their own orgasms" during sex, as they move around during intercourse and seek their own stimulation. Women should feel free to do this too, the report says. And

women also said they were afraid of hurting the egos of their male partners if they were honest enough to admit they were left unsatisfied by sex.

"The pressure on women to orgasm during intercourse is so great that an enormous number of women fake orgasms—some infrequently, most "sometimes," but some women said they do it every single time, says Hite.

"I always fake them—because I never have them."

"Definitely—some men want to fuck me till I come or drop dead."

"I never needed to fake—no man ever noticed I didn't come."

When asked about the sexual revolution, Hite replied, "The so-called sexual revolution is overrated insofar as what it did for women. It did not give women freedom to explore their own sexuality, but only put pressure on them to have *more* sex—that is, intercourse! Women now hardly have the right to say 'no' to a man without giving an explanation. So, while most women in my

enormous assurance and a feeling of solidarity that they are neither alone nor different if they do not orgasm through traditionally-defined intercourse. She urges women to assume responsibility for their own satisfaction, expecting a man to be in charge of both his and his partner's orgasms is an unrealistic burden on him.

In fact, Hite wanted to call her book *Diana Rising*. The Roman deity Diana was self-sufficient even though she had several relationships with men and Hite encourages women to be more like Diana.

Hite believes that anonymity is the key to the success of this and future studies "because being anonymous means being free. Women had never had a chance before to talk, share, find out what other women were feeling. Over and over women expressed a real need for understanding the whole area of sexual relations. I even your best friends don't tell you such things. If I had done the survey the way Kinsey did—face to face—I am convinced I never would have gotten the same results."

She also believes that many women who would never discuss personal problems or yearnings with a friend, professional therapist, or join a CR group will be able to read the book privately and benefit as this woman did:

"I cried when I first read through this. There is so much I've lied about for so long; I'd already come to understand that, but wanted to fill out the questionnaire to make myself write it all down. Undoubtedly, you will have helped many women in just this way, and publication of the results will reach many more who, as I did, will read the truth they couldn't tell themselves."

Hite, currently director of the Feminist Sexuality Project, is now distributing similarly explicit and provocative questionnaires to men in order to better understand how men feel about sex and their own male sexuality. The January issue of *Houston Breakthrough* will carry the complete questionnaire.

AAUW honors four area women

By Arlene Baker

Rose Mary Badami, Linda Cryer, Alma Newsom and Laura Oren were the recipients of the Outstanding Women Award at a recent dinner in their honor, held at the Grand Hall of Rice University Memorial Center.

Sponsored by the Houston and West Harris County Branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), this honor is awarded annually to women in the Houston area who, through creative, innovative action, have made effective contributions to their community, thereby positively affecting the status of women.

Alma Newsom (honoree in Communications) co-anchors the Weekend News at Channel 11, KHOU-TV, where she is also general assignments reporter and producer/moderator of "Impact," a weekly public affairs program. Newsom is vitally interested in presenting balance in programming. She has worked to open new channels of communication between minorities and the larger community. She has tried to destroy old myths about minorities and women. She has been a vigor-

ous promoter of the Black Arts Center and is presently on the Advisory Board of the Alternative Education Center of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, with memberships on the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Mayor's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee and Black Women for Social Change. Newsom feels that the involved woman "has to recognize individual differences and respect them; perhaps then she can analyze how to relate to them for maximum impact." The involved woman "has to be diligent, persistent." She must continue to push that issue after others have lost interest in it—after it is no longer popular to be for it."

In January of 1975, **Dr. Laura Oren** (honoree in Finance) called the first meeting of those interested in forming a feminist credit union in Houston. Oren, a former college professor, now serves as President of the Board of the Houston Area Feminist Federal Credit Union. HAFICU has filled a great need by

providing an opportunity for persons (members of various feminist groups, their spouses and families) who have been denied credit on the basis of age, sex, race, marital status or type of job, to obtain small loans. There were many difficult moments in achieving the goal of a chartered organization, but Oren dealt with individuals, not with stereotypes, bringing people of various lifestyles, ages, occupations and ethnic groups together to form HAFICU.

HAFICU opened its doors in October of 1975. Not only does it boast almost \$100,000 in assets, but it has only 2.7% of its loans in arrears. Oren has stated that the contribution of the involved woman in her community is the understanding that the "problems are shared and that solutions must be shared also." She says, the involved woman "acts in the true spirit of sisterhood—which does not mean universal agreement or love, but rather a sense of responsibility to herself and to others in the community."

Rose Mary Badami (honoree in Human Services) was employed as a social worker before she founded the first Magnificat House, a residence for the chronically mentally ill. There are six of them now—homes for those who are not considered ill enough to be accepted into mental hospitals, but who, nevertheless, are unable to function alone—people who have no families or who are rejected by their families—who have no other place to go. Magnificat House operates under no city, state, or federal grants, but on limited resources from the residents and from private contributions. Badami and her staff from Magnificat House operate a daily soup kitchen, the Loaves and Fishes Center, in the skid-row area of Houston, where they cook and serve the hungry. She also founded Santa Maria Hostel, a halfway house for women. Badami has great compassion, empathy and love for the needy of her community—she actually goes out to find those who need her. She has said that her desire is to "serve abandoned classes—the unwanted and unloved of our society, who fall in the cracks of our present welfare system, by providing food, shelter, and hopefully an atmosphere where than can grow emotionally."

Linda Cryer (honoree in Health) is the Administrator of the Rape Treatment, Detection, Prevention Program for the City of Houston and is on the Board of Directors of the Houston Rape Crisis Coalition. Cryer is directly responsible for standardizing the collation of medical evidence through the development of a rape evidence kit, thereby expanding treatment of rape victims from one to 19 hospitals in Houston and releasing doctors from having to be



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HOUSTON BREAKTHROUGH — DECEMBER 1976 PAGE 5

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Continued on page 6



LINDA CRYER with HOPE SESSIONS, Harris County Director of Nursing Services.

photos by Nancy Landau



ROSEMARY BADAMI [center] with friends at one of the Magnificat Homes.

AAUW continued from page 5 present to testify at trials. She has developed and implemented training programs on crisis intervention to provide medical/psychological follow-up services to rape victims and their families in their homes, free of charge. In a different area she helped develop programs to meet the social/emotional needs of the elderly and disabled. Cryer believes that the distinctive contribution of the involved woman in her community is "an attitude of commitment to and concern for the well-being of humanity."

As a token of appreciation for their outstanding achievements, the AAUW presented the honorees with memberships in the Association. AAUW is a national Association with several branches in the Houston area which emphasize continued excellence in education at all levels, continuing education at the graduate level or through branch group study, advancement in the status of women through legislation and community action, positive action in solving community problems in all areas, and continuing interest in the cultural arts and international relations.

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Words appear outside lobby elevator in City Hall

Dr. Nikki van Hightower, City of Houston Women's Advocate, was the keynote speaker at the annual AAUW Outstanding Women of the Year reception last month. Her edited text appears below.

One of the nicest things that can happen to me these days is to have the opportunity to participate in honoring women. So this is a very good night. Tomorrow I will go back to my job where men are honored on a daily basis. I seem to be one of the few flies in that ointment.

There seems to be a great deal of curiosity about the person who holds the position of Women's Advocate. One of the things I am asked most often is, 'What did you do before you took the job?' When I respond that I was an assistant professor at the University of Houston, the reaction is usually, 'Wow, you left that utopia, that mecca of egalitarianism for the ugly world of politics?' I still have to struggle to keep a straight face, even though the response is anticipated. I daresay, the universities and educational institutions in general have done an expert job of perpetuating the myth of egalitarianism and the idea, at the university level at least, of a utopian working environment.

Well, let me tell you, it is no utopia for women. As a matter of fact, I find the nasty world of politics far less nasty than the academic world. I find politics far more open and honest. Most of the people I have run into have made it quite clear how they feel about the women's advocate and women's equality—they don't like it. But at the University I was told by my male colleagues that they strongly supported it. However, they just had extreme difficulty finding qualified women and most of their wives, it just so happened, preferred the full-time role of wife and mother, which then freed them of all family obligations so that they could single-mindedly pursue

"higher" intellectual endeavors with a little time off, of course, for a few "innocent" games with the young and impressionable female students.

In the city, I knew what was going on immediately. Those intellectual giants on City Council left me with little doubt where I stood. Not so at the University. It took me almost a year to figure out what was happening. Of course, it is very difficult to discern the patterns

believe that Santa Claus will visit us on Christmas Eve. And while we are struggling for the freedom of our minds, they will be as vehemently defending the status quo.

Yes, I have heard the arguments over and over again. First, women prefer their role as mother and homemaker and in support of this are such facts as women's higher drop-out rate for marriage and/or child-rearing, their failure to apply

Conference that was held in Houston. Pity the educators that Twiss Butler goes after—she really knows her business. She challenged their assertion that they were really concerned and truly wanted change in career education of women. She leveled her attack upon the hypocrisy of Kenneth Hoyt, the director of Career Education. He vigorously defended his forthrightness and was strongly supported by some of the other

The failures of career education to provide equal treatment are also the failures of higher education. Women represent approximately 45% of all undergraduate students. The extent of women's underrepresentation as college students is greater when one considers women's superior high school grades. Consistently since 1929, women's high school grades have been appreciably higher than the grades achieved by men.

In higher education, the representation of women decreases as the status level increases. Women make up only 37% of graduate students, 24% of the faculty and less than 9% of full professors. As for college administrators and presidents, women constitute too small a percentage to warrant calculation.

Women maintain their higher academic achievements throughout their postgraduate studies. The Carnegie Commission concluded, "Most of the available evidence suggests that women who receive the doctorate are more able, on the average, than men who receive the doctorate."

Women are less represented among faculty than they are among students. Like the student pattern of representation, the proportion of women decreases as the status increases. While women as an average comprise 24% of the faculty, they are concentrated in the lowest, non-career rank of instructor. Their representation declines with each higher rank. Tenure is also male-related. They are less likely to hold tenure and more likely to receive tenure at a later age than their male co-workers.

This battle for equality is a long and draining one. It is easy to sink into frustration and question our methods. However, on these special occasions when we have the opportunity to be exposed to and think about such outstanding examples of womanhood, there can be no doubt that we are on the right track. It only makes me wonder how much potential is undiscovered and undeveloped, what potential we would have as a society if all people were really free. It's an exciting prospect!

" . . . This is a very good night. Tomorrow I will go back to my job where men are honored on a daily basis."

—City of Houston Women's Advocate addressing AAUW Outstanding Women of the Year



Nancy Landau

VAN HIGHTOWER [center] with BARBARA STRONG [l.], Press Secretary to Mayor Fred Hofheinz and MERELYN WHITEDHEAD [r.], Administrative Assistant to City Comptroller Leonel Castillo.

when there are so few women with whom to compare experiences. Incredible deceit! But then the stakes are very high.

Next to the family, probably no other institution in the country has more impact on our thinking than our educational system, and if we think for one moment that this control over our minds is going to be relinquished without a bitter struggle, we probably also

for admission in male-dominated fields.

Second, a variation of the first argument, higher education, it is maintained, merely reflects the outside discriminatory world. Because of pre-college discrimination, women have been conditioned to drop out for marriage, to prefer women's fields.

A third argument more openly concedes discrimination but defends it as rational and justified. Women, according to this argument, are simply not qualified.

Finally, there is the argument of insufficient evidence to identify and prove discrimination.

Much effort has been put forth by advocates of equality to refute the tired old arguments. I think a classic example of this academic hypocrisy is the refusal by the State University of New York at Buffalo to grant tenure to Jo Freeman. If you read the feminist literature, you know that Freeman is a prolific writer in the area of women's rights. The excuse given was that what she did was not political science, it was not scientific. Now that is a value judgment based on male chauvinistic values if I ever heard one.

Recently I testified, along with Twiss Butler from Bay Area NOW, at the public hearings of the Career Education

males on the panel who were helping to look after women's interests. After they were through, one of the two female members on the panel took the microphone and asked why, if they felt such deep and honest concern for the career education of women, there was not one woman on the steering committee of the conference. Nothing more was said. Stripped of their rhetorical robes, nothing was left but naked chauvinism. They looked much more natural in that condition.

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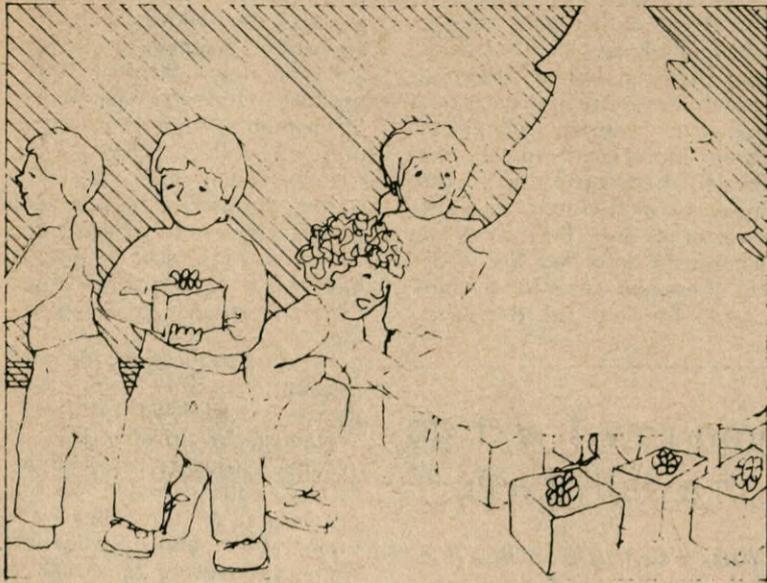
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Some friends need your help SHARE IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



Most children grow up believing in Santa—but to many youngsters he just never seems to make it around to the poorer families.

Santa's going to get some help this year, however, and, with your assistance, just might visit those youngsters he has neglected in the past.

A group of Texas Dept. of Public Welfare caseworkers have organized a Christmas gift program so some of Houston's poor children will find something awaiting them under the tree this year.

Steve Burke, coordinator of the program, said all types of toys are needed.

He said caseworkers are looking for new toys, but will also accept used ones if they are in good condition. They will wel-

come donations of bicycles, puzzles, games, dolls, children's books, model cars and planes, Burke said, and anything else suitable for a child.

If the gift is wrapped, Burke asks that the donor label the gift, including the type of toy and the age range for which it is suitable.

The collected toys will be distributed to heads of welfare families before Christmas, so the toy can be placed under the tree—avoiding the appearance of a welfare handout.

Burke said Christmastime is a difficult season for poor families because the children are exposed to mass merchandising of toys for the holiday and cannot understand why their Christmases are lean.

Many parents feel guilty

about their children's disappointment and buy gifts they can't afford with money better spent on food, clothing or school supplies, he said.

This is the first time the caseworkers have sponsored such a program, Burke said, and if it proves successful, the project may become an annual affair.

Collection of the toys will begin December 8 and continue through December 20 at DPW Social Service offices at six Texas Rehabilitation Commission centers.

Donations can be made between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the following locations: 4812 Alameda; 340 N. Sidney; 7603 Bellfort; 4615 North Freeway; 10763 Eastex Freeway, and 1964 W. Gray. Persons desiring further information can call 526-8511.

Never underestimate the power of a woman—or, in this case, two women.

Two women employees of Roy M. Huffington, a local oil and gas production company, have galvanized co-workers into assisting an anti-hunger food program here.

Volunteer Christie Garant organized the first employee contributions to BREAD, an emergency food program operated by the Houston Metropolitan Ministries.

"When I first learned about how many people suffer or are hungry in Houston," Garant said, "I assumed it was the natural thing to do."

Garant was joined in her efforts by co-worker Pam Beatty and the two organized a wide-

spread employee support for the BREAD program.

"It was easy to get together," said Beatty. "The program at work isn't company-sponsored but we went through channels for approval. Then we began photostating memos and employees just started bringing bags of groceries from home."

Beatty said even those who did not contribute food often gave money so non-perishable foods could be purchased for the program.

Garant said response to the volunteer effort at work has been overwhelming—and she said participation continues to grow.

Rev. Tony Saulsbury, pastor of the Bellaire Christian

Church, said BREAD is in need of both volunteers and contributions—and could become more effective with increased support.

The BREAD program operates pantries in 40 churches, and maintains a warehouse and office at 3217 Montrose Blvd. Food for the hungry is distributed from the church pantries across town.

Persons interested in becoming a volunteer or making a contribution can call BREAD at 521-0583.

The program solicits contributions of balanced foods, including canned fruits and vegetables, rice and beans, jellies, juices, cereals, canned meats and peanut butter.



PAM BEATTY and CHRISTIE GARANT

Becky Davidson said she speaks from experience when she says there's a need for a woman-oriented drug and alcoholic center here.

Davidson, a counselor for The Recovery Center, is a former alcoholic.

Doctor upon doctor failed to recognize her problem, Davidson said, and each one diagnosed her condition as "just female problems."

But one day, she said, one perceptive doctor told her that she had a drinking problem.

The failure of the other doctors to recognize her problem, Davidson said, made her realize that other women were in the same situation—and so she decided to devote her new life to helping other women with alcohol and drug problems.

The Recovery Center, 4233 DuPont, is Houston's only drug

and alcohol rehabilitation program operated strictly for women.

But that center, which boasts a recovery rate of 80 percent during its first year of operation, is in danger—and only community support can save it.

Because many of the women treated at the center cannot afford to pay, The Recovery Center must have contributions to keep it going.

Toni Clemons, the center's founder and director, said the center needs not only cash contributions for food and supplies, but other donations as well.

The center is housed in a formerly abandoned home, Clemons said—and that home is in desperate need of repair.

The principal need today, she said, is to have the house leveled—which is about a \$500 expense.

The center also needs bunkbeds, appliances, building materials, and lots of volunteer time. Volunteers, said Clemons, are needed to help with house repairs, cleaning and general office work.

Clemons said she is also looking for a sponsor to help defray the larger costs of operation.

Clemons, a recovered alcoholic, said she began the center in May, 1975 after realizing women alcoholics needed a dif-

ferent type of care and treatment than men.

Clemons also said there was a great need for a women's detox center in Houston. There are over 300 beds in treatment centers here for men—but less than 50 beds for women alcoholics.

Part of the treatment, she said, involves breaking the

woman alcoholic's dependency on men—and teaching her to cope with her own problems.

Clemons said the center is able to provide room, board, and transportation for nine women at a time—but could increase the number served if community support expands.

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TONI CLEMONS and BECKY DAVIDSON

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i MACHO! brutal or brave ?

City Comptroller Leonel Castillo and prominent feminist Cilia Teresa met recently to explore the concept of machismo.

The discussion, held at the home of Olga Soliz, was moderated by Elma Barrera, KTRK-TV news reporter, and was a benefit for Sylvia Garcia, a second-year law student at Texas Southern University. Castillo had researched the traditional, idealized attributes associated with machismo, while Teresa addressed herself to its negative manifestations. Below are some excerpts from that discussion.

Teresa: Macho or Machismo—male or super-male or super-redneck... It's very hard to define because it's not something you can grasp and say this is what it is—any more than one can describe what is racism. I often make the comparison. It's a very subtle thing that runs through our society. It's a conditioning from the time we are born. It is the belief that being male is better than being female. It is being happy to see a firstborn son and being very sad to find out that your firstborn is a daughter.

It is having the male sex looking into the mirror and seeing all the human qualities that he does not want to relate to and throwing them off on the other sex and calling them unacceptable, unwanted, less than, inferior.

Castillo: I did collect some material and found a lot of opinions. I'll start with some of the myths about it. The first myth is what I call the media or the James Bond version of a macho. He's a fighting, loving, hell-raising individual who must never have his honor offended by anybody.

Some people say that Chicanos are more likely to be machos—as proof of it we have more medal of honor winners... But the more poor you are, the more likely you are to be assigned to combat areas. So, that whole idea of machismo being bravery as proven by medals of honor has to be rethought...

The most pronounced sexism in the media comes from the Anglo media and not from the

Latin media. The Latin media are much harder on machismo. There are statements attributed to President Echeverria that machismo is a bad institution that should be wiped out, yet people are saying things about Mexicans being machismo. People from Mexico I talked to unanimously say that machismo is a bad concept that is dying. There is very little equivocation.

Where I ran into some equivocation was with the Mexican-American community... An article appeared in the San Antonio Express about a young man named Domingo Guerra who killed his buddy because they got into a fight about something. The press said Domingo was very ruthless—he shot down his friend. Then the reporter had to add "Macho is a gutter culture. It wanders ruthlessly looking for a fight. Glint of defiance in unfeeling eyes. It's a cowardice of evil..." and so on. The Chicano intellectuals got upset and wrote a big long article for the San Antonio Express saying that the paper was horrible, was degrading all Mexican-Americans and all real machos. It was signed by women and men—all of them scholars of one sort or another and they cited good uses of the word. They concluded by saying

He: Macho's a word that has become identified with male dominance or superiority—but there are positive aspects—the idea of protector/provider is not altogether bad.

She: It is the belief that being male is better than being female.

to be macho is to be a noble man, a just man, a complete man, a man of his word, a stable man, a sensitive man, a valiant man, a man who defends all the goodness that mankind stands for.

Then some social science articles said that macho is just a social role that some people play. And so the Chicano Training Center here in Houston, which tries to collect all these opinions on Chicano cultural concepts took all of these and came up with this operational definition (to train social workers in Texas): "Machismo—cultural expectation that calls for



LEONEL CASTILLO and CILIA TERESA

unconditional, self-directed fulfillment of a man's role as a protector and provider for a family."

Barrera: What is your definition?

Castillo: My definition is it's a word that over the years has become identified with male dominance or superiority but is not necessarily as negative as some people see it. There are some people—writers, including women writers, who claim there are positive aspects to it. The idea of protector, provider

The sad part about it was that it was reported in the media as a joke.

We need to look at first defining relationships between men and women. What are these relationships? We've been told—we the feminists—that we started a war between the sexes. Men and women have been battling each other for centuries. We need only to read the Bible. We can begin there—centuries old—and see how women were abused, mistreated, sold into slavery or

larized... and it's slipping into the Latin world as a term that's bad.

In the Anglo world it's not as bad. The Anglos are much more likely to market "Macho" cologne. Echeverria wouldn't let you get away with that in Mexico. I feel that the discussion helped me to understand a lot of these things that I grew up with and that I guess I'm going to live with.

Teresa: Something else came to mind when you mentioned Mexico's President Echeverria. He is a socialist or he is into socialism... He says machismo is a bad institution and must be eradicated because he needs the support of all peoples. In other words, you would never see a socialist being racist or sexist... But eventually, when the programs are put over, the women are sent back to the kitchen to take care of the kids and the homes. Sent to clean the toilets or whatever they used to do, while the men get the rewards, the credit, the compensation.

Question from the audience: Don't you think that women encourage machismo?

Teresa: I think to say that a woman encourages a man to be a macho is like saying that the Mexican-Americans encourage the white folks to oppress them. It's victimizing the victim.

And talk about a protective sense... You see, I think that women have always protected men. They have protected their egos, sustained their balls through crises. We are supposedly emotional jockstraps for man. When things go wrong at the office—guess whom they come home to? The quote little woman unquote.

We're talking about a patriarchal system that pervades our whole world. It doesn't matter if we're socialist, if we're Mexicans, if we're Black or whatever...

Castillo: Our popular culture has much more evidence of it. I had thought the official statement from Mexico would be different and the U.S. would be more egalitarian...

Audience: Perhaps the U.S. is the last bastion of macho since Spain and Mexico began to see it as a bad thing.



photos by Doug Cox

Pats and Pans

Gabrielle Cosgriff
Editor

Sarah Lowry, Ch. 2 News, has been doing a 10-part series on battered women. According to Lowry, women on all socio-economic levels are beaten. There are at least as many battered wives in River Oaks, Memorial and Sharpstown as in Third and Fourth Wards. Ben Taub receives about 50 battered women a week, while 80 show up at the Houston Police Dept., figures which reveal only 'the tip of the iceberg.' Most women do not report the crime for fear of worse beatings or because economic necessity forces them to remain in the situation. **PAT** Lowry for a strong, well-documented series on 'the crime that nobody reports.'

In that same series on battered women, police chief "Pappy" Bond said that the situation was 'fraught with danger to the police officer . . . and especially to the little lady that's involved.' **PAN** to the chief for belittling women.

Sexist Monthly strikes again. The November cover of *Texas Monthly* shows a gambler, flanked by two women dressed in low-cut black gowns, their heads cut off by the masthead. All that is visible is two pairs of pendulous breasts (is there any other kind in *TM*?). This is your mandatory every-third-month-let's-give-the-guys-an-eyeful cover to boost sagging sales. December's cover is a cardboard cut-out of Candy Barr, 50's stripper and subject of an article (sort of). **PAN** their glossy hide, or is it pigskin?

A Montessori magazine ad exhorts the reader to 'Keep your kid ahead of the Jones' kid. Get **him** the advantages of Montessori learning.' 'Your kid' is referred to as male (he, his, him) 12 times in the ad; 'he or she' and 'his or her' are each used once. Not at all unusual in our sexist media, except that this ad appeared in *Ms.* magazine (Nov. 1976). Given *Ms.*'s stated philosophy of non-sexist advertising, this is a deplorable lapse or, perhaps, a flash in the **PAN**.

A Newark, N.J. federal judge has ruled that a woman who loses a job or pay raise for refusing to have sex with her boss cannot sue him for damages under the U.S. Civil Rights Act. The woman should file a civil suit charging extortion or swear out a rape complaint, says U.S. Dist. Judge Herbert J. Stern, who dismissed part of a suit brought by Adrienne Tompkins, a stenographer who alleged she was fired from Public Service Electric & Gas Co. after refusing her supervisor's sexual advances. "Sexual attraction is a natural part of life," says the judge, and federal courts cannot become involved. The federal bench would be "deluged" with complaints if the Civil Rights Act were applied. A Stern **PAN** to hizzoner.

PAT Mary Hartman, **PAT** Mary Hartman, that fractured soap to end all soaps, for its generally sensitive treatment of issues that other programs wouldn't touch with a ten-foot antenna. The show is currently exploring a wife-beating situation, and doing it very well. If you thought *MH2* was just another Norman Lear sitcom, look again. **K-PAT** **K-DOG** for airing the top-dog when it was just an under-dog.

Catalogue a **PAT** for Sears, Roebuck & Co., who have contributed equipment and management supervision to train inmates of New York State's only women's prison to become auto mechanics. The program will initially involve 23 inmates and will eventually graduate 100 prisoners annually. The Department of Correctional Services, which made the announcement, has spent \$4,000 on the project, while Sears has invested \$25,000. This is affirmative action in action.

Policewoman Carol Smith of Roslyn, Washington, saw a man driving a car erratically and arrested him on suspicion of drunk driving. He was the police chief. Smith and her partner gave him a breathalyzer test. The test showed a small amount of alcohol in the bloodstream, but the officers decided he was capable of driving a car and released him. The next night, when Smith reported for duty, she was met by the mayor and several city council members, who ordered her to turn in her badge. **PAN** all those good ol' boys in Roslyn. Egalite? No. Fraternalite? Yes!

The prince and the pauper. Prince Philip, who is supposed to steer clear of political controversy because he is married to Queen Elizabeth, got himself in a royal hassle lately. He suggested that Britain's economic and industrial decline is directly linked to spending on the welfare state. The veracity of his remarks was not in question. What upset many Britishers was the fact that Philip benefits from the welfare state more than anybody, to the tune of \$104,000 a year. **PAN** the princely ingrate.

Women put the 'pinsch' on burglar. A mother and daughter, hearing a burglar alarm at an electronics store near their home in Baton Rouge, took their Doberman Pinscher and went to investigate. They found a man trying to escape. The daughter struck him and her mother pulled his shirt over his head. Police arrived to find the two women holding the man and the dog standing guard. **PAT** the dogged pair, whose names were not reported.

Rainbow points to crock, but not of gold. **PAT** State Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Houston) who is planning to form a 'rainbow caucus' to fight the practice of racial and sexual discrimination in the hiring of top-level state administrators. Leland cited a study by the Legislative Budget Board which showed 1,640 "exempt" positions in state government. Of these, 8 percent are occupied by women, 1.4 percent by Blacks and 4.2 percent by Mexican-Americans. "This report reflects non-compliance with the laws of this state and nation, total disregard for the basic equality of all people and a token affirmative action on the part of the state," says Leland. The Department of Public Welfare has more direct contact with minorities than probably any other state agency. There are no Blacks, three Mexican-Americans and two women among the 39 exempt positions.

A birthday **PAT** to Nellie Taylor Ross, the nation's first woman governor, who turned 100 on November 29. Ross, who was elected governor of Wyoming in 1924, said that serving in that capacity was the best contribution she could make to the women's cause at that time.

Ellen Goodman, whose syndicated 'At large' column appears regularly in *The Houston Post*, had some interesting comments after reading *The Hite Report* and a recent issue of *Playboy* (bought solely, she confesses, for the Jimmy Carter interview). "The difference between Hite's and Hefner's visions of sexuality in America is jarring," says Goodman. "It seems that women are finally reporting the facts of their own sex and men are putting on the earmuffs of fear and retreating to deeper fantasies . . . (In 'men's magazines') one never sees the kind of sharing of male sexuality, the honest searching, even the confusion that is part of the women's literature . . . It would be easy to write off the 'skin book' buyer, to describe him as deviant or adolescent, a prurient irrelevancy. But over 15 million read these magazines monthly." **PAT** Goodman, whose column—like the *Doonesbury* strip—makes an ad-rag like *The Post* worth reading on occasion.

Red-letter day for Harvard. After only 104 years of existence, the *Harvard Crimson* has elected its first woman editor-in-chief. **PAT** Gay Seidman, who takes over in February. And you thought academicians were stuffy?

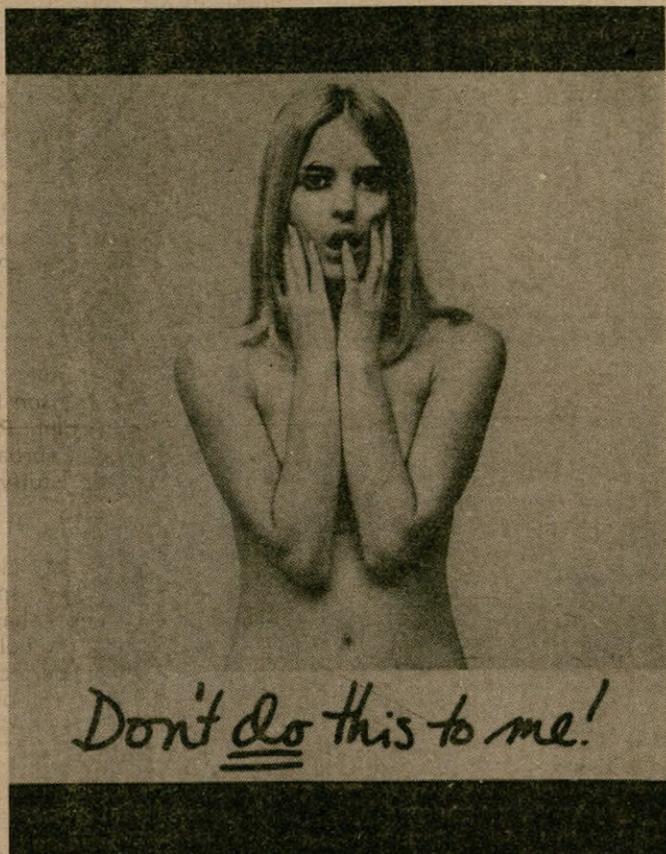
Battered women beware. The stench of Macho (son of Brut) now comes in cologne, spray cologne and soap-on-a-rope; all penis-shaped and sold at Jocke's . . . er, Joske's. 'So bold it reflects his personality and life-style perfectly. It's ba-a-ad and that's good' read full-page Joske's ads in local dailies. **PAN** Joske's phallic reasoning that "macho power" is "strong and so alive, and it belongs to today's young contemporary man—the man with macho." It's ba-a-ad, and that's bad.

Peri**PAT**etic women. Nine women are organizing the first all-female expedition to explore the wilds of South America. Team leader Carolyn Oxton said they will leave January 20 for a three-month exploration of the giant Atrato swamp in Colombia. The expedition's main purpose is to film the swamp's wildlife. It also will search for a 'lost canal,' said to have been dug in the 18th century to connect two rivers which flow respectively into the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. All the expedition members (filmmakers, archeologists, etc.) have previous exploration experience.

The Dallas County Commissioners Court has voted not to seek continuation of state funding for the Dallas Rape Crisis Center. According to the center's director, Jo Ann Austin, this will put them out of business, since she does not know of an alternative source of funds. The center, founded three years ago, offers counseling for rape victims, their families and friends and conducts public education programs. Commissioners Jim Jackson and David Pickett said they did not think public funds should be spent to support a counseling agency devoted to only one crime. Pickett said, ". . . rape is a very personal thing. It's not any more serious than getting hijacked or robbed or severely beaten." Commission a **PAN** for the court.

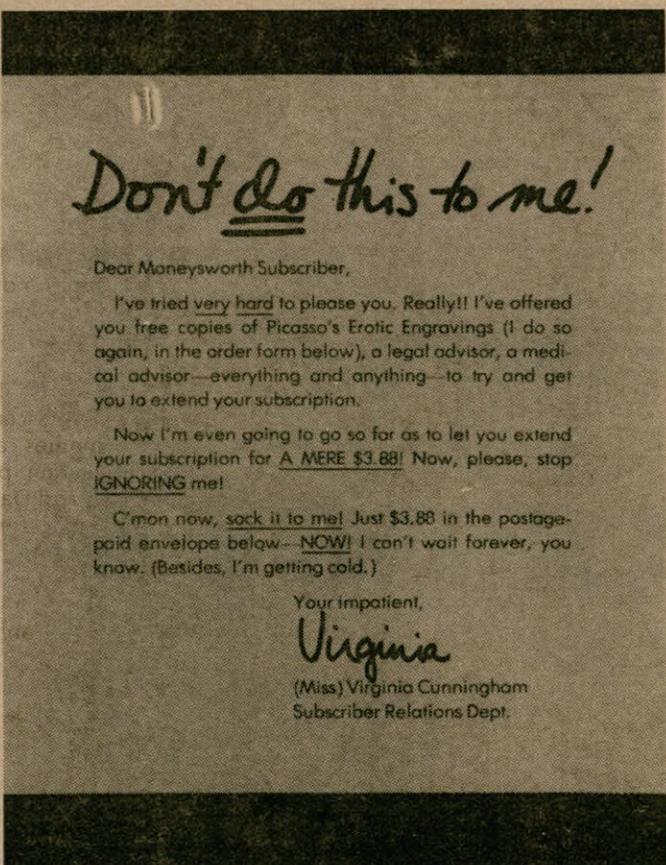
A **PAT** on the mike for Phil Donahue, talk show host (seen on Ch. 26) for giving us a welcome change from the usual show-biz personality drivel. On recent shows he has had a debate on the rape issue between author Susan Brownmiller (*Against Our Will*) and Eldridge Cleaver, interviews with Nora Ephron and Elizabeth Ray and programs on women alcoholics, women who work outside the home, and battered women.

Dead Pans

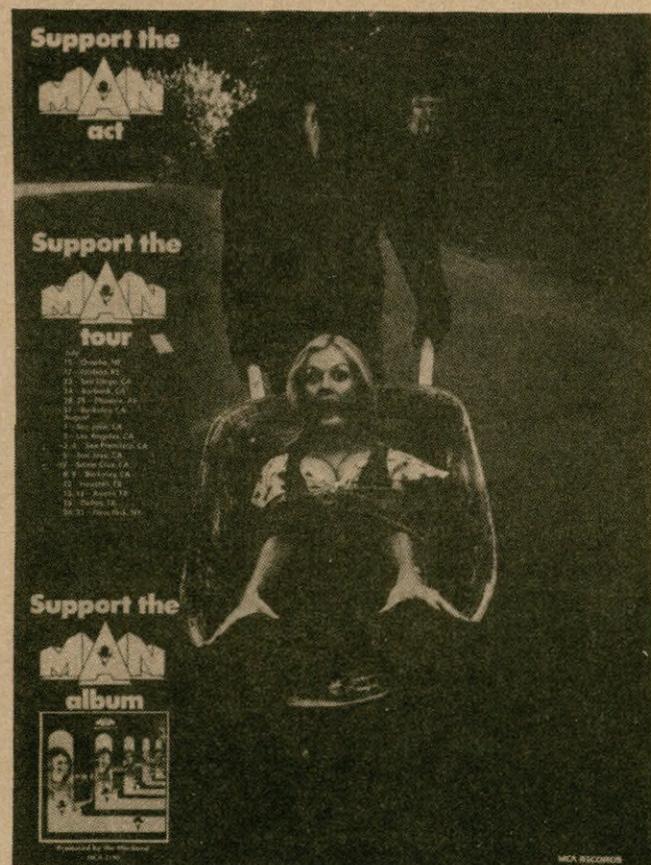


Submitted by Mary Fonteno
(Joske's, P.O. Box 26735,
Houston 77032)

Note: For ad copy see "Pats
and Pans" on facing page.



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(Moneyworth, Subscriber
Relations Department,
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Submitted by Jo Anne Gerhardt
(Billboard, international music,
record-tape newspaper, 1 Astor
Place, 1515 Broadway, New
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SUMMER BROWN

By Karen Barrett

Summer Brown is sincere, she's warm and outspoken and matter-of-fact and "not at all what you'd expect" a woman who produces fuck films to be like. She doesn't come on cute. She doesn't act tough. She's a bright, personable young woman who is very earnest about the porn industry and her contributions to it.

Summer told me how bored she was with traditional blue movies. The audience who shell out five dollars per ticket deserve more than the sweaty insincerity of bad actors with blemishes and bruises and

bulging blue veins grinding away on flimsy sets, more than interminable mechanical couplings, amateurish photography and non-existent plots.

Summer has decided to jump into the breach, to bring delicacy, sensitivity, eroticism and quality to porno movies. She tells about the time and money she expends in finding good scripts and people who can really act, about her attention to details of costuming and make-up and atmosphere, about striving to tell a story, to create characters who are "real people you can get to know and understand before they get down to doing what everyone's come to the theater to watch them do." She's going to a lot of trouble, trying to bring the "woman's touch" to dirty mov-

Summer Brown: Woman in a Non-Traditional Job

ies, a feminine perception of eroticism which has been inevitably absent from pornography in the past.

Fresh from the press conference at which Summer voiced these sentiments, I went to see the latest Summer Brown production, *The Joy of Letting Go*. In it, bored, beautiful Michelle, a happily married woman (wedded bliss consists of an occasional trinket or pat on the head from a stereotyped silver-templed businessman who spends most of his time across the globe closing deals), is propelled by an acquaintance into the milieu of an engaging, somewhat vicious pimp who launches her into prostitution-for-the-thrill-of-it (that's right, the same old *Belle de Jour* theme).

This movie deals with a woman's sexual awakening and personal fulfillment (found through learning to give better blow jobs), with a broad range of human experience (including a couple in a trailer park who are into bondage and funny underwear). It is hip (everyone does lots of cocaine), amusing (the nuances of nose-picking are deftly portrayed) and well acted (about as well as Charlie's Angels.)

Letting Go is the story of a woman who goes from being babied and neglected by her husband to being used and humiliated by her pimp. She is coy and kittenish and mindless

and submissive throughout. With the exception of an obligatory lesbian scene and a mandatory masturbation scene, the erotic sequences consist of your basic phallus worship. The men attached to those phalluses are real dingalings too. No, this is neither a woman's movie nor a good movie. It's just another dumb skinflick where everyone gets screwed.

The time has yet to come for entertaining, well-made porn in which women are not degraded, in which men are not degraded. It is sad to relate but only fair to point out that *The Joy of Letting Go* probably is one of the better pornographic films made in this country to date. Its big budget, competent camerawork and elegant costumes (St. Laurent) put it in another league than the super-sleaze hard-core home movie which is standard fare in porn theaters.

After I saw her movie, I challenged Summer Brown's high-flown statements on erotic cinema. She was understandably defensive but she didn't think her heroine was abused or humiliated. She explained that while Michelle was placed in situations which ignored her own sexual enjoyment, she was developing a sense of her own power.

One of Summer's favorite scenes was the one in which Michelle, giddy from her success as a prostitute, drags a gas

station attendant into a rest room and overwhelms him. Afterwards, she taunts him and demands money, threatening to scream "rape!" He snarlingly complies. To me, the premise of lighthearted sex marred by manipulation and cruelty was offensive. To Summer, it was erotic.

Curiously, I don't think Summer Brown is just hyping her movie to make a buck. I believed her when she told me that after ten years of happy marriage, this movie was a fairly accurate representation of her own favorite "zipless fuck" fantasies. Perhaps there are millions of men out there reading *Hustler* magazine and millions of women for whom the fantasy of prostitution is the ultimate sexual excitement, people for whom sex and power and cruelty and manipulation are inextricably intertwined, people who like Summer Brown's movies.

People for whom sex is happy and healthy, for whom sexual partners are real people, probably don't go to dirty movies anyway.

What is really disturbing about Summer Brown's product is not that she is pandering predictably to a male audience so much as it is that it reminds us that a consciousness in which sex is naughty and forbidden and dehumanized is shared by men and women alike.

continued from page 1

good is it to wave a piece of paper at him while he's beating on you.

B: Did you feel that you were different—that no other women experienced this type of violence?

L: Nobody ever talked about it to me. In the back of my mind I thought I wasn't really battered because he hadn't knocked my teeth out yet. I didn't want to

tell anyone. I was ashamed my husband would do this and if I told anyone things like he tried to choke me and I stayed with him, they would think I was crazy. I can express that I hate him for what he did to me.

B: Did you feel it was your fault he beat you?

L: Yes! He tried to always turn it around and said I made him do it. I didn't know, I knew this type of thing (beating) existed somewhere but my father would

never think of hitting my mother, so I didn't know how to react to it. I went under the delusion that he would change.

B: Do you think the women's movement has had any effect on women who are beaten?

L: Yes. Women are finally deciding "I don't have to take that kind of crap!" It took me 15 years to realize the world is full of better men. I told myself I didn't want to break up the marriage for the sake of the

kids. In reality they were hurt more than if I had chucked him at the start. Life is too short to live it like that. In another 5 or 6 years I probably wouldn't have considered divorce. I would have been 40 and would have thought no man would want me! Now I know it's not true—I deserve better and can find someone who will treat me nice.

B: If you had known there was a shelter especially for battered

wives and their children, would you have gone there?

L: Yes! There needs to be someplace women can go. I wanted to leave but thought, where could I go? He would cut off the money. So I had to get him to leave. I was lucky. He did leave and my father helps with the lawyer fees. I don't know what other women do. Help is needed. I hope this article helps people to understand.



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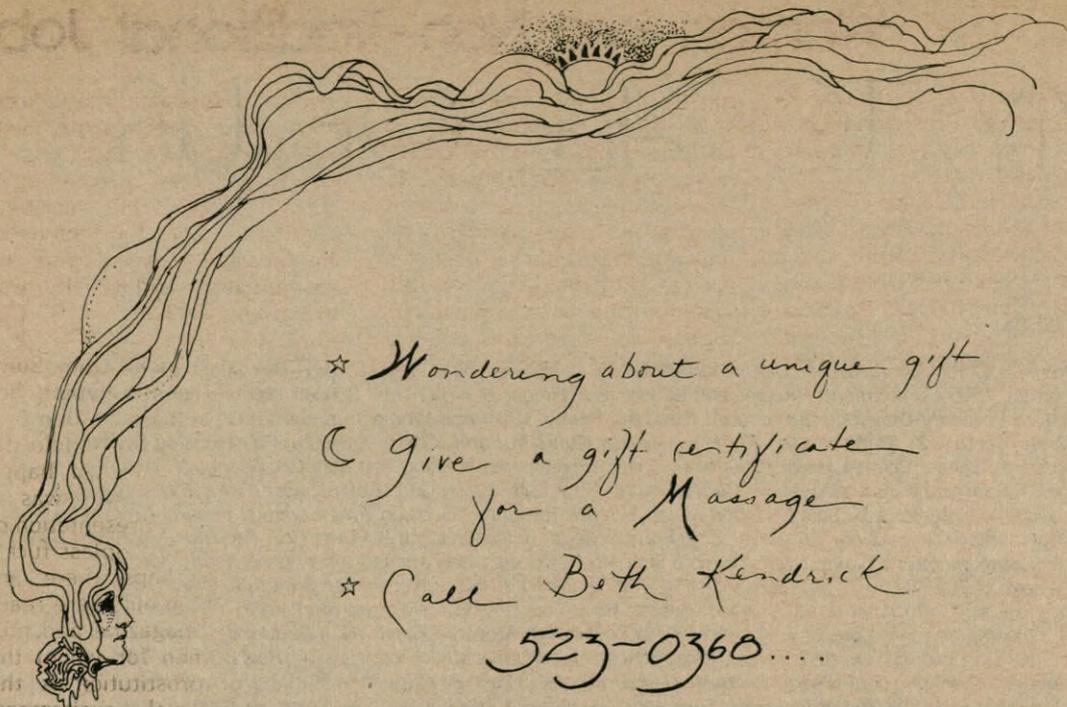
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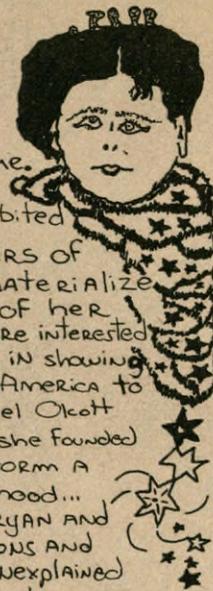


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BLAVATSKY is said to have exhibited from childhood the psychic powers of clairvoyance and the ability to materialize and move objects with the force of her mind. However, she was always more interested in understanding these powers than in showing them off. In 1874 she came to America to defend spiritualism. With a Colonel Olcott (he was editor of New York Tribune) she founded the Theosophical Society to "form a nucleus of a Universal Brotherhood... to promote the study of the Aryan and other Eastern literatures, religious and sciences... and to investigate unexplained laws of nature and the psychical powers latent in man." (NOTE: enjoy the holidays).

Christmas rough on Supermoms

By Ann Dingus

"There's no prescription for being happy at Christmas," psychotherapist Margaret Buchorn declared. "Women—people—need to learn to be free."

Probably the person who should take those words most strongly to heart are the Supermoms of the world—those women, Buchorn explains, who live vicariously through husbands and children, basking in the warmth of reflected heat.

"A woman who has bought into the Supermom role will buy into these 'models' for behavior too," she added. "But the catch is, she's self-deceiving. She wants to be praised for her work, but her family takes her for granted—of course they do!"

Buchorn, a soft-spoken mother of three, said that Christmas-time is especially rough on the mother, "because, especially now, everything should be right. It's one time everyone's supposed to love one another, to have this warm, wonderful feeling about each other, to buy these marvelous expensive gifts to make the others happy.

If Supermom is also the breadwinner, Buchorn continued, she'll feel that additional guilt and burden of wanting to provide lavish gifts by over-spending to achieve these things. Of course, that alone nags at her, but then she feels even guiltier at feeling guilty over something so capitalistic as money at this warm family time.

"But the whole season is a capitalistic idea!" Buchorn cried. "It's commercialism, and Supermom buys into that, too. She doesn't even realize that you can have a lovely Christmas without running yourself ragged and falling into this trap."

Still, too many accede to the pressure from adults as well as kids to buy big, expensive gifts—a sure-fire indication of how capitalistic Christmas is. "Children usually demand whatever it is they've seen endlessly advertised on TV," the psychotherapist said. "Parents too easily give in to gifts that are transitory. They may want to cultivate educational bents in their children, but they too easily give in."

parents too—and may really hit Supermom hard.

Perhaps by concentrating on her children's fun, a Supermom can regain some of that lost childhood. Instead of making all the Christmas cookies herself, she can let the kids help, even if it means slightly imperfect cookies and a messier kitchen. She has to let the perfect Supermom image go. If not, after all her trouble to fix a lavish Christ-

mas dinner, for example, everyone will get up and leave the table without a word of thanks, leaving her to do all the cleaning up. That's the price a Supermom pays, Buchorn said. "And then she thinks, 'What did I do all that for?' She wants praise and recognition—she doesn't want to feel that her investment in time, energy—and family—has failed."

Margaret Buchorn is planning six-week self-awareness or growth groups after the first of the year. The groups are not psychotherapy sessions, she says. Rather, they are discussions on where women are in their lives and how other women handle situations in their lives. "We need support—emotional support from other women," she says. Anyone interested in participating may call her office at 527-8701.

A family doesn't have to live up to the commercial idea of Christmas. "In my family we played games—the participation was fun for all," she said. "But the family doesn't have to be together. That only adds to the tension. The kids should have time for their friends. And the parents have a perfect right to get away from the kids for awhile. It would probably do Supermom some good."



Christmas is especially rough on Supermoms, Buchorn said.

"She derives her sense of worth and self-esteem by providing for others," Buchorn pointed out. "So she feels especially burdened at Christmas-time. There are so many expectations—unrealistic expectations—to fulfill. They go on endlessly: what presents to buy, what food to make, how your house should look, how you should entertain, how you should look glamorous.

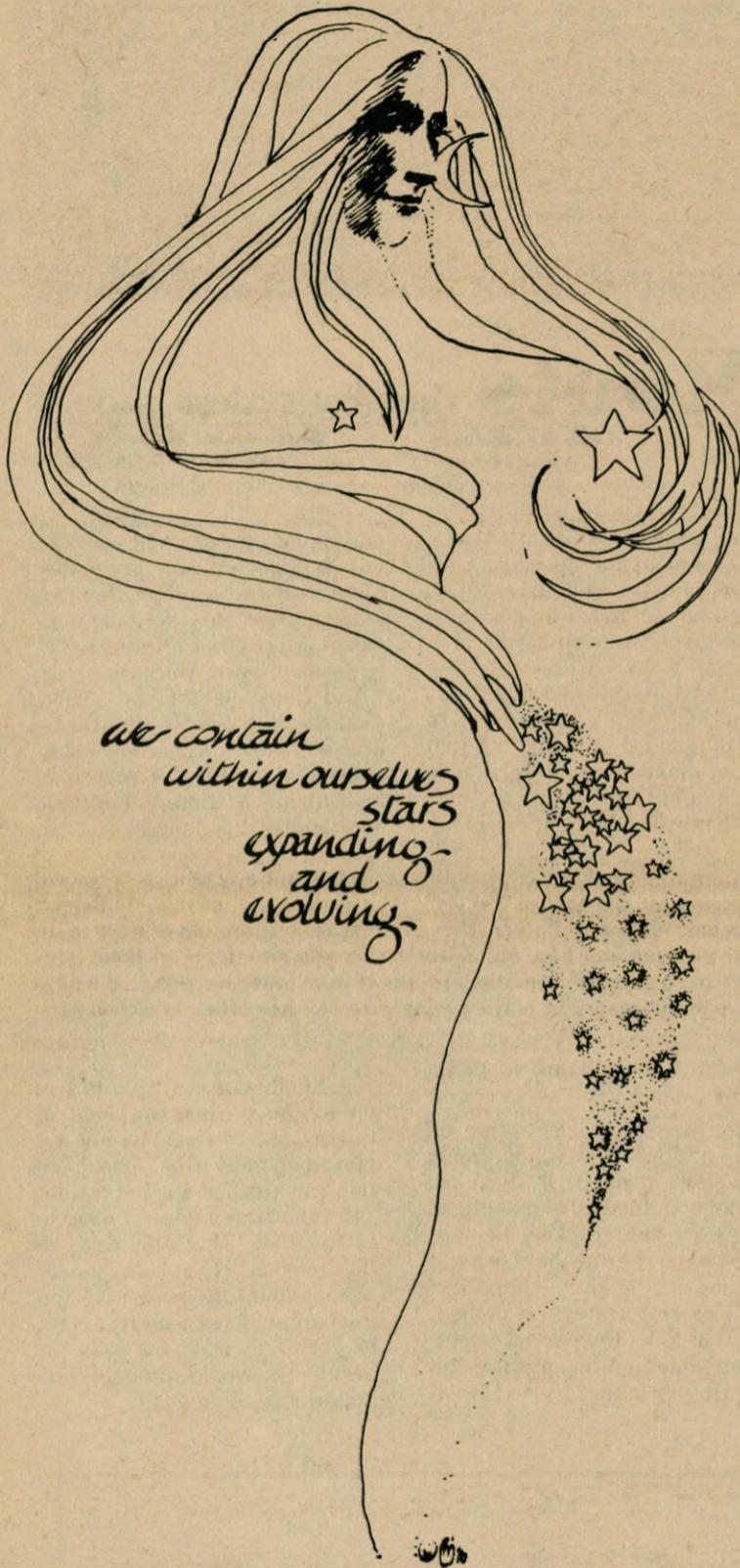
That's Supermom's job." Inevitably, Buchorn said, Supermom tries to make sure that Christmas is all it's cracked up to be, tries to live up to the image her children, husband and society see in her, tries to accede to other's wishes to feel worthy—without ever admitting to herself what she's doing. Her masochistic attitude makes her want to give everything for her family, and nothing for herself; then she wonders why she feels resentful.

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Arts

'Belle of Amherst' airs December 29

"What I think you get from Emily Dickinson," says Julie Harris, "is what you get from any great writer—all of life. Great writers can illuminate the realities of life—not just tell us about them, but show us their inner light."

The Belle of Amherst is Julie Harris' one-woman celebration of the life, spirit and poetry of Emily Dickinson. In William Luce's play, culled from Dickinson's poems, note and letters, Harris plays Emily in almost every stage of her life, from her early teens—when she writes that she will surely be "The Belle of Amherst" by her 17th birthday—through the time, at age 53, when most of her great poems have been written.

For Harris, the play is the culmination of a long-term love affair with the words and spirit of Emily Dickinson. She has been giving readings of the poet's verse for years. A chance visit to one of these readings by Charles Nelson Reilly (who directed the stage version of *Belle*) led to the concept of the play.

The Belle of Amherst will, for many viewers, be an in-depth introduction to one of America's most remarkable and talented women. Julie Harris hopes the television adaptation will provide the impetus for many people to further acquaint themselves with Dickinson's writing and the treasures contained in them.

"I've never had to memorize anything like this in my life," says Harris. "The script is more than 100 pages long. I worked four hours a day, every single day for months to learn it, and when rehearsals began there were still 20 pages that I didn't know."

"Some people think it's remarkable that Emily Dickinson could write so well when she herself lived such a narrow life," Harris says. "But I don't feel that Emily's life was narrow at all. I think when she decided to stay in her father's house that she chose the fullest possible life for her. She knew how great her talent was; I think she thought of herself as a candle and the important thing was to keep the flame burning. She knew she couldn't take it out into the wind."

The Belle of Amherst, which had a triumphant standing-room-only, four-month Broadway run and is now on extended national tour in stage form, was videotaped at KCET, Los Angeles in front of a live audience, without interruption, except for the play's original single intermission. During the 90-minute performance, Harris shows us not only Emily Dickinson's inner light but her own, as she gives one of the finest performances of her career.

The Belle of Amherst will have its television premiere December 29 at 7 p.m. on Channel 8/PBS, under a grant from IBM.

Marilyn Mock



KAREY BRESENHAN

Quilt Fair '76 planned

The American woman's folk art—patchwork quilts—will be big news December 10 and 11 in Houston, when the new Houston Quilt Guild sponsors its first major project, *Quilt Fair '76*.

More than 500 fine antique quilts (some dating as early as the 1860's) and a collection of new quilts will be for sale in the two-day exhibit at the River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics, 2503 Westheimer at Kirby. (Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is \$1, good for repeat visits).

Seven women-owned shops specializing in quilts will participate in the Fair: *Antiques and Collectibles*, *The Country Shop*, *Gingerbread House*, *Great Expectations*, and *The Quilt Patch*, all of Houston; and *The Great American Cover-Up and Hand-made & Co.*, both of Dallas.

Quilt lectures will be given at noon each day and raffle tickets for a finely-quilted antique quilt will be sold, with the drawing on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Among the exceptional quilts for sale will be a very fine gold and white Wild Goose Chase, circa 1865; several meticulously quilted Pennsylvania Dutch quilts in striking dramatic colors; some fascinating large Log Cabin quilts dating from the 1870's; a number of traditional 1930's favorites such as the Double Wedding Ring, Flower Garden, and Dresden Plate; and some true collector's items such as a 1914 Postage Stamp with more than 13,000 pieces in it, and a fine red, white and blue Ducks in a Pond with Texas feed sacks used for the backing.

Chairperson of *Quilt Fair '76* is Karey Bresenhan, a fifth-generation quilter and proprietor of *Great Expectations Antiques*, where a spectacular quilt show was held last year.

"The only quilt event comparable to *Quilt Fair '76* is the annual *Kutztown Fair* in Pennsylvania," she explained. "Since Houston is full of quilt lovers and collectors, the Guild decided it was time the city had a really spectacular show of its own. We invited each dealer on the basis of their handling quality quilts. But we'll have something there for everyone—from the fine collector quilts worth hundreds of dollars to the charming country quilts ranging under \$150."

"The Fair is like our Christmas present to other quilt lovers."



JULIE HARRIS as Emily Dickinson in "The Belle of Amherst"

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By Judy Kier

The Association for Childbirth at Home will offer a six-week course beginning January 18, for prospective parents who are considering home birth. ACAH is a national, non-profit organization founded in Boston in 1972 by Tonya Brooks. The purposes of the organization are:

1. To bring the choices, responsibilities, and experiences of childbearing back to the woman and her family;
2. To make childbirth at home a reasonable, available, and safe alternative for healthy women in every community;
3. To work for legislation and education promoting the practice of midwifery;
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A cure in sight for mathophobics



DR. BETTY BARR will teach a math course this spring in the UH—Open University program. Barr says many of the problems women have with math lies with society's attitude toward math achievers.

By Darla Klaus

If the mere mention of calculus or logarithmic functions causes your eyes to glaze over or a tight feeling to grip your throat, then chances are you are one of the many women who suffer from math anxiety.

The problem of math avoidance by women has long been recognized, but until recently, little has been done to diagnose or cure this malady which has kept most women from finding employment in the higher paying fields of engineering and technology.

Help, however, is finally on the way for victims of mathophobia, and none too soon, according to feminist Lynne Mutchler, who along with associate Peggy Hall, recently conducted a public workshop on math anxiety.



Counselor PEGGY HALL with Rice University's LYNNE MUTCHLER plan workshops dealing with math anxiety problems women face. Mutchler, a graduate of MIT and Hall, a mental health worker, feel that before women can enroll in math courses they must first overcome mathophobia. This is the goal of their seminars.

The workshop, sponsored by the Southwest Chapter of NOW, attracted approximately 35 women and 5 or 6 men. But this is only the tip of the iceberg according to Mutchler.

"We really struck a nerve," she said. "Math anxiety is not peculiar to women, it's just that women have never been encouraged to overcome it. Men who fear math are encouraged to keep trying. Women are advised not to worry their pretty little heads about their lack of math ability because they won't need it anyhow."

This lack of math ability, according to sociologist Lucy Sell of the University of California, has forced most women to crowd into the already overcrowded liberal arts fields such as elementary education, social work, music, guidance and counseling.

UH engineering professor Dr. Betty Barr, along with Mutchler, blames many of the problems women have with math on society's attitude toward female math achievers and the lack of female role models who achieve in math.

"Most elementary school teachers are female and they probably had math problems themselves, and female students traditionally identify with their female teachers," Barr said. "The difference begins to show in junior high and high school. There have been lots of studies, but nobody has proven that women are genetically weaker in math ability than men," she added.

Mutchler points out that women who excel in math and don't hide it are often singled out for derision.

"I've noticed two distinct behaviors displayed by women math achievers. One is the cheerleader type who hides her talent, and the other is the quieter, more studious type who soon believes the myth that she is not socially inclined. I've seen many women who were seriously damaged by these attitudes," Mutchler said.

The cure of mathophobia is based strongly on a support sys-

tem, Mutchler said. "Women have to realize this is not a lack in themselves, but a problem often caused by society's attitudes and often reinforced by one specific male supremacist math teacher.

"The remedy is twofold," explains Mutchler. First is anxiety reduction, finding out the block is there and removing it. Secondly, some assertiveness training is usually necessary to remove that final block."

Mutchler, along with mental health worker Peggy Hall, plans to use these techniques in a series of math anxiety seminars in February. She also plans to include some basic remedial math such as fractions and percentages in the seminars because of the overwhelming response to the first workshop.

"Women have always been taught to be quiet and ladylike, and not to ask too many questions. If you don't understand an instructor, ask her or him to explain it again," advised Mutchler. "Women must realize there are no dumb questions."

Dr. Barr believes the difficulty women have with math is reflected by the percentage of women majoring in engineering courses at the University of Houston, although the number is increasing some each year.

In 1974, there were only 57 females included in the 1100 engineering majors at UH, while in 1975, almost 100 of the 1100 engineering majors were women.

Barr is teaching a course this spring offered by the UH Open University (Math 171) designed to prepare students for calculus.

"This course is designed for someone with a good math background, high school algebra, geometry and some trigonometry," she said.

Women who want to learn algebra and geometry should explore the remedial math courses offered by junior colleges and community colleges rather than university-level courses.

However, she points out, for women with the math background and a willingness to work, the Open University course is an excellent opportunity to learn math at one's own pace and without the pressure of weekly exams.

The course features weekly discussion sessions, tutoring, television cassettes and personal tutoring from the professor, "if they ask me," Barr said.

Contact the Open University at 749-4167 for information.



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To and from

Announcements

There will be a meeting of the Assoc. of Women Lawyers on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. at River Oaks Bank & Trust, 2001 Kirby Drive.

A winter Solstice party with a message will be the December program for S.W. Houston NOW. Joan Hanlon and Gail Padgett will lead an informal discussion about Women and Alcoholism. Refreshments (tasty and non-alcoholic) will be served. Jungman Branch Library, 5830 Westheimer, 7 p.m. Dec. 21.

Billie Cloud of Martin-Decker Co. will be installed as President of the Desk and Derrick Club of Bellaire for the year 1977. The installation dinner meeting will be held at the Summit Club in the First Int'l. Bank Bldg., Monday, Dec. 13. Guests are welcome. Those interested in attending should contact Sherry Goad, Continental-Emsco, 795-4333.

The National Commission on the Observance of Int'l. Women's Year (IWY) will sponsor 56 State and Territorial meetings concerned with women's rights and responsibilities in 1977, culminating with a National Conference in Nov. of that year. All persons interested in participating or in recommending other women for participation in their State or Territorial meetings, send names and biographies to: National Commission on the Observance of Int'l. Women's Year, Rm. 1004, U.S. Dept. of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

Come share and grow together! Women's Group at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, Sundays at 10 a.m. Dec. 5: Margaret Buchorn, social psychotherapist, "Super Mom"; Dec. 12: Open rap on super moms; Dec. 19: Attorneys Patti O'Kane, Martina Staples, Marcia Anthony, "Perspective on Women in Law"; Dec. 26: "Celebration" including deities of other (and future) cultures.

We need workers and ideas for press event and rally in connection with NOW's Women State of the Union & ERA rally to be held Jan. 13 & 14. Next meeting is Dec. 9, 8 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. For more information call 864-9402.

Del Martin, author of "Battered Wives," will be here for an open talk on the subject of her book at 8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 6 at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. A \$3 donation will help finance her trip here.

Looking for a good time? With some far-out women? Join S.W. Houston NOW. We offer scintillating conversation, sparkling programs and action for equality. Program meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Jungman Branch Library, 5830 Westheimer, at 7 p.m. Note the time because we must leave the library before 9 p.m. We continue with a rap session at a coffee shop in the neighborhood. Contact Gail for program and membership information at 667-0284.

Age discrimination? Gray Panthers is forming a group in Houston for those interested in political advocacy for the over 40 and under 25. If interested call Loraine Elms at 926-3084, 921-4446 or at KPFT, 526-4000.

Mexican-American women are invited to join the Chicana Association for Reform and Advocacy (CARA). For information call Margaret Acosta at 524-6004.

Cliff Whyburn wants to hear from anybody who has gone thru the physical examination for employment at Shell, Westinghouse, or Hughes Tool. Contact him at 2234 Goldsmith, Houston 77030.

C-R Groups

There is a continuing interest expressed by Houston women in participating in consciousness-raising groups. Because of this, new groups are formed from time to time. For more information, call one of the following: N.W., Spring Branch, Memorial, call Regina, 493-5928; Bellaire, Sharpstown, S.W., call Monica, 776-0132; Inside loop, Montrose, call Peggy, 522-4468.

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The Christian Science Monitor® was founded by Mary Baker Eddy. This international daily newspaper has won 88 awards, including four Pulitzer Prizes. Enlightening articles have discussed women working at home, women in politics and women paratroopers. 3-month subscriptions, \$12.60. Send check to The Christian Science Monitor®, P.O. Box 36715, Houston 77036. Call MONITOR at 524-2250 for your free copy.

The New Directions Club is an organization designed to help the ex-offender. You can help by donating clothing, furniture, appliances. For more information, call 527-9474.

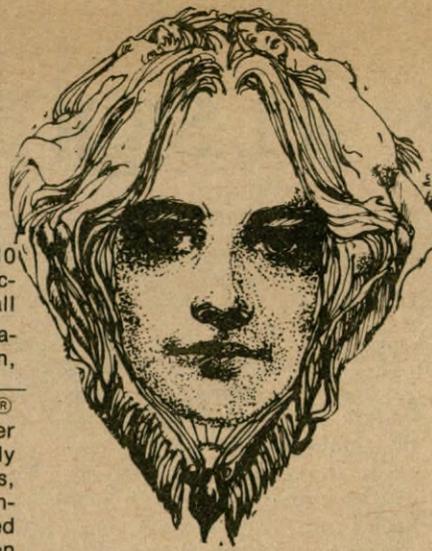
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Massage Classes for women starting soon. Learn techniques in Esalen, Acupressure, Reflexology and Self-Massage. Remove tension blocks and learn to maintain a more relaxed state in everyday life. Massage can help us to function at our fullest capacity. For more information call Beth Kendrick, 523-0368.

Employment

Tele-Image, Inc., a new videotape production facility, is compiling a list of free-lance media people for use in future productions. Employment on a part-time basis only. If interested write or call (214) 245-3561, Tele-Image, Inc., 2225 Bellline, 321, Carrollton, Tx. 75006.

National WEAL is collecting resumes of women to recommend for possible appointment to public office either paid or volunteer at the national level. If you would like to be considered, please send your resume to Kay Whyburn at 2234 Goldsmith, Houston 77025. (Include fields you would be interested in on a separate sheet.) She will send them on to National WEAL. Please do not be modest. You are qualified. Consider some of the "turkeys" currently serving in Washington.



Sex discrimination. If you feel you are being discriminated against because of your sex, in hiring, firing or promotion in a job by an employer, contact Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), 667-8556 and they will help you file a charge with the EEOC.

Media

The Assoc. for Community Television, the volunteer support organization for Ch. 8, PBS in Houston, is actively seeking volunteers to work as Go-Getters for the 7th annual Ch. 8 Auction scheduled in May. Go-Getters are needed now to solicit merchandise and support for this unique fund-raising event. Monies raised by the Auction are allocated to Ch. 8 for the purpose of improvement and expansion. For full information on becoming a Go-Getter call the Auction office at 748-0350.

Two plays with strong women's leads will be performed Dec. 3, 4, 8-11; 15-18 at the Main Street Theater. "The Lesson," a frightening conflict of will between an aged professor and his youth pupil, will feature Nan Newbern as the pupil. "Chamber Music," by Arthur Kopit, affords eight actresses the opportunity to display a broad range of emotions in one act. Set in a meeting room of the women's ward of a mental hospital, the play concerns eight inmates, all of whom believe themselves to be famous heroines from history, who come together to consider a most important question. Curtain time is 8 p.m. and admission is \$2.50/adults and \$1.50/students. For information call Rebecca Greene, Producer, 524-3168.

KPFT December schedule for women's programming: (every Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.) Dec. 4, Discussion with Lynn Mutchler on "The 1st Sex;" Dec. 11, Martha Jacobi and Folk Music; Dec. 18, 310 Pacific—Half-Way House for Women; Dec. 25, Joan Baez "Noel" and short story "Uncle Edgar and the Reluctant Saint;" Jan. 8, Music, Poetry & Phone Participation.

If you or your organization would like to be interviewed or have something aired, please write KPFT and address to Women's Collective or call 526-4000. Please give one-month advance notice, if possible.

Sandra Elkins, producer-moderator of national PBS' "Woman," presents "How To Start Your Own Business," airing in two parts, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10, at 10:30 p.m., Ch. 8. And "A Conversation with Jeanne Moreau" (also in two parts) airs Dec. 17 and Dec. 24, at 10:30 p.m.

Actress Cloris Leachman ("The Last Picture Show" and TV's "Phyllis") visits "Jeanne Wolf With," Dec. 23 at 9:30 p.m. on Ch. 8/PBS.

Men

"Men's Lives," a documentary film on men in America, is available for showing to groups, friends, etc. For information call Craig Roberts, 524-6517.

The Male Awareness Center meets at 8 p.m., every Monday, at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Dec. 6: "Gay—Non-Gay Dialogue."

Workshops

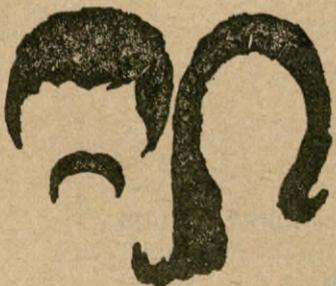
Nationally exhibited ceramist Frances Bagley Taylor will conduct a Ceramics Workshop at MFA/School of Art, 3815 Garrott, Sat., Dec. 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will explore some of the techniques and images possible with clay through demonstration, discussion and participation. Registration fee for the all-day workshop is \$10, and will be limited to 35 persons.

The First International Conference of Practicing Midwives will meet in El Paso, on Jan. 14, 15 & 16. Speakers will include Suzanne Arms, author; Ina May, author, and midwife on "The Farm," a 1200-member commune in Tennessee; Raven Lang, author; and Nancy Mills, lay midwife from northern California. Individuals interested in lay midwifery and the home birth movement are invited. Accommodations in private homes are available. Charge for the conference is \$85, which includes four meals. The conference will be held at the Paso del Norte Hotel. For further information write to Shari Daniels, P.O. Box 13063, El Paso, Tx.

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