

Houston Breakthrough

Where Women Are News

Vol. II no. 1

January 1977

50 cents

OUR CHILDREN — WILL THEY BE DIFFERENT?

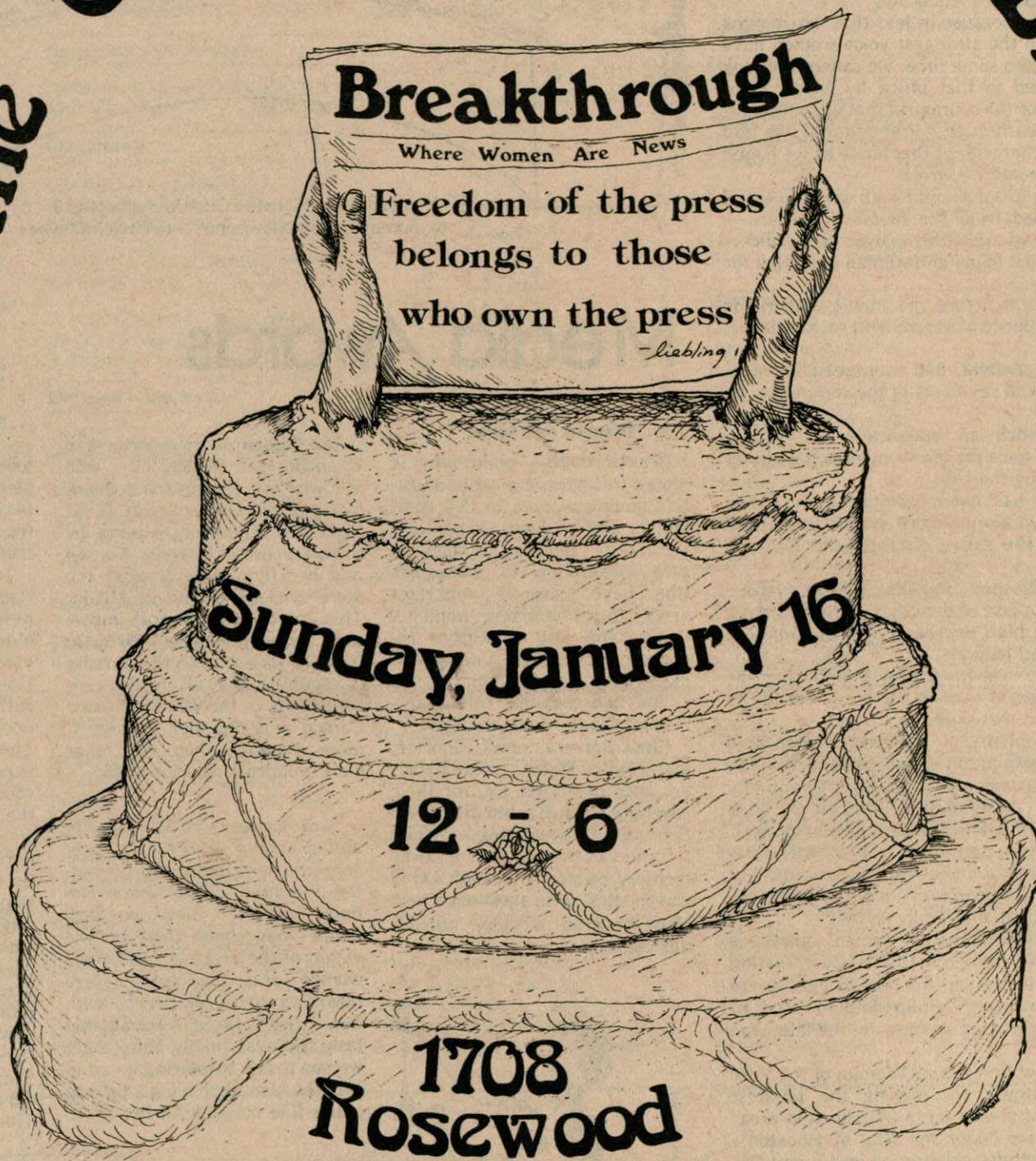


Breakthrough's
1976 Media Awards

Nikki Van Hightower
Woman of the Year

Are City Fathers
Anti-Mother?

Come Celebrate Our First Birthday



Honoring
Subscribers, Contributors, Advertisers and Award-Winners

Breakthrough's Woman of the Year Award

Dr. Nikki van Hightower
City of Houston Women's Advocate

Breakthrough's Media Awards
presented by

Mercedes Valdivieso,
author of "La Brecha."

Sara Lowery, KPRC-TV
for her series on battered women
"The Crime Nobody Reports"

Jan Carson, KTRK-TV
for her reporting on the dissolution of
the University of Texas System School of Nursing
by the UT Board of Regents

JoAnn Vallie Rush of KYOK-Radio and The Forward Times
for her reporting on the three elderly sisters
who were living in poverty and received assistance
after her reports on their plight.

Elma Barrera & Phyllis Deter of KTRK-TV
for their news reports from Guatemala and the documentary
"Return to Guatemala"

Editorials

Woman-of-the-year

The Bicentennial year passed without mention from this women's press. As Ms. said on its July cover, 'The first 200 years are the hardest.'

But the year 1976 did hold one memorable breakthrough for the women in this city — the mid-year appointment of Dr. Nikki Van Hightower as the city's new Women's Advocate.

We give emphasis to *mid-year* because in less than six months time Van Hightower has become the strongest voice women have ever had in city government. At the same time, we cannot overlook the fact that she was *appointed* to that office by Mayor Fred Hofheinz, whom we now thank for the courage of that appointment.

Looking back one year at *Breakthrough's* first editorial, we find we described the qualities and character of that office as we hoped it would be served. Of the Advocate we wrote:

"She must have total freedom to speak out for all women — and particularly those most excluded from the favors of society — Black, Brown, poor, old and young, unemployed and under-employed, and gay women, women in jail and women out of jail for whom there is now no direct voice.

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

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

Van Hightower has been such an advocate — a "strong, independent, and courageous" voice for the women of the city of Houston and women employed by the city.

Within city government she has been monitoring the city's Affirmative Action program, advocating a merit system for department promotions and studying the salary discrepancies between white male and other city workers.

When she found the city pays less for "so-called women's jobs," she made public statements in support of the city's clerical workers whose jobs she said, "require a high degree of skill but who are paid less than the city's unskilled laborers."

Van Hightower worked to increase pregnancy benefits for the city's women employees and alerted women's groups recently to testify before the City Council on the issue.

Acutely sensitive to the problems of battered women and displaced homemakers, many of whom call her office daily for help, Van Hightower has been instrumental in raising community consciousness to the plight of these women. She serves on a steering committee for the YWCA Crisis Housing Center project. She also serves on the steering committee for WIRES, the Women's Information Referral and Exchange Service, a project of Women In Action that she sees will be of direct benefit to everyone, but especially to women in personal and family crises.

Under her leadership, a city-wide coalition of women's groups is being formed. To be called the Women's Rights Coordinating Council, nearly 50 groups have expressed interest in joining to improve communication among women's groups and to focus on actions that will improve the status of women in the Houston community.

We are very proud to present our first annual Woman of the Year Award to Dr. Nikki Van Hightower for making the greatest breakthrough in the advancement of women in the Houston area during 1976. Please join us as we honor the City of Houston's Women's Advocate at our first birthday celebration on January 16.

Houston Breakthrough

Where Women Are News

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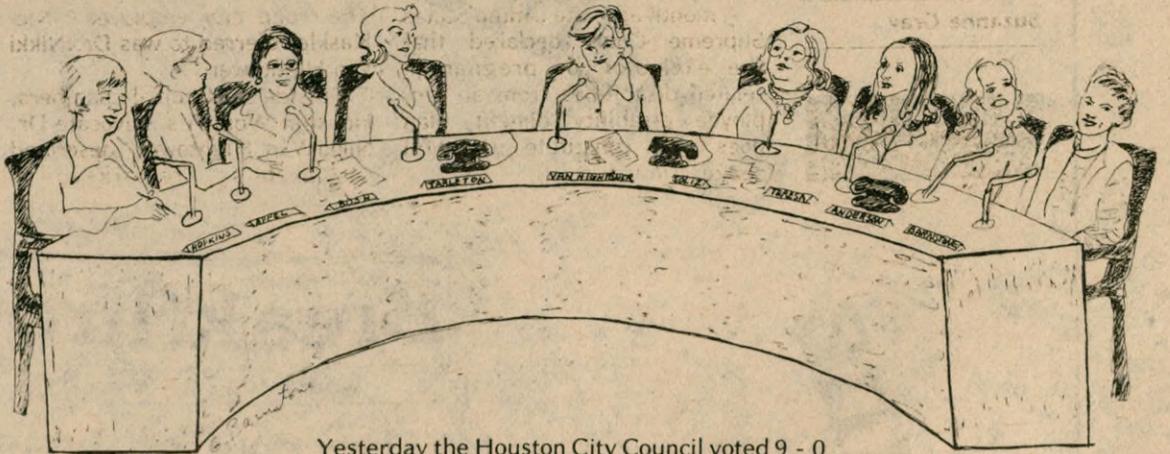
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Mancuso unmanned

justice

counsel



Yesterday the Houston City Council voted 9 - 0 to increase pregnancy benefits to city employees.

Media Awards

Women Are News

Breakthrough's philosophy is rooted in improving communication among women in this community and between women and the media. Because of this, we give recognition to journalists who have covered important news stories affecting women's issues, and also to women reporters who have undertaken major news assignments.

The honorees for this year's *Breakthrough* Media Awards:

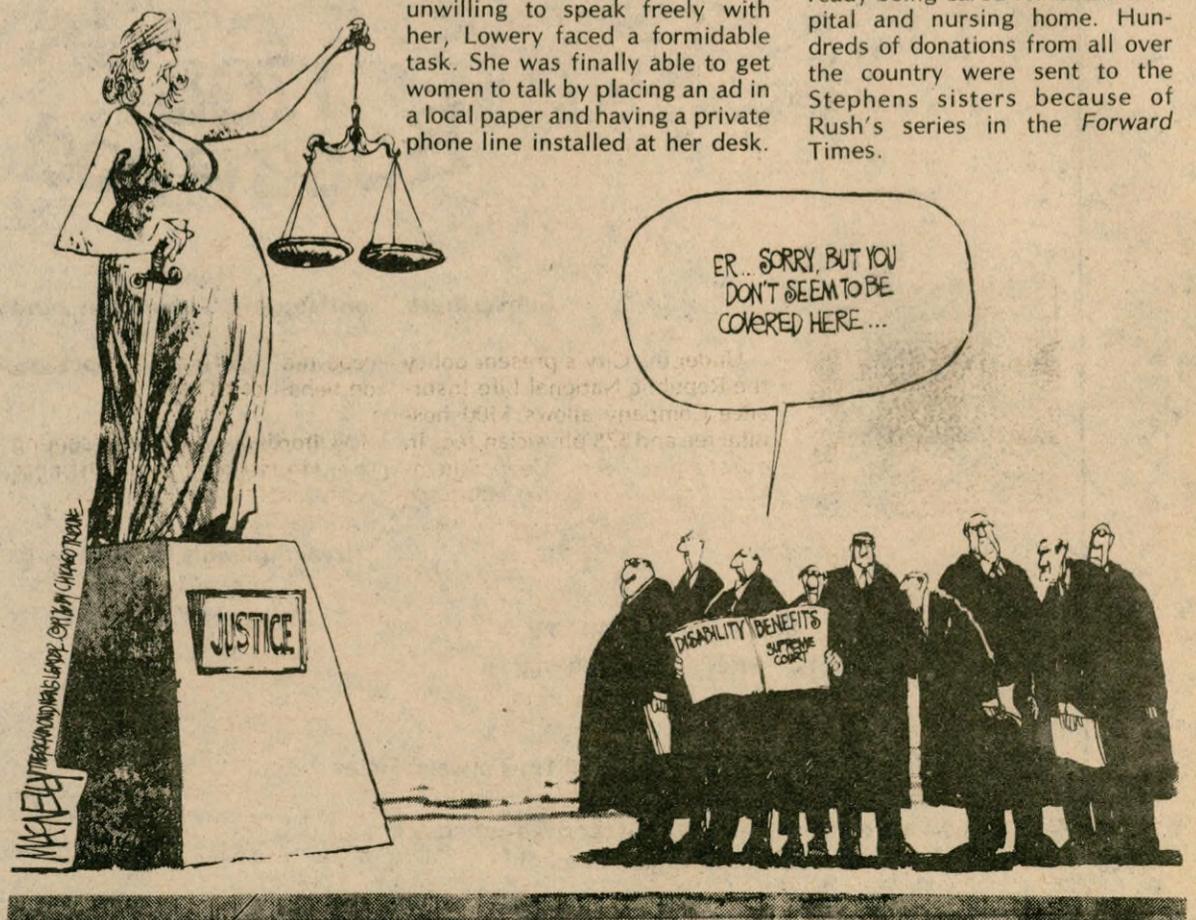
Elma Barrera, news reporter, and **Phyllis Deter**, camerawoman, both of KTRK-TV, for their coverage from Guatemala of the February 1976 earthquake. They returned in May to film a documentary on the aftermath. This was the first time a women's news team covered a story outside this country.

Jan Carson, news reporter and co-anchor at KTRK-TV, who followed the controversial dissolution of the University of Texas System's School of Nursing by the UT Board of Regents. Carson and her film crew covered the story in Houston and in Austin. This was one of the most important news stories of 1976, in terms of its effect on the nursing community and all health-care consumers in the state of Texas. Carson and Channel 13 gave it more coverage than any other local broadcast or print media.

Sara Lowery, news reporter and co-anchor at KPRC-TV, presented a ten-part series on battered women, "The Crime Nobody Reports." Since no local studies have been done on the extent of the problem, and since women and the police were unwilling to speak freely with her, Lowery faced a formidable task. She was finally able to get women to talk by placing an ad in a local paper and having a private phone line installed at her desk.

As part of her research, which took more than a month to complete, KPRC sent Lowery and a film crew to Phoenix, Arizona to report on a center there for battered women.

JoAnn Vallie Rush, KYOK-Radio reporter, did a series of news stories on the three elderly Stephens sisters, living in extreme poverty in the Acres Homes area. They were all suffering from malnutrition and one of the sisters was seriously ill. They had no money for medical expenses. As a result of Rush's radio stories and news reports in the *Forward Times*, two of the sisters were placed in nursing homes and one was hospitalized. So quick was the humane reaction to her airing of the sisters' plight that when television news cameras came to the house to cover the story, they were already being cared for in the hospital and nursing home. Hundreds of donations from all over the country were sent to the Stephens sisters because of Rush's series in the *Forward Times*.



Are "City Fathers" anti-mothers?

By Suzanne Gray



SYLVIA GARCIA
from
Chicana Association for
Reform and Advocacy (CARA).



CARMEN ACOSTA JOHNSON
from
American Women in Science



LAVITA WAITS
from
Black Women
for Social Change (BWSC).

A month ago, the United States Supreme Court declared that the exclusion of pregnancy-related disabilities from an employee disability benefit plan does not constitute unlawful sex discrimination.

The Court called pregnancy "a voluntary condition."

National NOW president, Karen de Crow, called the Court's decision "anti-motherhood." Other national women's leaders said it "legalized sex discrimination."

This decision essentially freed employers from providing increased pregnancy benefits to its employees under major medical coverage and from treating pregnancy as any other temporary disability.

"But the Court did not say employers cannot provide it. In my opinion; the City of Houston should do so."

Mayor Fred Hofheinz thus gave his support to a proposal to increase pregnancy insurance benefits to city employees before the City Council was to vote on it December 22.

Despite the Mayor's stand and a strong show of support from city-wide women's groups, Houston's all-male City Council voted 6-3 against the expansion of the pregnancy insurance benefits.

Under present provisions, an employee must be married, and insure her husband as a dependent at a cost of \$100, in order to receive pregnancy benefits of up to \$175.

Hofheinz had recommended removal of the provision which requires coverage of an employee's husband. In addition to the Mayor, Councilmembers Judson Robinson, Jr. and Jim Westmoreland voted for the increased benefits.

Ten persons spoke before City Council regarding the insurance proposals before the vote was taken.

Sociologist Carmen Acosta Johnson pointed out that inadequate insurance forces some women to forego good prenatal care, threatening the health and even the lives of the mother and her offspring. Delivery fees can burden families with staggering debts.

Under the City's present policy the Republic National Life Insurance Company allows \$100 hospital fee and \$75 physician fee. In questioning from Councilmembers, Johnson said that Hermann Hospital charges \$1,000 for a completely normal delivery. Doctor's fees are approximately \$450.

After Johnson's presentation, Councilman Larry McKaskle questioned her repeatedly to determine who had told her to appear today. She replied that as a member of American Women in Science she and her group are in close contact with matters affecting the health of women. Seemingly perturbed, McKaskle made vague references to one city employee whom he felt organized the day's speakers on the issue.

The "one city employee" McKaskle referred to was Dr. Nikki Van Hightower.

Outside the Council chambers, Houston Women's Advocate Dr. Nikki Van Hightower described McKaskle's remarks as "ludicrous."

"If I did not alert the women in the community to things that were happening in City Hall that were in their interest I wouldn't be doing my job. Of course I called people; of course I went to groups and told them that this was happening. I certainly didn't do any arm twisting to get anyone down to testify. They were there voluntarily because they were concerned. I didn't even know what he (McKaskle) was getting at. He could have simply asked me, and I would have said 'Yes, I certainly did call a lot of people and I will continue to do that because that's why I'm here.'"

Representatives from the following groups spoke in favor of the change in insurance benefits: Madeleine Appel, for the City's Affirmative Action Advisory Commission; Mildred Meltzer for the YWCA; LaVita Waits for Black Women for Social Change; Cliff Whyburn for WEAL; Sylvia Garcia for CARA, and Donna Duerk for Harris County Women's Political Caucus (HCWPC).

Patricia O'Kane, an attorney, summarized, "We are saying women are valuable enough to be included and have benefits which they pay for," pointing out that women employees contribute to provisions for exclusively male operations such as circumcisions.

Rose Walker, who identified herself as an ardent feminist and ERA crusader, disagreed with the proposals. She warned that all women of child-bearing age would suffer a major setback. "We will all be viewed in the real world as liabilities because the cloud of an expensive pregnancy leave will hover over us." She described pregnancy as "a matter of one's own choosing" and said, "We cannot demand equality and privilege simultaneously."

Feminist leaders of WEAL, NOW and HCWPC made it clear that this was not the position of their groups and that Walker was not a spokeswoman for any of their groups. The *Post*, in error, reported that she was speaking on behalf of NOW.

Wilford Navarro representing the Houston Police Officers Association was also against the increase. He cited limited monies as his main objection.

Navarro told *Breakthrough* his opinion was shared by all police officers, even though he admitted that female officers weren't specifically consulted.

Following the Council vote, Nikki Van Hightower said that while "we have no legal basis to pursue insurance increases for pregnancy now, the legality of required marital status is questionable. And we should challenge that."

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CAROLYN GRIFFIN
U.S. People's China Friendship Association

"...a museum is probably the best place for it..."

City Councilman Frank O. Mancuso served as Mayor Pro-Tem last July 2 when he accepted a Bicentennial gift from the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the City of Houston — a 400-pound bronze statue of Confucius (551-479 BC).

Inscribed in English and in Chinese was a Confucius saying "men have their respective occupations and women their homes."

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, City of Houston Women's Advocate, objected to the sexist inscription and to the fact that City Council has voted to place the statue in the new central library.

Mancuso objected to Van Hightower's objections, saying, "I think Van Hightower has been getting completely out of hand. She's trying to run this city and I say this — if she wants to run for Mayor, she should file for office."

Another objection to the statue was raised by Carolyn Griffin, a member of the U.S. China People's Friendship Association.

Griffin told Council that her group tried to correct distortions and stereotypes of the Chinese and that the elevation of Confucius as a symbol of the Chinese people and of Chinese thought was one such distortion.

She said in Confucius' time, women had no social value — women's feet were bound, young girls were sold as child brides.

Griffin opposed the public display of the statue and the allocation of money for its display.

The statue is presently on view in the office of Parks Director, George Lanier.

A department secretary who asked not to be identified said, "The talk here is that we don't want it. Yes, we can appreciate it as an art object but a museum is probably the best place for it."

an interview with:

Letitia Gray, age three

Marni Hughes, age six

Monica Fauchaux, age seven

Ursula Guidry, age ten

Itze Soliz, age thirteen

Julie Havens, age thirteen

and their mothers.*

By Karen Barrett

The following are comments and opinions from the six young women listed above, whom I interviewed with an eye to finding out how it feels to be growing up female in 1977, how it is the same as it always has been, how different from ever before.



MONICA FAUCHEAUX

DAUGHTERS

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO BE . . .

Letitia: A lion . . . a woman . . . a helper person . . . a firefighter . . . a firefighter woman.
Marni: An artist.
Monica: A teacher.
Ursula: A doctor.
Itze: An attorney.
Julie: A biochemist.

BEING FEMALE

Letitia: I like being a girl.
Marni: Girls get to wear pretty dresses.
Monica: Girls are prettier than boys.
Ursula: I'm doing a research project on famous women for school and gathering information for debates with the boys on

women's rights . . . The boys keep saying women aren't equal, that they'll get hurt in a war, stuff like that. So I tell them a lot of men get hurt in wars. I've kept on arguing, and now I've decided to do this research, because a lot of girls couldn't answer some of the questions the boys brought up.

Itze: When I hear about girls, especially at very young ages, getting pregnant, then I think about boys, how they don't have to have babies or go through abortions or worry ultimately about making that decision, then I wonder if I wouldn't rather have been a boy.

Julie: I've grown up perfectly comfortable being a girl . . . I've always been ready to challenge the guy who says I can't do something because I'm a girl . . .

CAREERS

Ursula: I'm probably going to have to do twice as well as all the boys to get the same chance as them when it comes to getting into medical school, but I'm going to do it.

Itze: I worry that (as an attorney) it'll be hard to get jobs. I hear about judges who favor men over women and I feel like men still come first. That may still be a problem when I actually face the situation, but I hope times will have changed a little bit by then.

Julie: I was always definite in my own mind that I did not want to be a secretary, or a model, or a cheerleader or anything like that.

getting meaner. Subconsciously, I think we're pretty mad with the male. Women, like Blacks, are lashing out in response to all the injustices of the past. As long as it doesn't go too far, I think it's healthy to get that anger out, for women to be more aggressive than they have been. But men have trouble dealing with it.

DISCRIMINATION AT SCHOOL

Marni: Sometimes at recess, the teacher takes all the girls inside and lets the boys stay outside ten minutes longer, I don't know why.

Monica: Girls get to do more than boys. For example, they get to carry all the messages to the office and take attendance at school.

Ursula: We used to call our old phys ed teacher a male chauvinist pig, because he always picked boys to lead the games, and if he did ever pick a girl, he would act like it was some kind of big joke. But we have a woman teaching phys ed now and she doesn't do that. But she doesn't take us out to play ball anymore either.

Itze: Boys are encouraged to be physically fit. They have to run track; the coaches are out there with paddles to make sure they do the right amount of pushups or whatever, before they start regular phys ed activities. The girls don't do anything to warm up or get in shape. And when

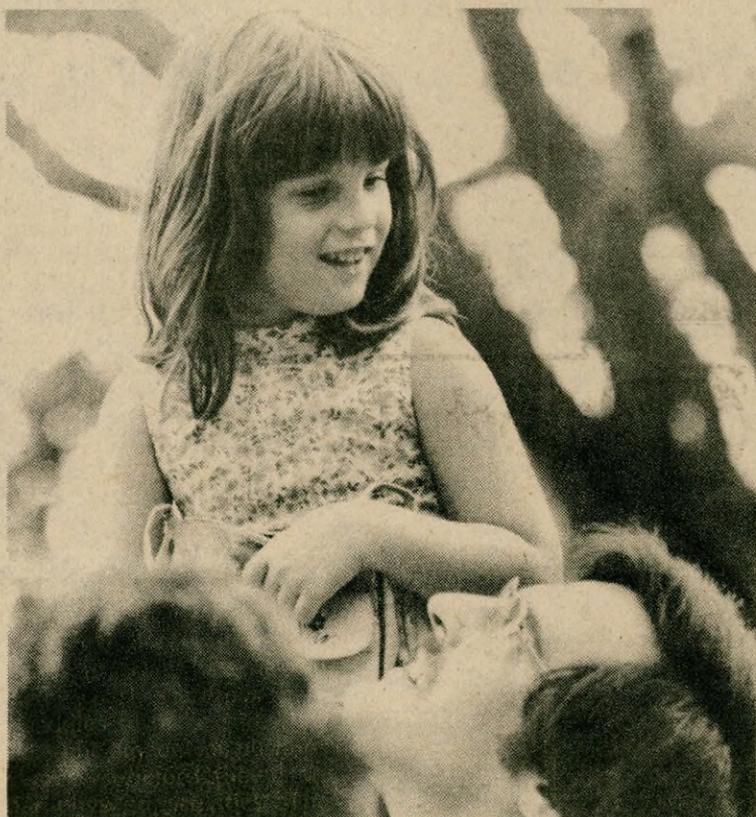
MARRIAGE

Marni: Sure.

Monica: Oh, I want to get married and have a baby — just one. Well no, really, I haven't exactly made up my mind about that.

Ursula: I don't know, maybe. I wasn't really even thinking about it.

Itze: First I want to finish my education, get my degree in law. Then I might get married.



MARNI HUGHES

Jeffrey de Bevic

football season comes, the only way a girl gets to participate is as a cheerleader. This year, teachers no longer get paid to stay after school and supervise girls' athletics. No more girls' swim team or volleyball. But somehow, boys' athletics are still important enough that there are coaches to stay after school — I'm pretty sure they're paid — and work with all the different boys' teams.



ITZE SOLIZ

THE MEDIA

Marni: On TV, girls look silly. But that's because girls are silly. Not just girls... Fonzie's silly too.

Monica: The women always wear too much makeup on Foley's commercials.

Ursula: In most of the books I've read about families, the women never have jobs, not unless their husbands die or something — the women are all housewives. I've wanted to call up the television stations and ask them to have commercials where men do the dishes, and to show women in more fields.



URSULA GUIDRY

STEREOTYPING

Julie: I have always felt totally free to be whatever I wanted and if there were pressures, I didn't pay any attention to them... my brother's really into sports, though and I'm not, except when it's purely for the game — I don't need to be trying to win all the time... and my brother knows all about driving the car already and I have yet to learn how to change a tire on my bicycle — I know, it's ridiculous — I need to learn soon... Boys from about age eight to age thirteen don't grow up much. They're real rambunctious and everyone says "Boys will be boys!" But society thinks girls are more responsible, and the girls like to think so too.

Well, there must be some stereotyping — I heard about this study done with a bunch of four-year-olds. They took all these little girls and asked them what they would be when they grew up if they were boys. They all answered things like doctor, fireman, or President. But when they asked the little boys to pretend they were girls, none of them could figure out what they'd grow up to be. Finally one of them raised his hand and said "I guess I'd just be nothing." That tells you something!



JULIE HAVENS

The trappings of femininity don't seem to have changed much. The little girls all play with dolls; the older ones are concerned with cosmetic enhancements and don't worry about the origin of the messages which tell them that rosy complexions and firm bosoms and clean-shaven legs are important to their well-being.

They seem well acquainted with the larger issues of feminism which have enjoyed broad media coverage. They expect to have careers and to receive equal pay for equal work. They want to be able to participate in athletics to the same extent that boys do. But with a naivete appropriate to their years, they see no other obstacles than those which, easily identifiable, will probably pose little threat.

As Suzanne Gray, Letitia's mother, comments: "I have been aware as a parent that subtle conditioning has much more of an impact than overt statements."

All the mothers I talked to were concerned with making their daughters more aware of their choices than they had been themselves at the same age. Pat Fauchaux said, "I'm trying to make sure she doesn't think of men and marriage as a way to an identity and financial security. It didn't occur to me that I had to worry about tackling the world and progressing on my own; I didn't discover that I needed to do it until I had been married five years and had a baby. It's just so difficult to go back at that point and become an individual. I want her to explore her womanhood in terms other than what other people think of her."

Feminist parents exhibit varying degrees of concern and interference. Suzanne Gray talks about meticulously screening all books and toys that come into their home, deleting sexist language from stories read aloud and returning unsuitable presents to well-meaning relatives.

Robin and Bruce Hughes feel that Marni is just going through a phase where she favors pink dresses and dainty behavior. They offer alternatives wherever possible, but do not discourage or repress her current preferences in such a way as to make playing house seem like some kind of fascinating forbidden fruit.

Parents of children of both sexes are concerned with eliminating stereotypes within the family. Ethelyn Guidry makes sure that her son shares the responsibilities of laundry and ironing and washing dishes, that her daughters are not protected from having to carry out the trash. She recalls with a trace of resentment still remaining: "My parents always held me responsible for my brother's behavior. They blamed me when my brother got into trouble — I was supposed to be in charge of him, even though he was three years older than me. And my mother would always make me get up and fix his food and iron his shirts, even when he was old enough that he was going out on dates. What they called being responsible, because I was a girl and supposed to be more mature and dependable, was actually being a servant to him."

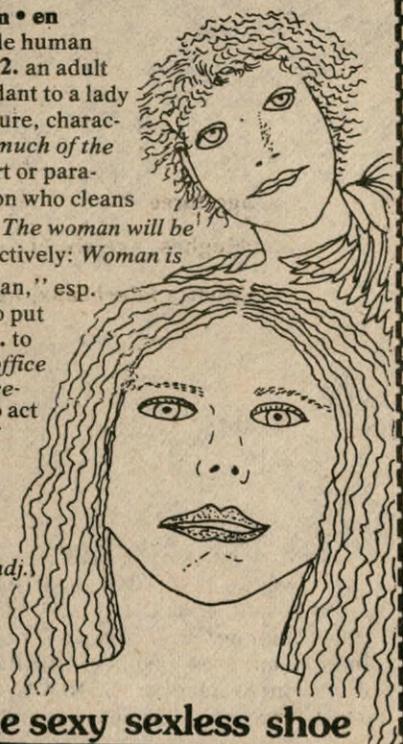
Olga Soliz sees her widowhood and the lack of a father or any other 'man around the house,' as the biggest difference between her daughter's upbringing and her own. She sees young women growing up with few preconceived ideas about male roles and traditional family structures, as more and more mothers are raising their children alone.

Gray says there has not been so much change as we would like to believe, and tells the story of taking Letitia for dancing lessons and changing her mind when the school assured her that they "would not only teach her to dance, but would turn her into a little lady, one who would never again use the toilet, but would always ask for the powder room."

She sees a fallacious concept of androgyny and equality being perpetrated, as exemplified by the manufacture of dolls for both sexes. Upon examination, we find: "... Barbie and G.I. Joe. The Bionic Man comes with a space-age repair station. The Bionic Woman comes with a beauty parlor." But she hopes,

Roots Reveals

wom • an (woom' en), n., pl. wom • en (wim' in) v., adj. --n. 1. the female human being (distinguished from man). 2. an adult female person. 3. a female attendant to a lady of rank. 4. a wife. 5. feminine nature, characteristics or feelings: *There's not much of the woman about her.* 6. a sweetheart or paramour; mistress. 7. a female person who cleans house, cooks, etc.; housekeeper: *The woman will be in to clean today.* 8. women collectively: *Woman is fickle.* --v. t. 9. to call (one) "woman," esp. rudely or condescendingly. 10. to put into the company of a woman. 11. to equip or staff with women: *The office is now fully womaned with servicemen's wives.* 12. *Obs.* to cause to act or yield like a woman. --adj. 13. of women; womanly. 14. female: *a woman plumber.* [ME womman, wimman, OE wifman, equiv. to wif female + man human being; see WOMEN] -wom • an • less, adj.



Roots the sexy sexless shoe

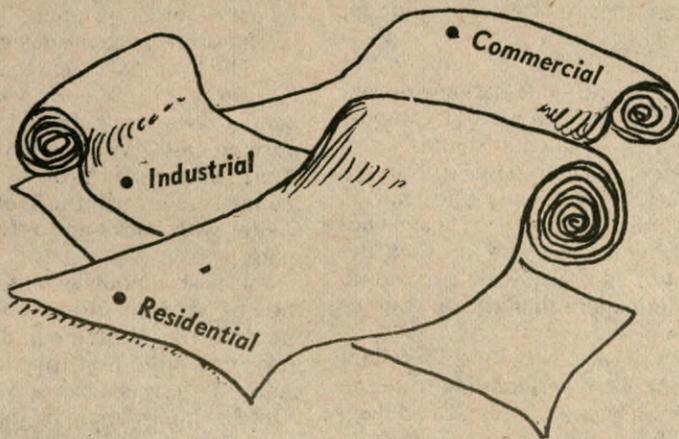
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"If I can convince my daughter and my son of the worth of humanistic ideals, then they'll go out and convince their peers... But even if people do not change within themselves, I think they can accept changes around them more readily than twenty years ago. There is no longer a mold that little girls have to fit into;

they do not all have to be mommies when they grow up."

*Julie Havens' mother, Helen, was not interviewed, as she was attending an Episcopal Deacon's Conference in New Mexico [see Breakthrough, October, 1976].



(Back row, l to r): **CAROL BARDON**, Coordinator of Student Activities and Convenor, Women's Week Subcommittee, and **DR. NANETTE BRUCKNER**, Psychology faculty and Co-Chairperson, Women's Studies Committee. (Front row, l to r): **BECKY ELLEDGE**, Graduate Student in Business and Women's Center Committee member; **CHERIE DUDAS**, Undergraduate Student in Education and Women's Week Subcommittee member; **SONIA KAY CARMEAN**, Graduate Student in Women's Studies and Co-Chairperson, Women's Studies Committee, and **DRL. JEAN QUINTAERT**, History faculty and Convenor, Academic Requirements Subcommittee.

Bobby Wilburn

Enroll in Women's Studies

By Sonia Carmean and Ann Harris

A concentration in Women's Studies is beginning at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City this spring semester in response to wide-spread interest from the community, faculty and student body.

Though such women's studies programs are often struggling for funds, administrative support and academic recognition at other institutions nationwide, including the central UH campus, the new Women's Studies Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Nanette Bruckner and Sonia Carmean, is optimistic that Clear Lake not only will meet the present demand, but also will expand to include more than the 16 courses now listed.

"We are receiving excellent cooperation and funding from the administration," says Bruckner.

The concentration currently offered is available through a wide variety of existing programs, including literature, historical studies, humanities and behavioral sciences. It ranges from the junior level through graduate degrees.

The committee's proposal points out that issues arising from what it means to be born female have been minimized, or neglected altogether, in the traditional curricula that mirrors the male-dominated culture.

The approach of the concentration will allow a student to select the special aspect of women's issues that concerns her or him the most; for example, the consequences of sexism, how women are portrayed in literature and history, or alternative roles and attitudes that defy the stereotypes.

How did it all begin?

In April of 1976, history professor Dr. B. Jaye Miller got together a group of students, faculty, staff, and community people to discuss sex role issues. From this and subsequent meetings that spring came the unanimous decision to establish a Women's Resource Center and to add a women's studies section to the campus bookstore. Plans were made to begin looking into the mechanics of starting a Women's Studies program.

Last summer, a space in the faculty suite became designated as "The Women's Center."

Frances Hicks and Marjorie Randal, two community women working on the Women's Studies effort, became the first of many feminists to furnish the Women's Center with books and reference materials.

The first announcement about the new Women's Resource Center came on September 8. The next day, the first phone call came in. It was from a woman wanting information on how to become a mid-wife in Texas.

Dr. Bruce Palmer of the history department and graduate student Sonia Carmean began contacting schools around the country over the summer months that had on-going Women's Studies programs.

By the start of the fall semester this year, 20 Women's Studies proposals were received and reviewed by an interdisciplinary group of students, faculty, staff and members of the community.

In October, the women and men working on the Women's Studies effort became the permanent Committee on Women's Studies under Dr. Calvin Cannon, Dean of Human Sciences and Humanities. At the first full meeting of this committee, psychology professor Dr. Nanette Bruckner and Sonia Carmean were elected co-chairpersons.

Various subcommittees formed: "Academic Requirements" (convenor, Dr. Jean Quataert, UH/CLC, History); "Brochure" (convenor, Dr. Gretchen Mieszkowski, UH/CLC, Literature), and "Women's Week" (convenor, Carol Bardon, Coordinator of Student Activities).

At first, the Women's Center functioned as a subcommittee but recently became its own committee to work with and complement the Women's Studies Committee. Carolyn Waddell, Chief Academic Counsel on campus, serves as convenor for the Women's Center Committee.

The members of the Women's Center Committee are working to establish resources whereby the Center can be a clearing house and a coordination point for projects and issues involving women.

Graduate student Becky Elledge is working with Waddell to set up a series of spring semester seminars on divorce, assertiveness and achievement, and undergraduate Nancy Buderer has begun work on an outreach program for this coming summer to be called ReEntry Woman. Sonia Carmean has been collecting resource material and answering assistance requests from the campus and the community.

The success of these various efforts over the past nine months can be credited to a dedicated group of people — faculty, students, community members, staff and administration. These people have a "commitment to equality" and have backed up these words with cooperative contributions of their individual talents and time.

Registration for the Women's Studies program is in progress. Application for admission and details of the concentration are available through Dean Cannon's office [488-9236].

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Germaine Greer featured at UH/CLC Women's Week

If you have wondered whatever happened to Germaine Greer since writing *The Female Eunuch* or winning the Oxford debate with Bill Buckley on feminism — you may ask her in person. Greer will be speaking at the University of Houston, Clear Lake City, during a Women's Week planned for January 31 - February 4. Greer's talk is just one of the many planned activities that week at the UH/CLC campus [see complete schedule].

Monday, January 31

- I. PUBLICITY DAY — Publicity designed by women art students
- II. WOMEN'S RIGHTS INFORMATION and BUTTON SALE — Atrium II
- III. 8 AM - 8 PM Extemporaneous Dance by UH/CLC dance students, Atrium II
- IV. 12 NOON — Book Discussion: *The Female Eunuch*, by Germaine Greer. Discussion leaders: Dr. Gretchen Mieszkowski, Dr. Nanette Bruckner

Tuesday, February 1

- I. MINI WORKSHOPS — Womens Enrichment Center
 - 8:30-9:00 Coffee, Atrium II
 - 9:00-10:00 Introduction of Womens Enrichment Center Associates and discussion of pertinent issues for Houston women. Dr. Nikki van Hightower

- Session I
10:00-10:45
- A. Assertiveness - Marge Rust
 - B. Self Differentiation - Marge Kosoy, Dale Hill, Patty Mahlstedt
 - C. Women and Sexuality - Judy Libow, Nanette Bruckner

- Session II
1:00-2:30
- A. Assertiveness Training (Part I) - Nancy Gulaniek
 - B. Political Resources - Ellen Smith

- Session III
2:45-4:15
- A. Assertiveness Training (Part II)
 - B. Body Rape, Mind Rape - Cathy Sexton
- II. BOOK FAIR — All Day, Atrium II
 - III. SLIDE SHOWS — All Day, Atrium II
 - A. *Beginning of a Long and Real Revolution*
 - B. *Sexism in Textbooks*

Wednesday, February 2

- I. 12 NOON — "Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Man?" - Dr. Nanette Bruckner
- II. WOMEN in FILM
 - A. 10 AM, 5 PM — *The Emerging Woman*
 - B. 11 AM, 4 PM — *We Are Women*
 - C. 6 PM - 9:30 PM — Film and Discussion: *A Woman Under the Influence* Admission \$1.00

Childrens Program and Discussion Groups:
Free To Be You and Me No admission charge

Thursday, February 3

- I. 12 NOON-2 PM Luceon and Discussion: "Career Opportunities for Women" - Thelma Zirkelbach, Carolyn Waddell, Parrish Hirasaki
- II. 8:30 PM Bay Area NOW Meeting Rape Colloquium II
 - A. Film: *Rape: A Preventive Inquiry*
 - B. Discussion - Moderator: Evie Whitsett
 1. Effects of Rape on the Victim - Joan Parker, RN
 2. Rape - The Law and the Fact - Vic Driscoll, Asst. D.A.
 3. Self Protection - Evelyn Lancaster, Policewoman
 4. Myths of Rape - Nora Mertz, Bay Area Task Force on Rape

Friday, February 4

- 8:00 pm Germaine Greer - UH/CLC Auditorium
Admission: \$.50, \$1.00, \$2.00

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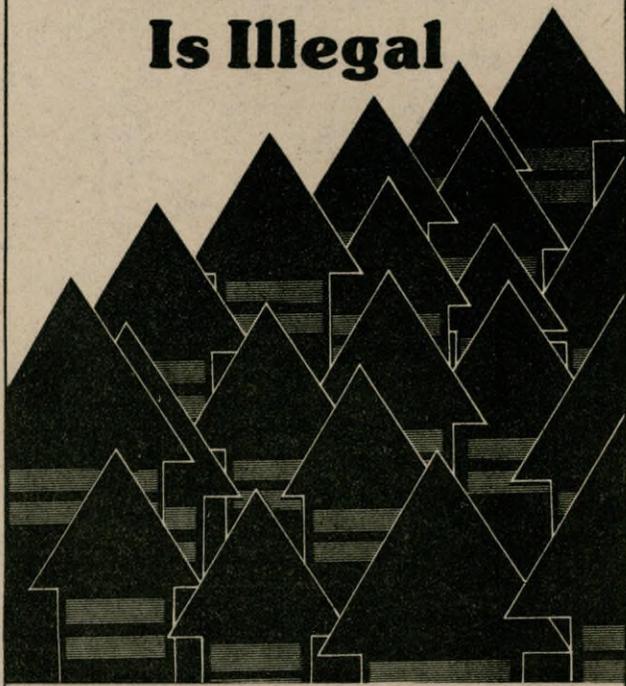
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Nancy Landau

PATRICIA O'KANE and ROSALIE MORRIS

Women run in West U. race

The voters of West University Place will have an unprecedented opportunity January 15 to elect women to office on their City Commission.

The city government in West University has traditionally been controlled by a small group of people in the community, with women greatly underrepresented in positions of power and prestige. There have only been a few token women elected to the Commission in the last few years, and Patricia O'Kane and Rosalie Morris, the two women running for office against the established party, are doing so in an attempt to break up this "closed shop" method of city government.

The two women candidates are members of the West University Citizen's Party and neither have run for municipal office before. They feel, however, that the one-party system in West University is unresponsive not only to the women in the community, but to all residents of the city. This lack of accountability is reflected by

the present Commission's secrecy in running their government and failure to initiate any long range planning for West University in the areas of sewage disposal, water quality control, residential zoning and the allocation of park and open air locations.

The women are running on a small budget and have to rely primarily on themselves and friends to distribute campaign materials to houses in the four precincts in West University. "House to house campaigning is time consuming," says Patricia O'Kane, "but we think that in as small a community as West University this is the best way to make ourselves known to the voters. People are really surprised to see us making the effort to talk to them about city problems, especially since the candidates of the opposing party never campaign at all."

The West University Party nominated Patricia O'Kane and Rosalie Morris along with Dan Carstens and John Shanks, at

their December meeting.

Patricia O'Kane is an attorney in private practice in Houston and is a cooperating attorney for the Houston Civil Liberties Union. She believes that her legal background will equip her well for the job of dealing with the many problems West University faces in the future with environmental and zoning planning.

Rosalie Morris is a CPA and auditor and, if elected Commissioner, plans to use her expertise in this area to oversee West University's fiscal policies, with a definite commitment to giving the voters all the facts they need on city finances and bond proposals.

Last election the fledgling West University Citizen's Party got almost 40% of the vote. And if residents make the effort to vote on Saturday, January 15, there is a chance that one-half of the City Commission seats in West University will be held by women.



MARY LEE GUIDRY and DIXIE BROWN

Mary Lee Guidry and Dixie Brown have been endorsed by the Texas Nurses Association, District #9, for positions on the Harris County Hospital District's Board of Managers. This month four positions — four out of seven — came up for a two year re-appointment by Commissioner's Court. Guidry is president of TNA District #9 and Brown is executive director. There has never been a nurse member on the Board of Managers in spite of the fact that 50% of the hospital district employees are in the nursing services. TNA's position is that the nurse is closer to the consumer than any other health provider and comes into contact with the largest number of employees in the hospital district. Marcella Perry, Commissioner on the Port of Houston Authority, has written letters of support to each Harris County Commissioner and Judge Jon Lindsay.

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MAYA ANGELOU

Essay on sexism airs

By Rachel Burke

"I'm six feet tall and weigh 175 pounds. One day I was building a stone wall and a man ran out — he's about 5'8" — and said, 'Don't lift those stones! Oh, Paul (my husband), you're working her too hard.' Now, mind you, I'm in the best physical shape. This man thought he was giving me a mint julep or a camellia between my teeth. So, I didn't take it as an insult — I took it as his ignorance."

This quote, by author Maya Angelou, is from *Going Past Go: An Essay on Sexism* which will air on Channel 8 on Thursday, January 13 at 10 p.m. This hour-long program provides an informative, balanced, and fairly accurate description of sexism and stereotyping in America today. Included are interviews with Maya Angelou, Tish Summers, Aileen Hernandez and others.

One major issue presented in the film is sexism in schools and its effect in shaping our children's lives; this is most evident in textbooks. Ann Radlow, of NOW, points out that after sixth or seventh grade women are almost completely omitted from textbooks. Until this time, they are almost invariably shown in traditional roles — as mothers, housewives or nurses, while men

are portrayed in professional and breadwinning roles. On an even subtler level, girls are taught to help people ("Mary will bake a cake for Daddy") while boys are encouraged to accomplish, create and initiate activity ("Look at what Mark can make"). In this way, girl-children are trained to limit their potential. As one woman in the film says, "Most people pick a career like they pick a meal from a restaurant menu — from what is available."

Going Past Go also focuses on sexism in the media, particularly in the advertising business. One journalist remarks, "Advertising people take a movement and pervert it to their own benefit" and this is certainly true where women are concerned. An example is the Virginia Slims ads where women are portrayed as "liberated" because of their ability to wear sexy clothes and smoke in public. You've come a long way, Baby? Baby!

An emphasis on youthfulness in advertising is felt even more by women than men because they are constantly being told to use more moisturizing creams to hide wrinkles, rinses and dyes to hide greying hair, and girdles to hide middle-aged bulges, while older men are being told that they are distinguished, successful, mature and that they should buy life insurance.

The film points out some startling economic facts. Allison Bretch of the California Commission on the Status of Women reports that "contrary to popular assumptions, women today are in a worse economic position than they were in the past. Several years ago, women were taking home 64 cents while men in comparable jobs were taking home a dollar; now that ratio is closer to 57 cents, and in the state of California, it's less than 50 cents for every male-earned dollar."

One unusual quality of this documentary is its emphasis on how sexism harms men as well as women. Just as stereotyping limits women to domestic roles it also limits men to traditionally breadwinning roles. Psychologist Barbara Goltz states that "while women are expanding into all professional areas today, men are still ostracized when they take on jobs that, in the past, have been stereotyped as 'feminine' jobs, like nursing and secretarial work. Also, while women are taught that emotions are all-important, men are still conditioned to stifle all emotional expression." For these reasons, *Going Past Go* advocates consciousness-raising for both women and men.

The film ends on a positive note with the suggestion that we combine the best "masculine" traits (high self-worth, confidence, assertiveness) with the best "feminine" traits (compassion, ability to display emotion) to create a more humane society. As Aileen Hernandez foresees it, "The result will be human liberation."



**As Edith Bunker,
I don't have equal rights.**

**As Jean Stapleton,
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So far, legislators in 34 states have seen the importance of this law, and voted yes. We still need 4 more.

Your legislators are voting now. You can play an active part in convincing them to vote yes.

Write to your senator.

And say you think there oughta be a law, too.

**The Equal Rights Amendment.
There oughta be a law.**



Janice Blue

MERCEDES VALDIVIESO

Vina La Brecha

On the occasion of *Breakthrough's* first birthday celebration, we reprint from our first issue of publication an homage to the book *La Brecha* (translation — *Breakthrough*) and its author Mercedes Valdivieso.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was too successful for some.

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

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

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

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

A newspaper is born!

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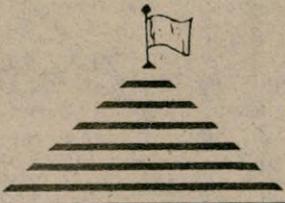


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Address and rally planned

A new tradition is about to begin: The Women's State of the City, State and Union Addresses to coincide with the messages by mayors, governors and presidents around the country. In Houston, a rally is also being planned.

Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, City of Houston's Women's Advocate, will give the Women's State of the Houston community address on Wednesday, **January 12 at 10 a.m.** at the Press Club, 2016 Main.

Van Hightower will announce the creation of the Women's

Rights Coordinating Council (WRCC), a coalition of almost 50 area women's groups.

Among the issues to be discussed in her speech are health, employment, violence against women and the image of women in the media.

An ERA rally dedicated to the celebration of suffragist and ERA advocate Alice Paul's 91st birthday will take place on Friday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

Alice Paul wrote the ERA amendment 30 years ago. A

speech on her active life will be given by Ellen Norton, who recently received a research and travel grant to interview Paul in her New Jersey nursing home.

Speakers at the rally in Paul's honor include: Billie Carr, Democratic Party National Committee; Elma Barrera, KTRK-TV news-reporter; Zoia Jones, National Council of Negro Women; Janis Pool, recent candidate for County Commission; Ailene English, Houston Breakthrough and Nikki Van Hightower.



ALICE PAUL at 35



DR. NANETTE BRUCKNER

Center to help women

A Women's Enrichment Center is the goal of thirteen area feminists, professionals in the fields of psychology, social work, education and business management.

These women first met at the end of October to organize their individual efforts and concern for the abused woman in the Houston area. Coordinating their efforts with the YWCA Committee on Shelter for Women in Crisis, they decided to channel their skills into providing psychological research and services, as required by the housing committee's task forces.

Currently, the Women's Enrichment group is assessing the most pressing needs of women in this city and designing proposals for services to meet these demands, including vocational guidance, assertiveness training, clinical counselling, and consciousness-raising groups. Members are also investigating permanent quarters and funding for such activities.

In addition, the Women's Enrichment Center is organizing workshops for Women's Week at the University of Houston at Clear Lake City, scheduled for January 31 through February 4. Representatives from the Center are participating also in the Association for Women in Psychology's National Conference on Feminist Psychology in Missouri in February.

Dr. Nanette Bruckner, Associate Professor of Psychology in the Behavioral Program at UH/CLC is coordinating the Center's work.

We don't separate the women from the men

Who would be better qualified to sell refrigerators, washers, dryers, ranges and dishwashers than you, the woman who has used these appliances over the years? If the idea of turning your first hand knowledge and experience (or simply your interest) into a profitable career appeals to you, consider a Commission sales job at Sears.

Perhaps you've spent leisure hours working on the car, tuning or rebuilding the engine (or maybe you've just been interested but the opportunity never presented itself.) These interests can now be directed into an exciting, challenging career. Sears offers you the opportunity to be considered for the position of mechanic in one of our automotive centers.

Do you like to make the minor washing machine repairs, or fix the toaster when it goes on the blink? If you enjoy correcting mechanical problems and helping people every day, consider a job as a Sears Service Technician.

If you are interested in commission sales or technical services, we would like to talk to you. (Present employees: this includes you, of course.) Contact your local Sears store or service center to learn if these career opportunities are available in your area.



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Pats and Pans

Gabrielle Cosgriff
Editor

Our samPAN award (for the worst looking Chinese junk in town) goes to City Councilman Frank Mancuso. On behalf of the city, Mancuso accepted a bronze statue of Confucius from representatives of the Republic of China. Fine. Except that the inscription on the base of the statue reads "When the Great Principle prevails, the world is a commonwealth . . . men have their respective occupations and women their homes . . ." PAT Women's Advocate Nikki van Hightower who objected strongly, saying "This city would not tolerate a statue . . . with a racist statement at its base."

*

Rep. PATricia Schroeder (D.-Colo.) made an interesting observation before the Washington Press Club recently. She said the Supreme Court would be the ideal working place for a pregnant woman because the work is sedentary and the uniform fits the situation. "It's one of the best jobs in the world for a pregnant woman."

*

PAN AM America for inviting two male medical experts on "Face Off" to debate the safety of breast feeding. Can you imagine two women experts called on to discuss the safety of vasectomies? Can't see it would make such a vas deferens.

*

Roger Mudd's Christmas Eve CBS Nightly News report itemized benefits each U.S. representative and senator receives in the form of hospital care and health services, postage costs, office space rent, even plant discounts from the Washington Botanical Gardens and all to the tune of \$400,000 a year. Mudd found Congressional leaders reluctant to even discuss it. It's called "padding" and we're PATting CBS for reporting on it.

*

PAT KTRK-TV for prime-time airing of a live one-hour special on financial planning for today's woman. Representatives of area women's groups were invited to be audience participants and many came expecting to address questions to a panel with at least one woman on it. But it turned out to be an Ask Mr. Wizard kind of show with one financial expert, Dr. E. Robby Roberts (who appears weekly on *Dialing for Dollars*) answering the expert questions from a very well-informed audience. As they moved to a discussion of credit, Roberts himself gave credit to Merry! Leatherman, an officer of HAFFCU, who was in the audience and who should have been on the panel. What works in *Dialing for Dollars* just didn't PAN out with a prime-time audience.

*

A PAT to the MacNeil-Lehrer Report which takes one issue nightly and explores it in depth. That concept could revolutionize television news reporting.

*

A striking bus driver said "The city is trying to make us look like villains" — so the bus drivers took their case to the community and Pluria Marshall of Operation Breadbasket took their cause before City Council. Marshall pointed out the disparity of benefits between those paid to fire and police departments and those paid to city transit workers. He also made the observation that our city's Black and Brown citizens are the prime users of mass transit services. A PAT to the fine folks at Operation Breadbasket for their support of our striking bus drivers.

More on Carter's PANtry or kitchen cabinet. In a brief appearance on ABC's *AM America*, Gloria Steinem said her greatest disappointment surrounding Carter's cabinet was Carter's remark that he couldn't find enough qualified women. Steinem said women's groups spent exorbitant amounts of time and money searching out women and sending their resumes to the Carter people. "It is enormously frustrating to hear him say he can't find top women." To help Carter out, *Ms.* magazine published a list of 29 possible cabinet and top level appointments including Floria Lewis (State), Carol Schwartz Greenwald (Treasury), Patricia Schroeder (Defense), Barbara Jordan (Attorney General). (See January issue of *Ms.* for complete slate.) A week later (again on *AM America*) Carter said he knew women's groups didn't like to hear it but women whom he considered for top cabinet posts wouldn't move because their husbands' jobs took preference over their appointments. But he added "I will name women in the second round of jobs." Newswoman Margaret Osborn caught him on that by asking what would be the greater motivation to move for a second-level appointment. He PANfully ignored the observation.

*

Juanita Kreps, Secretary of Commerce designate, made a PAT suggestion that we "strike out the adjective qualified" when referring to women (and minorities) because we don't say qualified (white) men. It is just assumed that men are qualified if they either decide to run for office or are selected for a position.

*

What do you suppose is the number one news item of the soon to be First Lady? Her inaugural gown. Will Rosalynn Carter wear an old dress (worn once before) or will she choose an American designer for the occasion? In *WWD*, Nancy Kissinger predicts "She's going to have to support the American fashion industry" while Gloria Steinem hopes there will be "a whole administration where nothing is credited — not clothes, not food . . ." Meanwhile, does anyone care if Carter rents or buys a tux?

*

PAT Jacqueline Means who, on New Years Day, was ordained the first woman priest in the Episcopal Church. Means, a high school dropout at 16, who eloped with a truck driver, says she wants to become a bishop. Could be. Where there's a Means there's a way.

*

A Bull PAN! Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith agreed to a \$3.5 million settlement for their discriminatory pre-employment practices. PAT Helen O'Bannon, a Pittsburgh economist, who first filed the suit four years ago. O'Bannon (Masters in Economics from Stanford and author of *Money and Banking*, Harper & Row) challenged a pre-employment test question, "When you meet a woman for the first time, what impresses you most?" She answered "intelligence and independence." She later found out that those answers were worth zero points. The correct answers were "beauty and affectionateness," worth two points. She received a letter saying she had not met the firm's "very stringent requirements" and, further, that Merrill Lynch "regrets" that it cannot "hire more men like you." (Reported by Eileen Colianni in *Ms.*)

*

Anchor PAN. What do you do about a veteran news reporter like Howard K. Smith who still refers to Barbara Walters as "a lady anchor-man"? Maybe they do just fade away . . .

That PANcake make-up on the reporters is being spread a little too thin around 2 Country. We're tired of seeing Ron Stone pop out of elevators and Sara Lowry standing in check-out lines, being swooned over by adoring fans. How do they find time to report the news between all these testimonials? PAT Channel 26 (K-DOG) for hounding them a little; they have a lovely spoof on the whole thing where a viewer spies the K-DOG mascot leaving the station and excitedly asks, "Hey, aren't you the K-dog?" Thanks, K-DOG, for the paws that refreshes.

*

Better late than never. PAT the Waco Art Center which held a showing of "memory paintings" of Clara McDonald Williamson, a Texas primitive painter. Williamson died last year at the age of 101, "just as her painting began to be widely appreciated as authentic and true art" reported Mimi Crosley in the *Houston Post*.

*

There is now a magazine "for American's bright, busy, beautiful working women." The charter invitation reads "Working Woman is not a radical feminist publication designed to scare the bra off you (and the pants off every man you know)." In fact, it promises you'll gain a new understanding of men: "Bosses . . . Husbands . . . Lawyers . . . Lechers . . . Traffic Cops . . . Men who enjoy working for women. Men who absolutely detest it." One of the articles will have 12 top women executives discuss the relationship of men in the office "and teach you how to play the same games the guys play." Another will teach you how to look "irresistibly sexy after a 17-hour day." They invite your subscription and then say "Call your accountant. We think he'll tell you your subscription is tax deductible." PAN-it! *Working Woman* — and what woman isn't — just isn't the answer.

*

PAT to the state of South Australia for passing a law prohibiting rape within marriage, the first such legislation in the world to recognize women's right of consent to sexual intercourse in marriage. The law provides that the victim need not appear at the hearing unless the judge decides there are special circumstances. The bill also prohibits questioning of the victim about her previous sex history or morality. (Reported in *HERA*, the Philadelphia woman's press.)

*

A pig PAN to the swine flu vaccine program.

*

So that's not the way it is. Walter Cronkite admitted that television sometimes distorts the news for lack of time to report it fully. "I'm afraid we compress so well as to almost defy the viewer and listener to understand what we say," he told an annual meeting of the Radio and Television News Directors Association recently. Cronkite also criticized some local television stations for emphasizing the cosmetic aspects of news — hair styles and clothing — rather than the basics of good journalism. Well, PAT his honesty — at long last. That's the way it is.

*

An oil PAN to Al Troche, an Exxon public relations man, for wanting background and biographical information on Jack Woods, the Gulf Coast Gadfly on KLYX-Radio, after Woods criticized the major oil companies for "obscene oil industry profits." (Shades of General Motors and Ralph Nader.) Woods attacked the "board room bandits" on the air for cutting back on oil allowances for December. Although the announcement came from the Texas Railroad Commission, Woods says "their orders came from their masters — the major oil companies." PAT the fearless Woods-man.

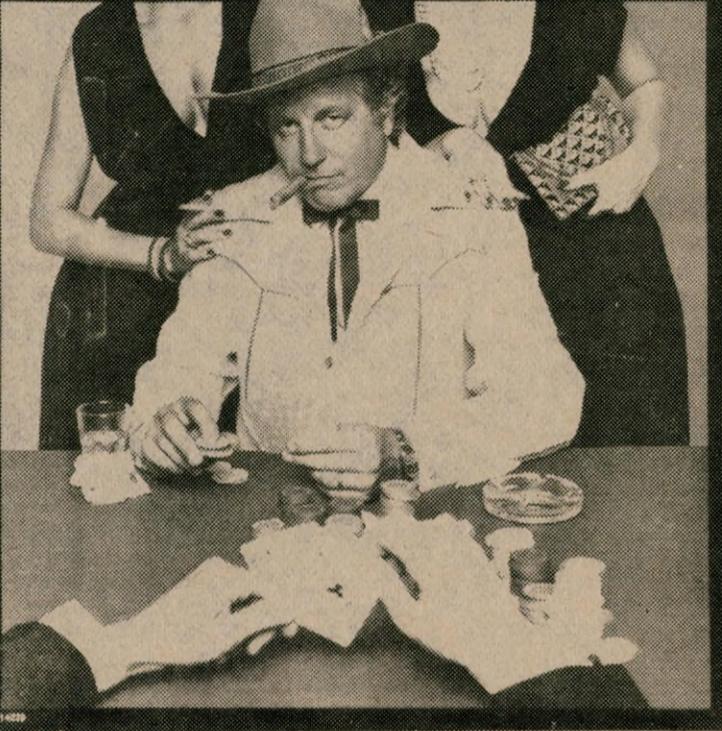
Dead Pans

NOVEMBER 1976 \$1.25

The Greenhouse: Is It Worth \$1380 a Week? by Shelby Hearon
 Extra! Newspaper Runs Amok in S.A., by Griffin Smith, Jr.
 The 60s Radicals: Did They Sell Out? by Thorne Dreyer

Texas Monthly

Why Texans Make Lousy Gamblers



JULY 1976 \$1.25

The Case of the Murdered Masseuse, by Gregory Curtis
 James Fallows in Defense of Wheeler-Dealer Politicians
 Why Rattlesnakes Make Bad Pets, by Stephen Harrigan

Texas Monthly

'Hi!
 'm Richard West,
 with the best 'll
 le honey in Texas,
 not to mention the
 best dance hall,
 best Aggie
 loke, best
 ried chicken,
 best bargain,
 and 145 other
 bests of Texas."
 See page 103!



DECEMBER 1976 \$1.25

The Untimely Death of Redneck Rock, by Jan Reul
 The Best and the Worst of the New Texas Fashion
 's Spectacular! Seven Guinness's Texans Tell All

Texas Monthly

Ladies and Gentlemen: CANDY BARR!

Gary Cartwright on the woman who shocked the '50s.

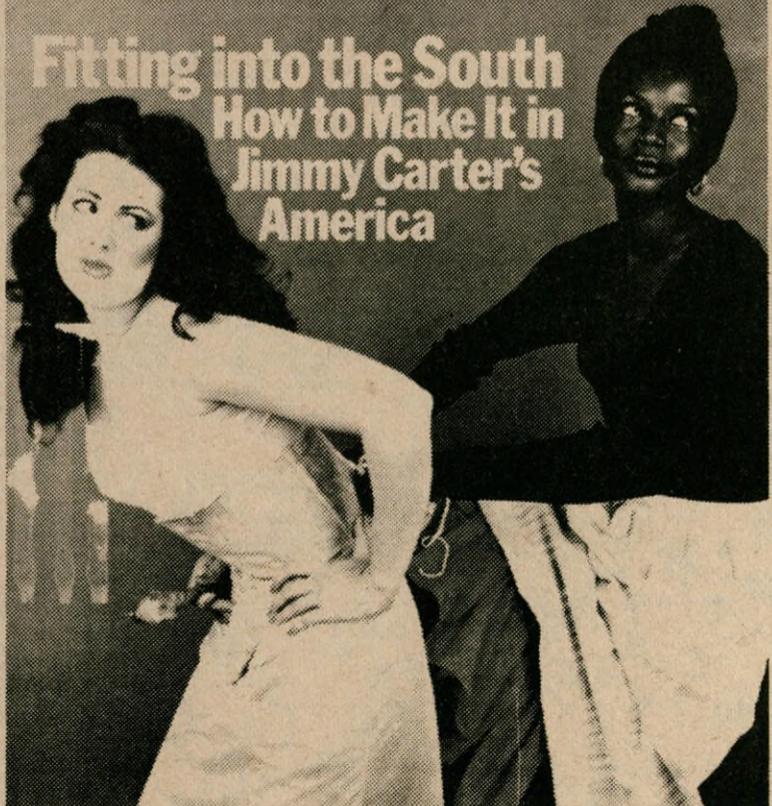


JANUARY 1977 \$1.25

Did Howard Hughes Take It with Him? by Harry Hurt III
 Why John Tower Never Made It Big, by Griffin Smith, Jr.
 Introducing Texas' Own Winter Playground: the Valley

Texas Monthly

Fitting into the South How to Make It in Jimmy Carter's America



Submitted by a former *Texas Monthly* subscriber.
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MAUD RUSSELL

Far East Reporter

By Julie Kirby
and Cheryl Spiese

She stepped off the boat at age 24 into a China which was ridden with poverty, foreign exploitation and internal struggle. It was 1917 and she was going to work in the Chinese YWCA. Maud Russell stayed for 27 years.

Russell came to Houston recently at the invitation of the U.S. China People's Friendship Association, a nationwide group which promotes interchange between the two countries by sponsoring trips and speakers. She spoke to a group of people at the First Unitarian Church. China is still the main focus of her life.

some people, she said, but the women's movement in China began well before the revolution. During the early part of the century, revolting students in China advocated women's rights. They particularly wanted physical education included in the school curriculum. Since the programs at the Y in China at that time followed Y programs in the United States, including recreation and physical education classes, the YWCA got involved in the women's movement and in the transmission of ideas about women's rights.

Young men were active in promoting changes in women's roles. "When I worked at the Y, some of the young Chinese men wanted women to start doing

en are attaining this goal faster than women who live in the cities because land is available for women to till in the country. In the city, women must earn wages to attain economic independence.

What is life like for Chinese women today?

"Today, young Chinese women have many choices," Russell said. "They marry later, at about 24 or 25, when they are adults. They are free to pursue careers because child care is provided. They also have smaller families — two children on the average. There is no need for more children, since they are no longer seen as a life insurance policy to take care of parents in their old age. The state, the commune, or group in which the family lives will take care of them.

"Women themselves are not considered a minority in China as they sometimes are in the United States for employment purposes," she said. "There is a saying in China that women hold up half the sky."

However, there are still problems in the Chinese women's movement. Russell cited men's reluctance to help with housework.

Russell's straight white hair is cropped short and she is wearing a plain well-tailored blue suit. Her appearance reflects one of the values she describes as important in Chinese society, an emphasis on functionalism. "The lack of degrading consumerism which is so exploitative of women is a welcome change. You never have the sense that the Chinese men think of you as a female, you are always seen as a person," she explained.

Russell's life and her beliefs have been somewhat revolutionary, certainly nonconformist, for her time. At a time when few women left home before marriage, she went to China and experienced the revolutionary movement. She returned to the U.S. to face the repression of the McCarthy era, an anti-revolution of sorts.

"I grew up in California where there were a lot of Chinese people," she says. "In California at that time (early 1900's) not too far from where I lived, you could find the Chinese living in Chinese



SANDRA ELKIN

French novelist and pioneering feminist Simone de Beauvoir speaks to American women through an exclusive interview, filmed in her Paris apartment, on a special one-hour edition of *Woman*, with Sandra Elkin, January 7 at 10:30 p.m. on Channel 8/PBS.

During the interview, de Beauvoir discusses monogamy and marriage, her relationship with Jean-Paul Sartre, and the abortion issue, which led her to assume a more activist role in the women's movement. She also discusses the reaction of her male friends, such as Albert Camus, to her book, *The Second Sex*.

"I was astonished to see that some of my male friends were very angry at me . . . Before (I wrote *The Second Sex*), I never saw in my circle any mark of discrimination."

Journalist Gloria Steinem and author Elizabeth Jane-way will offer commentary following the filmed interview.

Other programs scheduled for this month are: *Working Class Women*, with guests Nancy Seifer and Maury Sansone (January 14); *New Roles for Women in Sports*, with Lynda Huey and Jane Fishman (January 21), and *Lois Gould on Women Writers*, (January 28).

"There is a saying in Chinese that women hold up half the sky."

At 84, Russell is sharp, energetic, and above all enthusiastic about the changes that have taken place in China since the revolution. As editor and publisher of the *Far East Reporter* and as a speaker, she has gained a reputation over the years for her knowledge of the Far East and for her outspoken advocacy of China's policies and the need for similar changes in the U.S. She has been back to China twice since she left in 1943, once for one month and once for three months. She wants to provide Americans with facts about the new China, and the *Far East Reporter* serves as a vehicle for information and for her views.

Russell's work at the YWCA in China brought her into contact with the beginnings of the women's movement. It surprises

things outside the home," explains Russell, in her habitual manner. "They would come to us to ask if their wives or fiancées could participate in activities at the Y. This involvement of men in the women's movement in China represents a significant difference from the women's movement in the United States. She characterized the U.S. women's movement as working *against* rather than *with* men.

Today, feminism in China must be seen as a part of the revolutionary struggle for a new China, a struggle in which both men and women participate, she said. The U.S. women's movement is much more individualistic, capitalistic.

"The Chinese see economic independence for women as the basis for equality between the sexes," she said. "Country wom-

style villages complete with willow trees.

"When I was seven years old in Hayward, California, my father used to take me to the post office. One time, and I remember this distinctly, the postmaster said . . . hundreds of dollars go out of here every year to Sun Yat Sen and the revolution in China. Hundreds of dollars going out of little Hayward, California. That stuck in my mind."

After attending the University of California, she wanted to be a missionary. But unable to pursue this choice, Russell ended up working for the YWCA in San Francisco. When she heard of an opening in the Chinese YWCA, she pushed for the chance to go.

"In China, I was working for the Chinese," she said. "Sure foreigners worked at the Chinese

Y. They were invited to come from all over the world. But the directors, and the majority of the people working for the Y were Chinese."

Russell said she returned to the U.S. in 1943 because "I felt I was getting too old and I wanted to get home." She did not return to anything like retirement however. She worked for the Y for awhile and then, with others, she formed a committee to promote a more democratic Far Eastern policy. Its purpose was to let Americans know what was happening in China by giving them facts.

Russell's activities made her a target of redbaiting during the McCarthy era. "I've been before the committees of Congress so many times its hard to count them," she said.

"They had a definite purpose

in mind in picking out unknown people like me to bring before the committees," she said. "This was a deliberate policy to scare other people, more important people. Did you see *The Front*? It describes the way things were then. They (the committees of Congress) put our committee out of existence," she said. "That's when I started to go out as an individual to tell others of my experiences."

Maud Russell has been going on speaking tours ever since, on her own, in her car, eight months out of the year. Recently some friends, afraid she might get into a traffic accident driving around the country, urged her to buy a CB radio. She has learned the emergency signal she said, demonstrating, "Breaker nine, Breaker nine." Her handle? "Far East Reporter."



Barbara Timko

MARIA STELLA

By Barbara Brown

BB: You are a very active and visible member of MIR. What about other Chilean women? Are many of them politically active?

MS: Now many are. Underground in Chile and outside the country, most who speak for MIR are women. But this is a recent change.

BB: What was it like before Allende was elected?

MS: Many women didn't vote. Those who did were usually upper or middle class — they voted for Right Wing parties.

BB: Weren't there any women in high positions?

MS: There were always women in what would be your Senate or House, but most from the Communist Party. They were few. Middle class women were not involved — they weren't active. Poor women were not considered at all.

BB: Why do you think women were not involved?

MS: Those from the middle class — and I am one — had very conservative educations. We were taught that women get married, raise babies and not do political work. Poor women had many children and were also taught that the man works, the woman stays home.

BB: Did Allende get a very large percentage of women's votes?

MS: No! Very few. He was a socialist. The upper class women were horrified when he was elected. They thought: "Our money will be taken from us!" I too thought, "Oh! Communism!" I was very ignorant.

BB: You said you come from a middle class background. What are your parents' political beliefs?

MS: My father was an officer in the Navy — he is very reactionary! My mother was at home — sometimes she sewed things for a boutique. She is a leftist but not active. I tell them what I am doing — my mother understands but my father becomes furious.

BB: With your background and education, what changed your political views after Allende was elected?

MS: I saw the people — at my university, at my job (I worked in a bank), on the streets. They were so happy, doing everything.

I wanted to find out — I got involved — I learned. I think people from my background who finally understand are even stronger in their beliefs. You have had everything — you leave it all and make this most important decision and you never go backwards again.

BB: What changes could you see that helped women under Allende's government?

MS: They nationalized the distribution of food. There had always been free milk for the children. Now all children were guaranteed enough food.

The women woke up — became active — they wanted to work in factories and everywhere! Then they demanded to have child care centers — every factory had such centers. In my bank, the women workers demanded a child care center — we did it ourselves — found the space — got the equipment.

BB: Where did the money come from?

MS: The trade unions were asked to provide it. Of course the government now supported demands of the women — this was the difference.

BB: Are the child care centers still operating under the military junta?

MS: At first the wives of military officers took them over to teach Right politics. Now all are gone.

There is no child care for poor mothers. There is no more social security for any workers! For the first time in many years there is no free milk for children. 45 per cent of the children in Chile are now undernourished. There is 30 per cent unemployment.

The churches, which were very conservative, have become radicalized after seeing the suffering. Many "communist priests" have been arrested and tortured for denouncing the junta's violations of human rights. The community centers in some churches are the only place women can go for food or help. The husbands, sons and daughters of many are in prison or "disappeared."

BB: In the U.S. the male chauvinism of police often means that only men are arrested, even if both men and women are involved in active resistance. Did this happen in Chile at first?

MS: Yes! In the beginning, women weren't arrested. Then, in the first year all the men were in prison but the Resistance went

The Times of London has designated Chile and Iran as the "two most tyrannical governments in the world." Both countries receive substantial support from the U.S. government.

Salvador Allende Gossens was democratically elected to the Presidency of Chile in 1970. He was the country's first socialist president. In 1973 a military junta overthrew and killed Allende.

The coup which brought the junta to power was financed and organized by the CIA. Details of CIA involvement are documented in the Senate report: *Covert Activities in Chile, 1963-1973*; and in Nixon's answers to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The Senate report admits that the U.S., through the CIA, covertly spent \$7 million on a massive campaign to paralyze Allende's government. The U.S. has since given the military junta, led by Pinochet, \$276 million in direct and indirect aid in 1975 and a recent World Bank loan of \$33 million.

Maria Stella is a member of Movimiento Izquierda Revolucionario (MIR), Movement of the Revolutionary Left. She was imprisoned, tortured and exiled from Chile for her political beliefs. Today she lives in Mexico as one of one and a half million Chilean refugees. Stella travels throughout the U.S., educating others about conditions in her country. This was her second visit to Houston.

The Making of a Revolutionary

on as before! Then they realized the women must be active!

BB: How active were women at the start?

MS: The role of women in the Resistance was very important. The men were often in prison and it was the women who carried out the Resistance — making contacts, getting out leaflets.

BB: In left groups during the 60s, U.S. women faced extreme sexism. Was this a problem in MIR?

MS: I lived it — this process! At first women had minor tasks — men made the important decisions. During the three Allende years, the leadership within the Party and the women themselves saw there must be a change.

BB: Was there conflict among men and women when women wanted equal treatment?

MS: It is still, outside the left, a constant fight in Chile! There were many problems for us too. The Party said you must share the work equally.

After the coup, we lived in underground conditions. The men had to stay in or they would be recognized. So the women were always running about to make contacts. It was impossible for the women to go on doing all the home duties. I remember it was incredible — running in and out and in the middle buying food and cleaning clothes! It was a wonderful method to show men we must all share.

BB: Do you and your husband share the housework now?

MS: Yes — we divided the work of the house. There are no children so it is not so hard. But for him it was difficult at first. I was traveling, he was ironing.

BB: Is your husband active in the Resistance too?

MS: I started before him — he believes too but works with a different group. He is not as active as I outside the country. We have problems sometimes — I have so many activities. The Resistance is the main purpose in my life. But my resource is my relationship with my husband — we give much strength to each other.

BB: I know you were in prison in Chile for three months before your exile to Mexico. What did you experience?

MS: I was captured three times. I was interrogated and tortured many times with electric shocks and beatings. My husband and I

were tortured in front of each other.

These tortures are given naked and all the DINA (Chilean Secret Police) would sit around trying to make it into a striptease show. Many women prisoners were raped and many died in the torture chambers. We were finally released along with Laura Allende, as a result of the international solidarity campaign.

BB: Was it only men torturing the women?

MS: I was there in 1974-75. Then, both men and women did the torturing. Now they have specially trained women's divisions to torture other women. Every night they would come for us — always coming and going to take us to the special torture house. All in my cells were tortured — many women were never the same after — many died.

BB: You were living very closely with other women in terrifying conditions. What was the morale of the women?

MS: In my opinion, women are stronger than men in the face of prisons and torture. Our cells were always clean — we used any small cold water to clean ourselves, our clothes — always washing and repairing. We were able to survive the moment — always preparing and educating each other. Not a moment was wasted. There was constant and permanent activity. If there was a nurse she would teach the others about nursing — each taught what they knew to the others. In the men's cell, some gave up. The cells were dirty — it was very different.

BB: What were the ages and backgrounds of the women?

MS: Most were 17 years to 25 years old, but also other ages. The first month, most were stu-

dents and middle class, the second month, proletarians — the peasants. So we could tell the working class women were now fighting with the Resistance.

BB: I have heard many people from the university were arrested.

MS: Almost all were in class the 11th of September. They were arrested there — 2,000 professors, 1,000 academic personnel (secretaries, clerks). 20,000 students were expelled, jailed.

Many are now exiled. The universities were always available according to income — under Allende, they were free. Now they are expensive — only the upper classes and those with correct politics may go. Even elementary schools have military deans.

BB: I know Amnesty International and the U.N. Commission on Human Rights have condemned the junta and Pinochet for violations of human rights. Are there any other international organizations which have passed resolutions?

MS: UNESCO has, due to cultural violations by the junta for burning all types of books and repression in the universities. There are now official Nazi textbooks being used.

BB: Is the Resistance stronger — are all the people involved?

MS: It is growing, especially among the workers and peasants. They are tired of repression and are standing up. We have a phrase that says, "Let us convert our tears into revolutionary work and our hate into greater struggle until we win the final victory."

If you would like to help the Chilean Resistance, write:

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Caucus airs

In February 1973, about 5,000 women from across the country gathered in Houston in what marked the first political convention of women in this century.

Filmmaker Janice Blue recorded this historic occasion in a one-hour videotape report which is the only extended record of what took place during this significant National Women's Political Caucus convention.

Caucus airs Saturday, January 15, at 10:30 p.m. on Channel 8's *Territory* program.

By Janice Blue

The old Rice Hotel is gone now. It almost seems irreverent to bring out this curious page from its history. But for history's sake . . .

Until 1973 women were not allowed to be paged in the Rice Hotel lobby. Not until the National Women's Political Caucus decided to hold its convention there, that is, and not until the convention coordinator discovered this policy — and *someone* took it to the media.

Even though it was never quite clear *who* that *someone* was, it made bad press for the grand old hotel. As a result, the convention coordinator was fired. Her name was Mary-k Wilson.

moderate feminist leaders and hundreds of working delegates and newswomen. But after the paging policy accounts in the media, the policy was permanently changed.

I have not seen *Caucus* in four years or since the time of its first round of film festivals and campus screenings. At the time I made it, I was not a member of any women's group. I was an observer. But I remember having the feeling that I was making an archive piece — something that had to be recorded as a part of women's visual history.*

"With 5,000 women to stand behind you . . . I felt like Mary Marvel."

Despite the fact that 5,000 delegates protested the unfairness of her dismissal, she did not get her job back.

The film *Caucus* finds her alone in her apartment — "a rather reluctant feminist as she reflects on her first act of protest." She sits quietly in a corner of her living room with her cat, D'Mure. It is a week after the convention has already taken place.

As she is asked how she felt to have the support of so many women, she moves closer to the camera, the cat flies off and she says, "With 5,000 women to stand behind you . . . Well, I put on my National Women's Political Caucus t-shirt and I felt like Mary Marvel . . . Ordinarily, I'm just not that brave."

In one review, film critic Estelle Chngas wrote, "her simple humility, her attempt to dispel any notion that she has demonstrated personal courage adds to the poignancy of the scene and makes it one of the most candid, affecting moments we may see on film."

It should be noted that the paging policy was suspended — for the three days of the convention. Enough time to accom-

I, too, am anxious to look at that three-day event when hundreds of working delegates met, came to grips with their differences, elected Sissy Farenthold as their first national chairperson and gave shape and direction to the American feminist movement.

Chngas says, "The candid portraits of women we see voicing their differences with each other or with society underscores an important quality of this work — its essential honesty — perhaps the single most significant attribute of the women's movement itself."

I felt that all serious movements inevitably experience conflicts when they attempt to build something lasting, and that it was *honest* to record the conflicts — even the occasional turmoil — that emerged during that first convention in 100 years.

There are lighter moments. A scene where Bella Abzug attempts to cope with her "celebrity" image in encounters with a variety of awed admirers.

But for me, Mary-k was the hero of the convention and the cause. The injustices the women's movement was talking about on the convention floor and challenging on the outside, she was facing right there in the lobby of the old Rice Hotel.



crazy jazz Energy in her music

By Patricia Cole

In between sets at a popular Montrose nightclub, Bonnie Brown relaxes with a glass of orange juice, deliberately out of the limelight. Her piano playing commands attention on stage, but off she does her best to conserve energy; sometimes by chatting with friends, more often by getting off by herself and doing a few yoga postures. She's not fanatic about anything except her music.

"I want to get real, real good and show this town something," she explains while stretching her long, graceful hands. "It takes discipline." That's an understatement from someone who's been playing piano seriously for 20 years.

She began, like so many of us, with piano lessons at the age of six. In out-of-the-way Amarillo she was very fortunate to have a

needed to be considered serious musicians in the field of popular music.

Brown graduated and moved on to playing folk/rock with Evensong, a three-piece, heavy on the vocals. She drifted from group to group, did a piano bar solo, and for a short while played with singer/songwriter Natalie Zoe with another female musician, Tucker Bradley, on bass. It was all fun and educational but not jazz, which had become her major interest.

In June of 1976, Brown finally found a musical and emotional home with *Smokin' Fitz*. With Brown on keyboard, Rock Romano on bass, Kent Cole on guitar, Carson Graham on drums and everyone on vocals, they are turning out to be one of the more energetic and original groups to come out of Houston's creative center in some time. *Smokin' Fitz* plays what they call crazy jazz. It's a combination of styles that



BONNIE BROWN

teacher who appreciated music theory as much as *Here We Go Up A Road*. She loved her lessons and practiced daily until the time of puberty. Growing up, and all the joys and traumas that accompany it, took her mind off the keyboard. Her mother, recognizing Bonnie's ability, laid down the law by telling her to get it together or the lessons would stop. At the confused age of 14, Brown looked at the options of proms and waiting for the phone to ring, or the possibility of becoming a classical pianist, and got back to work. Since then she has worked, struggled, and consequently learned to play a jazz piano full of life and originality.

The evolution from Dvorak to Miles Davis started only two years ago. Brown majored in music composition and theory with piano as her major instrument (she also plays a decent flute and bassoon) at the University of Houston. Her time was spent learning complex theory and practicing classical music four to five hours a day. A group of music students in the department put together a copy-show band called Doppelganger with Brown on the keyboard. Playing top 40 is a far cry from classical, but it got her into a different mode of music and sparked her interest in branching out. It also started her career as a lone woman in a man's field. With the exception of vocalists, few women have achieved the expertise

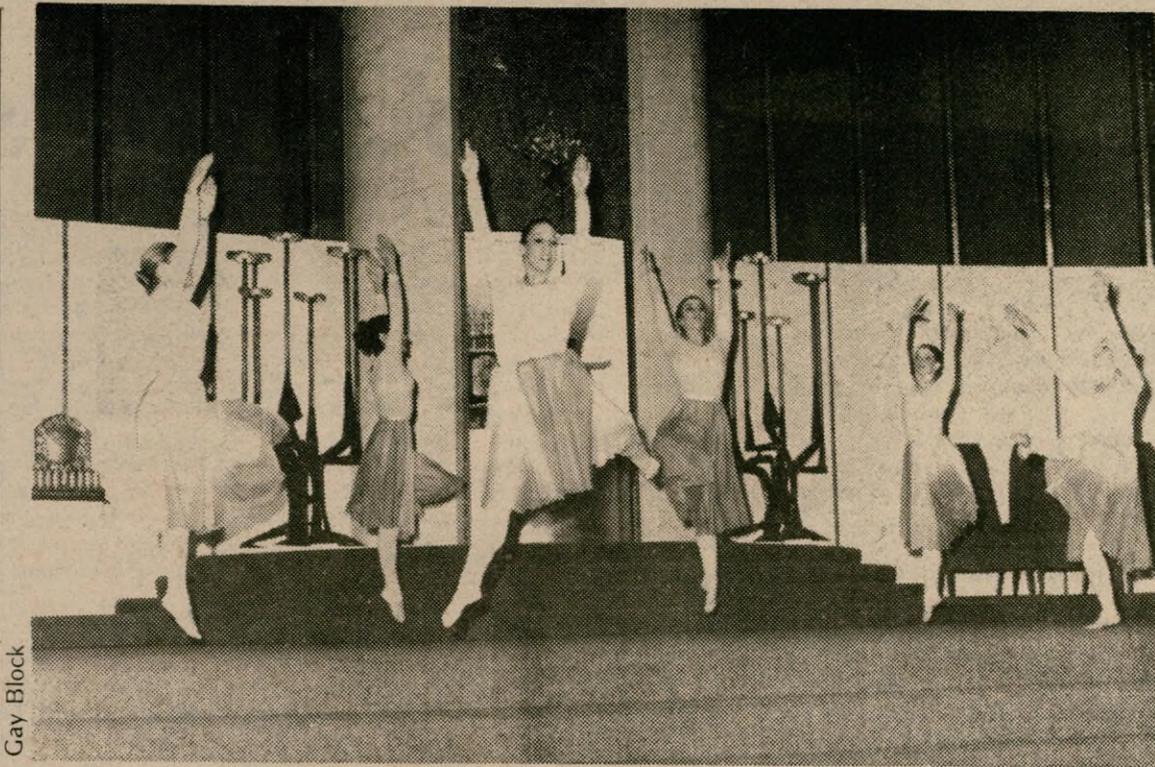
allows everyone to work out in their favorite mode. There's some blues, some rock, straight jazz, a few pieces almost classical and a lot of original tunes.

In the music world, the clash of egos is one of the main detractors to success, but *Smokin' Fitz* works as a family on stage and off. They've grown to be close friends who respect each other's talents. As a musician Brown is consistently outstanding, approaching her leads like a dancer, running, soaring off the ground, and always landing firmly on her feet.

"I've learned more about phrasing from Bonnie than any other musician," intones Rock Romano over a drink at Theodore's, where they play every Sunday night. "The energy she gives the music and the band just can't be measured."

Energy is a key word. It's what Brown refers to when she says she wants to show this town something. "I don't want to be the center of attention with praises being showered on me. I just want to show people that good, original and creative music can happen. I don't want people to think I'm good because I sound like somebody else, but because I sound like Bonnie Brown. All that takes is a whole lot of hard work."

Brown's is a sound with 20 years of classical experience behind it, adapted to a highly creative mode. It's a sound worth hearing again and again.



Gay Block

Dance performed in Temple

By Linda May

As the women dancers stood in the aisles of the sanctuary waiting for their cues, I felt the excitement of experiencing a unique religious event—Congregation Beth Israel's Chanukah Cantata and dance.

On December 17, the second night of Chanukah, Beth Israel presented the Cantata for the second year. Debbie Friedman, a young singer/composer from Chicago, wrote the music and used traditional Chanukah liturgy as the basis for her stirring rock-folk composition *Not By Might, Not By Power*.

Embellishing the music was a series of stunning dance sequences choreographed by Joan Karff, a teacher of modern dance. Working with Friedman's recording of the Cantata (she has released three long playing records), Karff rehearsed her all woman's dance troupe and Cindy Rozenberg worked with a congregational choir of all ages. The overall effect was a magnificent blending of traditional liturgy, Friedman's evocative yet contemporary music, and Karff's interpretive dances.

Samuel Karff, Beth Israel's

senior rabbi, encouraged Friedman to write the Cantata when he was rabbi at Temple Sinai in Chicago. Friedman came to Houston, as she did last year, to sing and conduct the choir for the Friday night service. She was accompanied by a pianist, a percussionist and her own guitars.

The unusual long-distance collaboration between Friedman and Joan Karff was a winning combination. The music and dance were woven throughout a specially prepared Chanukah service. It was inspirational to see a marriage of song and dance in a framework that was at once comfortable and comforting.

While definitely a break with tradition, the dancing on the altar seemed natural. The dancers furnished the congregation with an experience that became very personal and moving.

"Somehow, and probably naively, I did not spend too much time worrying about the congregation accepting such a novel thing as dance in the Temple," said Karff. "Dance has always been such a very natural response for me that I could not feel it to be sacrilegious or inappropriate in a worship setting. Quite the contrary, I feel that dance, like music, can truly enhance the liturgical experience, making it

vibrant and exhilarating for all the participants."

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is the only Jewish holiday which celebrates a victory in battle. In 165 BCE, the Syrians sacked and desecrated the Temple. When the Jews triumphed over their oppressors, legend says that the Eternal Light, an everlasting flame, had only enough oil to last for a day. However, the oil burned for the eight days it took for someone to leave and return with more. Thus, the light guarding the Torah was never extinguished.

Chanukah is a time of joy. Candles are lit, one additional candle on each successive night, until eight are burning, symbolizing the light of freedom over the darkness of oppression.

The Chanukah Cantata was not only a Jewish family affair, but a community event, as well. The sanctuary walls were moved back to accommodate the overflow crowd.

It is important to reach out to one another in times of joy as well as in times of need. Sharing celebrations such as the Cantata provides increased understanding.

Without a doubt, the Chanukah Cantata and dance was a joyful, exhilarating and profoundly moving religious experience.



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Millett speaks on sexual politics

By Ann Harris

Kate Millett struck notes of hope during her brief visit to Houston last month, oblivious to those singing a "Requiem for the Women's Movement."*

"The women's movement is not stalled. It has branched out and become international," she says.

Millett proclaims 1976 the year of women's rediscovery and reclamation of our sexuality, and of women's demand for self-determined and equal sexual pleasure.

Echoing and expanding on the themes of her doctoral dissertation, the best-selling *Sexual Politics* (1970), she dissected patriarchal ideologies and systems. Millett illustrated how each of the rationalizations of the cruelties imposed by patriarchy is based on a "horrible contempt, disgust, hostility" for the woman, for her sexuality. She noted that men are permitted to be sexual beings, human beings, but in patriarchies she is sex, seen as "the nexus of all sin, guilt, blame." Because in patriarchies men have tried to control

A change for the better for women in sexual power and politics is forecast in *The Hite Report*, as Millett frequently mentioned. She terms it "brilliant," "definitive," "original," "a masterpiece," because it is the first such book written by a woman, details many women's personal experiences, and because it is not directed toward intercourse, as previous studies have been, but rather, proceeds from the base of females' orgasmic satisfaction through masturbation.

Women "have been forced to give sex in return for money and a roof over their heads, so no sexual relation with a man could be egalitarian — it's poisoned with a plethora of bad faith things." In this culture, Millett states, intercourse is practiced upon women for male satisfaction and "heterosexuality is a rip-off for enormous numbers of women."

She also asserted that "Men gotta be changed. They gotta change themselves. Men should work on being better lovers (even on being lovable)." She advised men to dissociate themselves from all of patriarchy, to "work at freeing all the tendrils and feel-

1974, one reviewer of *Flying* stated that Millett is bound to make love between women work "to vindicate her romantic theories about multiple relationships, sex as the completion of friendship, and love freed from possessiveness." Whether that reviewer's judgment is true or not, there is no denying the way Millett's face lit up when she said she had just left her woman lover, but was going right back to her when she was finished in Houston.

Kate Millett credited gay women's liberation during her lecture for the enormous support she received during her painful coming-out process, and foresees it as a great means for improving society.

In Dr. Dale Hill's "Psychology of Women" class, Millett elaborated on how "gay liberation and women's liberation are attacking much of the source of society's ills and neuroses." However, according to Millett's analysis, gay liberation does not attack patriarchal sexism as directly as feminism does. It could still be possible for an exclusively male homosexual movement to bring



KATE MILLETT

... in patriarchies she is sex, seen as "the nexus of all sin, guilt, blame."

female sexuality, Millett feels their theories, studies and practices have emphasized the vagina, the "object of interest for males' reproduction and sexual pleasure," and systematically tried to program women away from their clitorises. The clitoris is where women put their emphasis, because it is, in fact, their sexual organ.

Millett elaborated at length, in great medical detail, giving shocking examples of how patriarchies have oppressed women through their sexuality by amputating the clitoris and mutilating the surrounding tissues. Men in the Western world have practiced "these hideous and barbaric operations as a punishment for masturbation and to keep woman from sexual realization while still preserving her breeding capacity, like an animal's."

The Islamic world and north and northeast Africa still force females from five to fifteen years of age, without anesthetic, to undergo procedures ranging from a "simple" removal of the hood, to a complete cutting away of all the area plus sewing up the vagina. These result in horrible pain, ugly keloid scar tissue, severe difficulties in menstruation, urination, intercourse and childbirth, as well as disease and sometimes death. "These atrocities are a concrete and visible manifestation of male hostility toward females."

ings of emotion from it." She added that "that's difficult to do because you are then involved with a tradition that is your very definition of manhood. We'd have a much larger and much more interesting identity if we just didn't have male and female. Really! How unimaginative! So try to wean oneself of sexism as one does of racism and be conscious of all the psychic bends you go through."

Millett frequently extolled the joys of love between women. "Because of the greater orgasmic potential of women, sex with other women is logical. You have two types that could go on forever, you see . . . To rule out half the human race as lovers is absurd."

When asked what price she had to pay personally for defying society's present conventions with her declaration of bisexuality, as detailed in the cathartic, autobiographical *Flying*, she did not respond at first. After a couple of questions in the same vein, she jokingly admitted "Well it cost me exactly \$50,000, the royalties I lost on *Flying*."

She occasionally despairs in that book that love does not work out with women: "it only works with Fumio." (He is her husband and, as she says in conversation after the lecture, her lover and friend: "dear Fumio, what would I do without him.") In

about a great many civil rights and still keep the heavy patriarchal structure which negates women and their sexuality.

Millett admits that the transition to a freer sexuality, mostly bisexual, an understanding that we are pan-sexual beings, will be difficult to work out. She says the future family probably will not be nuclear. The problem, she states, is how to preserve what we *did* like about marriage, such as its warmth and security, how to find a permanent commitment without inhibiting love of others.

Her new book, *SITA*, will come out in May. "It's autobiographical, about the end of a love affair with a woman. It's the study of the process of breaking up, so it could be about any relationship, including heterosexual." Writing is far from easy, Millett feels. "The closer you get to your own experience the more painful it is. It's reliving it in a crucial, heavy way."

Millett is also "finally" writing a book about a brutal murder of a young Indiana girl by a mob, including children, which mutilated the victim's stomach with "I am a prostitute."

*"Requiem for the Women's Movement" appeared as an article by Veronica Geng in the November, 1976 issue of *Harper's*.



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MARION WILLIAMS, internationally acclaimed gospel singer, will be performing on Saturday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Ezekiel Cullen Auditorium [UH]. For ticket information call the UH-University Center at 749-1253. Tickets are \$4.50.

Marion Williams, often hailed as "the finest artist gospel has produced," began life in a Miami ghetto in the late 1920's. She was exposed to various styles of music (gospel, blues, jazz, C & W, calypso) at a very early age, partly as a result of her West Indian father, a butcher who moonlighted by teaching music on weekends. He died before his daughter reached the age of ten and her mother, developed diabetes, so Marion quit and went to work at various jobs — as a maid, nursemaid, laundress — to support her family.

At age twenty, Williams joined the Ward Singers and soon became the lead; her extraor-

inary vocal range and versatility led to her overwhelming success and million-selling records. She left the group in 1958 and formed her own quartet, the Stars of Faith, but this group never seemed to make it commercially.

In 1961, Williams abandoned this effort and spent the next four years touring America and Europe in a later production of Hughes' *The Prodigal Son*.

Williams began her career as a soloist in 1967 and has been the acknowledged star of numerous music festivals at home and abroad; among these are the Antibes, Newport, and Montreux jazz festivals. At the Dakar Festival of Negro Arts in Africa,

she represented the U.S. along with Duke Ellington. This performance led to a landmark tour of Africa by the U.S. State Department.

Her success in this country was aided by two CBS television specials recorded at her church in Philadelphia and a public service commercial for dropouts in which she sang *Standing Here Wondering Which Way to Go*. In 1975 she was honored by Yale University as a (Duke) Ellington fellow. Her latest album, *Prayer Changes Things*, was recorded in the same year and includes a variety of styles ranging from flowing a capella melodies to hard-rocking gospel.

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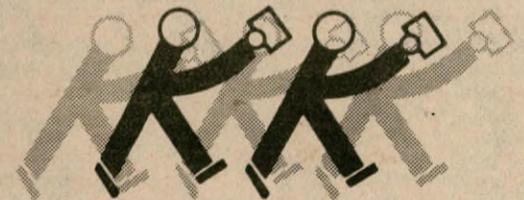


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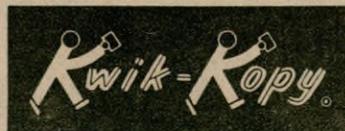
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To and from

Announcements

Come to the ERA Rally on **Jan. 14** at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

If you are interested in doing research, volunteering to staff the office, sharing your ideas or participating in some other way, your support is needed. It is time Houston women have one central location to call to begin receiving the information they need. Together we can make it happen! Come to the meeting Monday, **Jan. 24**, 7-9:30 p.m. at the University of Texas School of Public Health Bldg., 6901 Bertner St., or call WIA for further information, 527-0718.

Come to Breakthrough's first year Birthday Party, Sunday, **Jan. 16** from noon-6 p.m. Media Awards and a Woman of the Year Award will be presented.

Backpacking Basics. To co-exist with nature without leaving a trace. The essentials—food, clothing, shelter, equipment—what to carry, how to choose it, how to organize and get it packed. The class is designed to get you into the wilderness and a weekend campout and hike. Conducted by Nancy Landau, 1974 National Outdoor Leadership School Graduate. Classes start **Feb. 1** and **March 14**. UH Sundry School Registration—**Feb. 1-7**. For information call 749-1253.

Water color portraiture by woman artist. Reasonably priced. Quality work. Call Lulu Lopez, 523-0365.

The first organizing meeting for the Houston Chapter of Non-Intervention in Chile committee (NICH) will be held Sat. evening, **Jan. 8**. Call Barbara at 528-4966 or Lola at 923-1785 for details on time and place.

An eight-week Women's Career Development Group will give special attention to pressures and barriers that women encounter in their career development. Sponsored by the Vocational Guidance Service, the group will assist women who want to change careers or re-enter the job market by helping them develop necessary skills to do so. An evening group will meet Mondays at VGS starting **Jan. 17** (call 659-1800, ext. 209) and a Wednesday morning group will meet at The Jewish Community Center beginning **Jan. 19**. (Call 729-3200.)

The University of Houston at Clear Lake City has planned a "Women's Week," to be held **Jan. 31-Feb. 4, 1977**. The week-long activities, highlighted by the appearance of Germaine Greer, are co-sponsored by the Student Activities Office and the University Cultural Committee. The activities will be held in the Bayou Building at the Clear Lake Campus, located at 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston. For questions or further information, call: Carol Bardon, 488-9218; Sonia Carmean, 488-9270, or Dr. Nanette Bruckner, 488-9370.

Concerned about the issues, rights, problems (joys), of lesbian mothers? Call 529-0261: on Monday, **Jan. 24**, 8 p.m. to rap, organize and support each other. Every woman wanted and welcome & mother/child-free, old/young, gay/straight, coupled/single — no labels needed.

You can gain self-respect and increase awareness through the knowledge available in Scientology. Attend the free, personal efficiency course beginning Sunday, **Jan. 16**, at the Church of Scientology, 4034 Westheimer, 965-0382 at 3:30 p.m. The course will focus on making you more causative, putting you more in control, teaching you efficiency and communication, raising your ability to handle responsibility and helping you understand and increase understanding. Scientology is open to all individuals of any race, color or creed.

Dr. Doris Curtis of the League of Women Voters has been elected president of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists. She is the first woman ever and the organization is 50 years old. Curtis is employed by Shell Oil Company.

In response to the demand by working women, college women and those women who simply were unable to attend a similar series held this fall, an eight session series, "The Jewish Woman — Who Is She? Where Has She Been? Where Is She Going?" is again being co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center and the American Jewish Committee. (See box for dates, fees, speakers and topics.)

Bob McCubbin, author of "The Gay Question: A Marxist Analysis" will be in Houston **Jan. 22-30** as a guest of the local chapter of Youth Against War and Facism. A public meeting is planning to be held at the First Unitarian Church, **Jan. 25** at 7: p.m. For details and confirmation call Joanne at 861-9684.

Virginia Slims Women's Tennis Circuit is coming to Houston **Jan. 17-23**. For ticket information call 781-5082.

Employment



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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.

Courses/Schools

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.

Continuing Education & UH, is presenting a six-part program beginning **Jan. 10**, to provide a comprehensive education and training program for counselors in the field of drug abuse and for those in related areas where drug abuse problems are encountered. For further information, contact Dru Ferguson, 749-1233 or Sherman L. Pease, 749-1232.

January class term at the Downtown Branch YWCA will begin **Jan. 17**. In addition to a variety of arts and crafts, language, dance, exercise, personal improvement and skills developments, they will also offer classes in self-defense, defensive driving, income tax information and salt-free cooking. For information call 523-6881.

Media

Tune in to consumer reporter Jack Woods (alias Gulf Coast Gadfly) on KLYX-FM radio at 6:51 a.m., 9:40 a.m., 12:20 p.m., 3:51 p.m. and 7:51 p.m.

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Workshops

Women In Action announces plans for a community workshop to help in the creation of a Women's Information, Referral and Exchange Service (WIRES). Women In Action wants to introduce WIRES to the community with an explanation of its services, structure and goals. Task force chairpersons will describe their research areas. If you are interested call WIA at 527-0718.

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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Jan. 24	"The Ideal and the Real: The Religious and Historical Overview of the Jewish Woman"	Rachel Yoskowitz
Jan. 31	"The Jewish Woman and Freud"	Hannah Decker, Ph.D.
Feb. 7	"The Jewish Mother and the Jewish American Princess: Where are the Stereotypes?"	Julia Wolf Mazow, Ph.D.
Feb. 14	"The Houston Jewish Woman: The Unprinted Chapter"	Sheila Sheinberg, Ph.D.
Feb. 21	"The Jewish Women and Their Healers: Their Pediatrician, Gynecologist, Psychiatrist"	Helen Schaffer, M.D. Carl Levinson, M.D.
Feb. 28	"American Jewish Royalty: Sons and Daughters"	Zena Smith Blau, Ph.D.
March 7	"Woman's Views of Herself"	Janet Saltzman Chafetz, Ph.D.

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