

Houston Breakthrough

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50 cents

'Manpower' wastes womanpower

By Suzanne Gray

Why did the federally funded job training program known as Manpower change its name to Concentrated Employment Training Act (CETA) on October 1?

Nikki Van Hightower, Houston Women's Advocate, told me she recommended the name change because she felt "Manpower" gave a false impression that women were excluded from the programs.

Division director Palmer Bowser, Jr. said that the sole reason for the name change was the threat of a suit by a national company, Manpower, Inc. of Milwaukee.

I decided to find out for myself whether the name change indicated a growing emphasis on non-traditional jobs for women.

I told the receptionist at the CETA Service Center on 811 Westheimer, that I needed a job. After taking my name and address, she motioned me to

the straight-backed chairs arranged in rows. Then she resumed her cheery chat with another employee. About 15 persons were already waiting, although it was only 8:30 a.m. Many looked resigned and familiar with waiting.

After 45 minutes my name was called, and I was asked to complete an application form. The game of musical chairs had begun.

To the man who scanned my application I presented a false profile: divorced mother of two with no means of support except for irregular support payments. No job training, no work history. After perfunctory approval, he referred me to a counselor. There was no explanation of the CETA program, nor were any tests or skills assessment offered.

Actually I saw two counselors that morning, both women. They passed me back and forth, seemingly perplexed and a little

irritated at my blankness. However, my neutrality was my foundation: I wanted them to direct my course. My only assertive direction was the need for making money.

The first question relating to jobs was, "Can you type?" followed by, "How about filing?" I was then given a list of beginning office trainee positions to consider. Most of these paid \$300 to \$400 monthly. When I had been asked what I thought I could "get by on," I'd said \$500. This brought a condescending snort from one counselor and the retort, "You can't expect to start at the top, honey!"

Reviewing the jobs, I suggested driving a small delivery truck. "I know a man who does that and earns good money," I said. The counselor replied that that was hard work and besides, a special license was required.



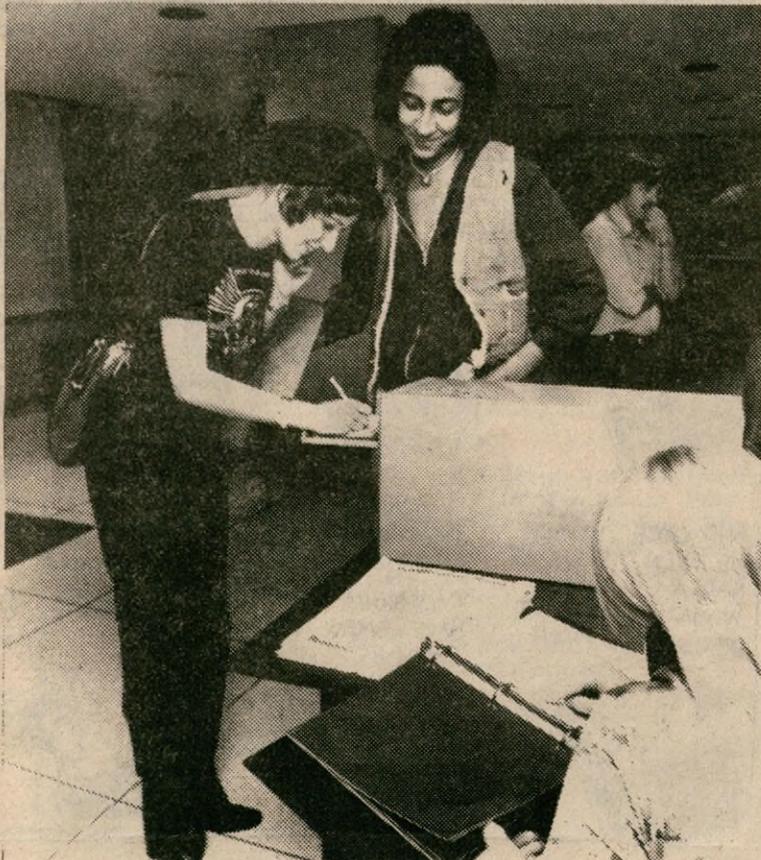
Nancy Landau

THERESA CHAVEZ, a welder, said she'll be lucky to find a job as a trainee when she completes the CETA program.

Continued on page 14

'Virgin Vault' for women students: U H dorm policy opposed

By Peg Roper



F. Carter Smith

The University of Houston's dormitory policies are illegal and discriminate on the basis of sex according to Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, the City of Houston women's advocate.

Van Hightower, a former UH associate professor, said, "I think these practices are patently illegal and violate Title IX of the 1972 Civil Rights Amendment."

According to James Calaway, president of the Texas Civil Liberties Union, "... it would be very likely that the American Civil Liberties Union would provide funds for legal aid to any student wishing to prosecute the university."

The UH policy in question restricts visitation hours of male guests in the two all-female dorms while it allows 24-hour unrestricted visitation hours for women guests in the three all-male dorms.

A sign posted in the lobby of North Moody Towers (one all female dorm), gives male visit-

ing hours from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, noon to 2 a.m. Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sunday. Guests must sign in and out with security at a desk checkpoint in the women's lobby. At the other all-female dorm, Bates Hall, male guests are not required to be registered with security but they must be escorted to and from the room. Bates Hall visitation hours are from noon to 10 p.m. Sunday and Thursday and from noon to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

But the all-male South Moody Towers, Taub Hall and Oberholzer Hall do not appear on a mimeograph entitled "University of Houston Residence Halls Visitation Policy." According to residents and their student advisors (SAs), the actual practice in those dorms is unrestricted visitation.

Title IX is the Department of Health Education and Welfare's Education Amendment of 1972.

Title IX provides that "no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Title IX section 86.32 states that "... a recipient (of federal funds for educational programs)

WIA plans for referral service

Plans for a women's information and referral agency to serve the Houston community are under way.

Women in Action, a broad-based coalition of local women's groups and community agencies, has convened a series of planning meetings and set up a steering committee to guide the effort, according to Edna T. Anderson, WIA president.

Anderson says that the need for a place and a service designed especially to deal with women's concerns such as emergency housing, job discrimination, establishment of credit and medical and legal aid has become increasingly apparent during the past year as hundreds of calls from women seeking help have poured into the Women in Action office at 3317 Montrose.

A small group of community leaders are presently spearheading the referral service planning effort; members of the Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood have volunteered to research and organize a master file of community resources.

Interviews for volunteers may be arranged by calling Women in Action, 527-0718.

Continued on page 16

In Karen's memory

On the evening of November 13, 1974, a white Honda car crashed into a concrete culvert wall on an Oklahoma highway and killed Karen Silkwood, a laboratory assistant at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant near Oklahoma City. She had been gathering evidence to prove Kerr-McGee knowingly violated nuclear safety laws. She herself had been exposed to high levels of plutonium contamination.

At the time of her death, Silkwood was on her way to deliver these documents to a *New York Times* reporter. The documents were never found.

For two years her parents appealed to the government to study evidence of foul play after an accident investigator found her car was hit from behind and forced off the road.

On the second anniversary of her mysterious death Merle and Bill Silkwood will file suit against Kerr-McGee, charging them with responsibility for their daughter's death, illegal anti-union activities and negligent enforcement of plant safety standards.

House hearings last spring confirmed that the federal agencies and the Justice Department have failed to investigate this case thoroughly. Many questions remain unanswered:

- How was Karen contaminated and killed?
- What happened to her documents?
- Why did FBI agents wait a year to interview witnesses at the scene of the accident?
- Why did ERDA not penalize Kerr-McGee?
- Why did the FBI take one of their agents off the Silkwood case when he was in the midst of pursuing the contamination question?

A legal team has volunteered its services to Karen's parents but even so, the court battle with Kerr-McGee will cost about \$100,000. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to The National Emergency Civil Liberties Foundation (25 E. 26 St., New York City, N.Y. 10010).

Supporters of Silkwood (SOS) and national NOW have declared November 13 Silkwood Memorial Day to preserve the memory of Karen and to bring nationwide attention to the need for a complete and public investigation into the circumstances of death of this courageous union sister.

We hope the Houston community of women and men will observe this day in her memory. Karen died trying to expose the dangers in the nuclear power industry. She died for us.

Houston Breakthrough

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letters to breakthrough

I wish to thank and congratulate *Breakthrough* for its consistent, thorough and accurate reporting of the University of Texas System School of Nursing dissolution.

It is heartening to realize that there is a Houston press, willing and "gutsy" enough to report news when and as it happens.

There seems to be no single panacea for the health care delivery problems in this nation, including Texas. However, it is blatantly evident that professional nursing has the skills, knowledge and judgment capabilities for providing additional preventive and curative health care services needed by the American public. However, archaic state medical and nursing laws as well as special interest groups are denying an expanded care role for the professional nurse. Consequently, Texas citizens are denied a healthier tomorrow, perhaps even at an economic savings to the consumer.

JOHN LEVIS BROWN
 Editor, *Texas Nursing*
 Austin, TX

Attached is a copy of a letter I wrote to Jeff Millar of the *Houston Chronicle*.

It is partly because of articles such as the one you wrote for the Oct. 3 Zest -- making a total joke of women's liberation -- that many people will continue to glory in their reactionary and disgusting prejudices against women.

I gather from your previous columns that you fancy yourself somewhat of a liberal, independent thinking, progressive person. You even admire Kurt Vonnegut! Yet you, along with most every male columnist for the daily press, take glee in reducing the feminist cause to a petty, ridiculous obsession with language -- which is exactly what it is NOT.

You are poking fun at all women when you write such articles. The job of the women's advocate is to represent all women of the city. By making her every act ridiculous [in your fantasy story] you leave no doubt about your assessment of the mentality of those for whom she advocates.

Racism is racism, and it can take the form of racist jokes, such as the recent "joke" by Earl Butz . . .

Sexism is sexism, and when it comes, yet again, "humorously" from the pen of a young hypocrite like you it's especially insufferable.

JANA PELLUSCH

Editor's note: See "Dead Pans" this issue, page 11.

In reply to Lura Hirsch (October 1976 *Breakthrough*):

It was not my intent, when I submitted the girlie photos from the *Port Isabel Press* for publication in the Aug-Sept issue of *Breakthrough*, to please your readers. It was my intent to expose the *Press'* policy of long standing which considers any issue a complete failure without at least one such photo. Often times there are more than one. I had hoped that your readers would, to some degree, become as incensed over such media policy as I do and feel compelled to issue a formal complaint to the newspaper . . .

Readers might be interested to know that the editor of the *Port Isabel Press* is a woman! When I talked with her on the phone about these girlie pix, she admitted she had been instructed by her predecessor, a male, that Padre Island cheesecake was expected in the *Press*. She also suggested that I write her a letter to make a formal protest which she could present

to the "powers that be" . . . Her name is Martha MacClain; she is the editor of the *Port Isabel Press*, 302 Garcia, Port Isabel, Tx. 78578.

Won't you please give me your assistance in eradicating this "long standing policy" by writing to Martha MacClain and register your formal protest? Perhaps then none of us will have to look at any irrelevant girlie photos in our daily newspapers anymore.

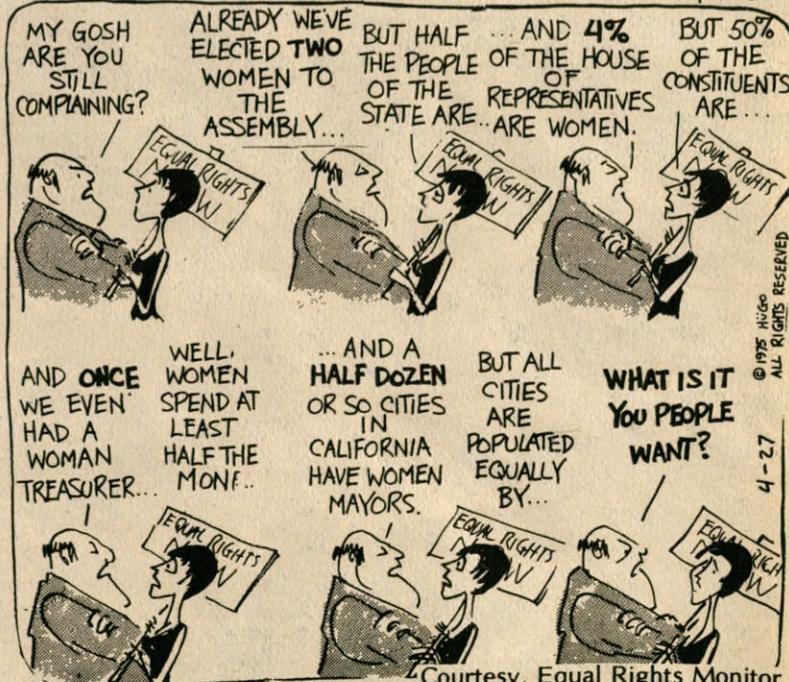
Breakthrough would be doing its readers a real service if complete information is carried along with any "Dead Pans" exposure. For example, October's issue carried columnist Mike Royko's (*Chicago Daily News*) insensitive and coarse analysis of wife-beating. You stated this article also appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* of Sept. 28, 1976. Mike Royko will hear from me, but it would be a big help if complete information were also provided to help readers get right to their pens or typewriters while the wrath is still churning.

IDA MORRIS
 Laguna Vista, TX

P.S. I thought Karen Barrett's coverage of the anti-abortion assembly was superb. If reprints could somehow be made available, perhaps they could be distributed by your readers to other concerned groups, legislators, etc.?

Caucus

by HUGO



Courtesy, Equal Rights Monitor

Is there a choice?

By Sam E.I. Akers

In the last full week of the campaign Gerald Ford could be heard calling for a new federal initiative on airport noise abatement. That says something about the campaign.

As educational exercises, American presidential campaigns haven't done too well lately. Here was Jerry in his final whirlwind swing about the nation to cap the neck and neck mad dash for votes, and he was trying to woo votes with airport noise abatement. What a screwball approach to vote-getting.

But then who wouldn't turn a little flakey running the steeplechase to the presidency? Jetting to five cities a day was not unusual for Ford and Carter. Ford scheduled a two-hour visit to Houston the Saturday before the election. It is no wonder that he thinks airport noise is a big problem.

Campaigning is noisy. Campaigns are noisy, too. As has often been the case, the "issues" in this campaign reflected what Max Lerner calls "our prudent avoidance of ideological politics."

When ideology is removed from politics we are left with things like personality. One burning issue of personality in this our historic Bicentennial election year was whether we wanted as president the type of guy who would grant an interview to *Playboy*.

Jimmy Carter, you will recall, had confessed to having lascivious thoughts, used the word "screw" (both of which really shook some people up) and mentioned LBJ and Richard Nixon in the same breath, thus besmirching the name of St. Lyndon the Escolator.

Carter's articulation of what seems to be a normal sexual orientation disturbed the insulation between politics and sex. It was, like *Playboy* boss Hugh Hefner said, "as though granting an interview to *Playboy* were equivalent to posing naked in the center of the magazine.

Although a late September poll showed that a majority of Americans either had not heard about the interview or said it would have no bearing on their vote, Ford made it an issue. Ford said he, too, had been asked to do a *Playboy* interview but had turned it down. He said it often, too.

Playboy said that Ford had never been asked for a full-fledged lengthy interview like

should have granted the interview.

Even more obliquely related to real issues of government was the consideration of the candidate's relatives' views. Republicans tried to capitalize on Betty Ford's outspokenness and appeal to feminists. The "elect Betty's husband" pitch was logical since polls consistently showed Betty to be more popular than Jerry.

Voters who cast Republican ballots because of Betty Ford, and similarly those who went Democratic because of Carter's ebullient mother, Miss Lilian, were deceived.

With personality the dominant theme of the campaign, Jimmy Carter's being an "unknown quantity" was a key issue. Fear of the unknown still strikes a responsive chord in American politics. Pollster Lou

Ford proved to be largely a figurehead for the old Nixon administration. Somehow that did not come out as an issue. There was surprisingly little talk that Ford was a staunch defender and "cronie" of the pardoned president.

Carter grants interviews, Ford grants pardons. Look who caught the flack.

The "trauma of Watergate" was gone, but the Nixon gang wasn't. Two weeks before Nixon's resignation in disgrace, Ford said:

"I've watched the (impeachment) proceedings unravel as they have, beginning in 1973. I've read the testimony. I've talked to people who are involved in the House Judiciary Committee.

"I can say from the bottom of my heart the president of the United States is innocent. He is right."

Once he succeeded to the presidency, Ford rewarded the Nixon stalwarts. *The New York Times* columnist William V. Shannon listed a few. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz was kept on until he told one racist joke too many. Nixon aide Anne Armstrong was promoted to ambassador to Great Britain. Nixon chief of staff, key to much of the dirty work of "stonewalling," was made commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). CIA chief Richard Helms, whom Nixon made ambassador to Iran, was retained. The list went on: Dean Burch, William Timmons, Melvin Laird, Rogers Morton, Harry Dent, John Connally. All old Nixon fans. All welcomed into the Ford fold.

"The ultimate expression of the old gang's arrogance," Shannon wrote, "was the selection of Sen. Bob Dole -- Nixon's favorite hatchet man -- for vice president."

There he was, Gerald Ford, the known quantity. Yet that record of bad judgment never really became an issue.



Courtesy, Equal Rights Monitor

"The polls show that the one who could do best against Carter is Betty Ford!"

(Reprint Courtesy of Chicago Tribune)

Carter's. He had been asked for shorter interviews for articles and his staff had been "cordial and cooperative," though in fact no interviews were consummated. After a satirical "I Am Jerry's Brain" ran in the magazine, the White House called to offer the author a chance to "see how the real Jerry Ford's brain works." Apparently the author had seen enough of how the presidential cranium functions, for he declined the invitation.

For Carter's part, he finally gave in and declared he never

But as syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman (carried by *The Houston Post* said, it was a trick. Jerry may be personally liberal to "let" his wife sound off in public, but that is the extent of his liberalism. Betty strongly supports the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) but cannot rouse Jerry from his benign neglect of the battle for ratification.

"Where Betty favors legalized abortion when it is necessary medically," Goodman said, "Jerry opposes it when it is necessary politically."

Harris said the electorate saw its choice as standing pat with a decidedly mediocre president or taking a risk on an inexperienced newcomer.

Ironically, the people who told us to keep Ford and to fear Carter were, by and large, the same people who had told us not to force Nixon from office for fear of what then Vice President Ford might do -- or be unable to do -- in the Oval Office.

There was really nothing for those people to fear. President

League organizes debate

By Judy Vinson

On October 4, Madeleine Appel received a phone call from Ruth Clusen, national president of the League of Women Voters, informing her that Houston was being considered as a site for the vice presidential debate. While they were still talking, the press began calling on her other line asking for confirmation.

"The Yom Kippur service," Appel said later, "was the last moment of sanity I enjoyed until midnight, Friday the 15th, when the whole event was finally over."

"Even though we were by no means sure that the debate

would actually be held in Houston," Appel said, "the local board and I began making out invitation lists. At first we were told that we would have only 85 tickets to distribute, and these had to cover not only our local members and guests, but also all the Leagues in Texas, plus the state board." Eventually the LWV-H, which has a membership of around 700, was given 260 tickets to distribute.

Official confirmation was not given until Thursday, October 7. But Appel said, "When I heard Walter Cronkite announce the location on Wednesday evening, I believed him."

"The media weren't the only ones calling the League office," Kathy Watson and Rita Sallans, office staff members said. "The general public, League mem-

bers and everyone's long relatives and neighbors called asking for tickets. One man offered the League \$500 for a ticket and informed them that he had many wealthy clients. His request for a ticket was turned down, but his name was kept for use during the future finance drive.

"The main problem then became finding enough volunteers to assist the debate staff, without totally wiping out all other League activities," said Jeanette Vanderwater, local treasurer and coordinator of volunteers for the debate offices." Vanderwater coordinated the activities of the 20 League members who staffed the debate offices, while other



Madeleine Appel, president of the League of Women Voters of Houston and League members Dorothy Lockwood, Jeanette Vanderwater, Becky Moon and Judy Vinson worked on the preparations for the Mondale-Dole vice presidential debates.

WARNING: your gynecologist

... it's largely due to myths and fallacies in med school texts

By Marilyn Ivory

To the woman He said: "I will make great your distress in childbearing; in pain shall you bring forth children." Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 16.

Medicine, like the constitution, is for men.¹ For centuries, women practiced medicine and were burned at the stake as witches for it. Now it is as patients that women are punished. The male-dominated medical profession accepts a carefully constructed body of myths as gynecological science and sanctions selective mistreatment where women and so-called women's diseases are concerned.

One of the cruelest forms of sexism we live with today is the unwillingness of many doctors to diagnose people's diseases with equality. To let a patient's organic diseases go undiagnosed and refer that patient to a psychiatrist just because she is a woman is not medicine, it's punishment. Yet in 1972 it is estimated that twenty percent of the U.S. adult female population were given tranquilizers for the same diseases for which men were given medicine.² Examples are migraine headache, abdominal pains and fatigue.

The education of doctors, for and by men, can explain this. Many of the obstetrics and gynecology textbooks used in medical schools focus more on how neurotic women might be than they do on the etiology and treatment of disease. When reading them, it is easy to see why women are serving the medical industry almost as much as it is serving them. The low esteem for women results in more than discriminatory or negligent care. Last year three thousand experimental techniques were tested on women, in most cases without their knowledge.³ In some instances the results were so tragic that Congressional Hearings were called to investigate the damage done to their bodies and minds.⁴

SHE NEEDS PAIN

The use of women in experiments is usually rationalized by society with an ideology of the inevitability of women's passivity and suffering in intercourse, contraception, pregnancy and labor. In *Obstetrics and Gynecology*,⁵ a leading medical textbook, it is justified with a belief in women's need for pain and masochism. Freud's theory that pain is mere nourishment for woman's masochistic nature⁶ is the dominant theme of its fifty-five descriptions of women's minds which, in an otherwise adequate medical textbook explain much about doctors' attitudes toward women.

The portrayal of doctors and women in many gynecology texts parallels the ancient Chinese principles of Yin and Yang. The female principle of Yin stood for earth, the moon, darkness and evil, while the male principle of Yang became elaborated into heaven, the sun, light, fire and goodness. That this attitude was held by at least part of the medical profession in the past can be seen in the 1968 text *World of a Gynecologist*⁷ which states:

"If like all human beings he [the gynecologist] is made in the image of the Almighty, and if he is kind, then his kindness and concern for his patient may provide her with a glimpse of God's image."

after a D & C that has been done for diagnostic reasons. The physician has reassured and helped her in her emotional conflict. As he continues to care for this woman, he should be aware that an emotional problem exists and that this woman is under additional emotional strain during her pregnancy. Any operation can have symbolic meaning to the patient. This especially true of surgery performed in the pelvic region."

The implication is strong that surgery might be performed for its psychological effect. No mention is made of the other implications of the many unnecessary pelvic operations performed on women each year.⁹

maternal mortality is still a problem when women in childbirth are still referred to as sinners in medical texts.

Nowhere does the stereotype of woman as hysteric have more damaging application than in the text's warning that the woman's fear of injury in childbirth might be so neurotic that it could interfere with the normal progress of labor: the medical student is persuaded that he will have to administer a labor-inducing drug to "most" patients. Yet research has shown that labor-inducing drugs can lengthen contractions causing fetal respiratory distress, one of the causes of infant mortality.

the interest of men and from a male perspective. But *Obstetrics and Gynecology* clearly spells out the attitudes that other texts only imply:

"The normal sexual act . . . entails a masochistic surrender to the man . . . there is always an element of rape."

"The traits that compose the core of the female personality are feminine narcissism, masochism and passivity."

"Every phase of a woman's life is influenced by narcissism. Women then love in a different way from men. The woman falls in love with the idea of being loved; whereas the man loves an object for the pleasure it will give. She says, 'I am valuable, important, etc. because he loves me . . .' This type of narcissism finds expression in . . . her interest in clothes, personal appearance and beauty. Too much feminine narcissism without masochism produces a self-centered woman."

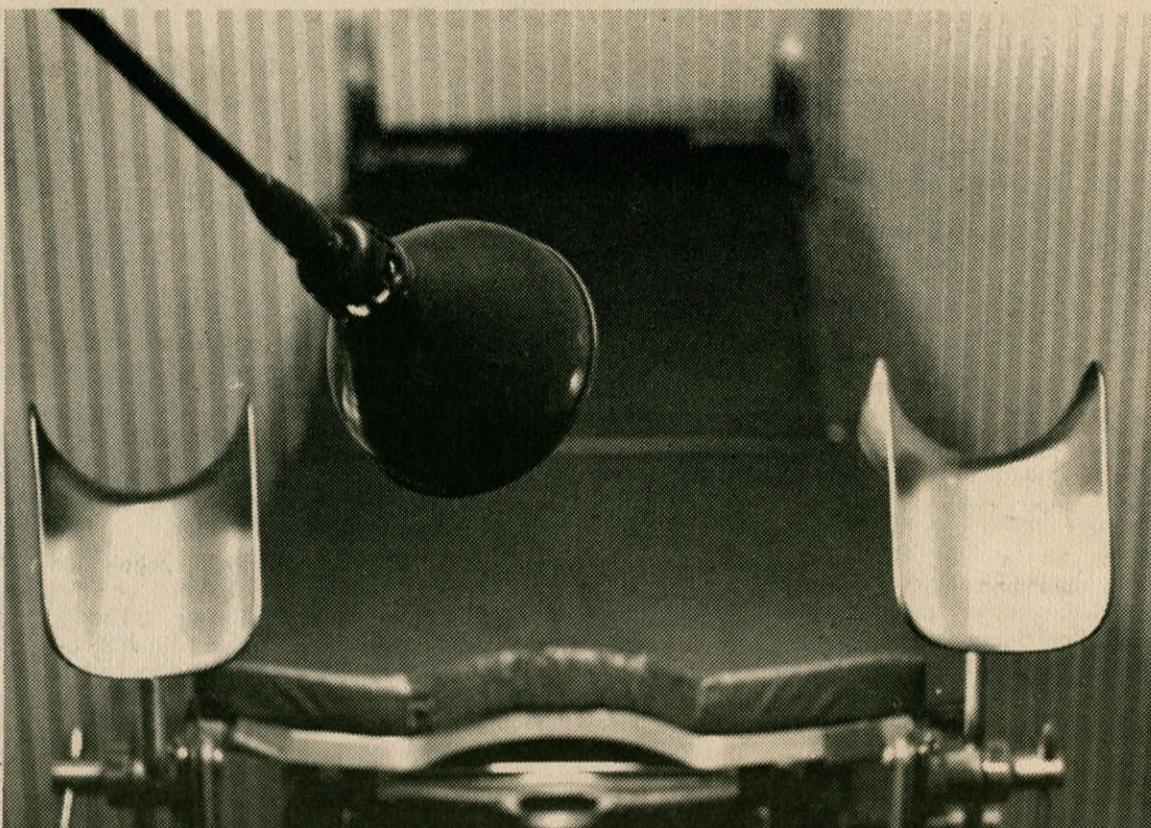
"The idea of suffering is an essential part of her life."

Since the dictionary defines "masochism" as an "abnormal condition in which sexual satisfaction depends on being subjected to abuse of pain," this text is teaching our future to define the normal patient in terms of what is clinically abnormal. Further, the text's requirement for narcissism, masochism and passivity in the "normal" woman leaves women who aren't beautiful, women who don't have children and women who aren't married outside the realm of normalcy.

"The [normal] woman gives up her outwardly oriented active and aggressive strivings for the rewards involved in identification with her family . . . and sacrifices her own personality to build up that of her husband."

One wonders how many women are referred to psychiatrists each year for not fulfilling these requirements for servitude.

One can hope that Freud's belief that women have a "lust for pain"¹⁰ does not really cause careless and painful treatment on the part of today's physicians. But a male medical student is a young impressionable person who knows little about women. *Obstetrics and Gynecology* tells medical students that "mature" women don't react to pain. And that women who suffer from dyspareunia (acutely painful intercourse) are "fearful," "anxious" women whose frustration has led to "unexpressed anger." If their pain is caused by a thick, rigid hymen, surgical incision of the hymen is recommended, but this acutely painful procedure should be done without anesthesia for the purpose of "demonstrating to the patient that she is quite capable of withstanding the discomfort . . . pain . . . is usually a valuable part of therapy."



Nancy Landau

To the woman He said: "I will make great your distress in childbearing; in pain shall you bring forth children." Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 16.

But the condescension expressed in this 1968 text is in fact surpassed by the recently revised (1971, 4th edition) text *Obstetrics and Gynecology* which is used this year in 60 of the nation's medical schools.⁸ In the latter text, women are childlike, helpless creatures who can't get through intercourse, pregnancy, labor or child-raising without "enlightened" physician intervention. The physician's will is so powerful and the woman's psyche so sensitive to suggestion that he can make an infertile woman conceive by performing an operation which will cause her to think some mythical blockage to pregnancy has been removed.

"The inability to conceive has many organic, etiologic factors, but not infrequently emotional problems may be . . . the cause. This is readily apparent in the case of previously 'infertile women' who become pregnant

SHE'S A CHILD

In the text, the woman in childbirth is just a child herself. Her doctor, even if he is a novice and she an old pro, is a fount of knowledge while she is "anxious," "fearful," afraid of "getting messy" and may feel "ashamed" and "guilty." The medical student is taught to believe that many symptoms of illness in pregnancy (excessive nausea, headache) are really a result of her "fear of pregnancy" rather than any physical condition he (all medical students and physicians are "he" in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*) need test for. She "may have fears of death during childbirth" but these fears are always neurotic, never justified. They are most often caused by guilt: she may "fear that the rewards (of pregnancy) will be damaged or denied because of past sins." It is easy to see why

The text says that women in the menopause may be even more neurotic than women in childbirth. With facile prejudice, the text explains, "The patient may seek treatment for these conditions (headache, malaise) without realizing that her basic problem is emotional." Yet these symptoms can be signs of serious disease. In one particularly dangerous example the student is told, "Postmenopausal women who have been separated from the significant men in their lives . . . may have vaginal bleeding," although vaginal bleeding in this age group is one of the signs of uterine cancer.

SHE LOVES RAPE

Many gynecology texts reveal a greater concern with the patient's husband than with the patient herself and tend to maintain sex role stereotypes in

may be dangerous to your health

This prescription for sadism on the gynecologist's part follows nicely the prescriptions for masochism on the patient's part. If cutting the hymen doesn't relieve painful intercourse, the problem could be caused by prolapsed ovaries, endometriosis or retroverted uterus, the text admits, but it is more probable that "intensive psychotherapy is definitely indicated. This therapy is directed toward helping the patient uncover unconscious fears and/or hostility relating to men."

SHE NEEDS A PSYCHIATRIST

The medical student is persuaded by the authors that women with dysmenorrhea (menstrual dysfunctions including painful uterine contractions) have no organic disease they need test for; these women simply have "personality disorders," "emotional difficulty in the home," or "neurotic predispositions." They need "sex education" and "mental hygiene" (does this mean their minds need cleaning?) if not "intensive psychotherapy." When treating such women "the husband can be helpful by not being too sympathetic and increasing the woman's guilt." A brief concession is made to the possible physical causes for menstrual pain, but the authors then quickly return to the problem of diagnosis:

"It is important to ascertain how crippling the symptom and how much emotional gain the patient is deriving from it. For example, does the whole household revolve around whether or not the mother is having menstrual cramps? Is the dysmenorrhea the locus for the expression of depression, anger or a need to be dependent?"

"The adult woman who presents this symptom very often is resentful of the feminine role. Each succeeding period reminds her of the unpleasant fact that she is a woman . . ."

Medical diagnosis is being made on the basis of myths about women rather than on any scientific understanding of painful menstruation. Rather than examining the physical causes of the problem, the text prefers to psychoanalyze in a cheap, unscientific way. Only after convincing the medical student that a woman's uterine cramps are really in her head do the authors sheepishly admit that hormone therapy will usually result in a painless menstrual period.

Another menstrual dysfunction, amenorrhea or complete cessation of menstrual periods, is often caused by endometriosis or pituitary failure. Yet the authors declare that it is more likely the result of an unconscious conflict between the woman's desire to become pregnant, and her desire not to become pregnant. That she might know her own mind on this subject is not even considered.

The authors make no effort to document these "facts," give no references which scientifically support them, and cite no case histories. Without even mentioning the grave danger of mistaking organic disease for psychosomatic illness, they brush over the serious physical causes for disease and quickly return to its more probable location -- the woman's head. The mythology goes in gear when the woman first enters the doctor's office:

"The very act of coming to the physician puts the patient in a parent-child relationship . . ."

"Any operation can have symbolic meaning to the (woman) patient. This is especially true of surgery performed in the pelvic region."

— *Obstetrics and Gynecology*

by the patient's dress, walk, makeup and attitude in answering questions, a judgment of her personality begins . . . The physician notices whether the patient is reacting to the interview in a feminine way or whether she is domineering, demanding, masculine, aggressive."

The clear implication is that if the patient asks too many questions, she is abnormally demanding! "The patient should be questioned about the sexual aspects of her life . . . when the patient fails to respond and seems to be unduly emotional about the discussion her transfer to a psychiatrist is indicated." If she is not "relaxed" during a pelvic examination with an "unlubricated speculum," she might also be referred to a psychiatrist. One wonders how she can relax when she is on trial for her makeup, walk, dress and attitude, and has been offended with questions. The student is told that women may feel sexual about pelvic examination, but not that doctors have been known to feel sexual about it as well.

The text says, "postmenopausal women who have been separated from the significant men in their lives . . . may have vaginal bleeding." Vaginal bleeding can be a sign of uterine cancer.

Only two paragraphs in the text are devoted to the hormonal role of female sexual response: one of these enlightens us about female dogs in heat and the other informs us that the sex drive of females can be increased by giving them testosterone (male sex hormone). According to the authors, trichomonas (vaginal parasitic infection) is probably a result of sexual tension. This is no more than a sophisticated version of the medieval belief that women with the unbearable itch really just need a good screw!

"The physician can help the woman discover how she wishes to relate to men in a more meaningful manner;" an incredibly pompous statement in juxtaposition with fifty-five pages of medical ignorance about female sexuality. Frigidity is defined as "occasional failure to obtain orgasm," placing 99% of women in the category of abnormal. If pleasure is felt only from clitoral stimulation, she may be referred to a psychiatrist. The doctor may have trouble curing frigidity because of "too deep a degree of pathology in the woman," never because of her

husband's poor technique. Her frigidity may develop because she "resents her husband's preoccupation with his work or his recreational activities." The physician, a "parental figure," should "discover the problems in the patient's personality" and "encourage her to mature sexually."

Twenty-seven gynecology texts written over the past three decades were reviewed by Diana Scully and Pauline Bart in the *American Journal of Sociology* in January 1973. They confirm the idea that medical science has made little advancement for women. No text Scully and Bart examined incorporated Kinsey's 1953 findings that orgasm without stimulation "is a physical and physiologic impossibility for nearly all females" or Masters and Johnson's 1966 findings that portions of the vagina have no nerve endings and lack sensation and that although orgasm is felt in the vagina, the feeling derives from stimulation of clitoral nerves. A 1956 gynecology text even states that when sensation is limited

to the clitoris this "is apparently due to habit (masturbation) and aversion to normal cohabitation."¹¹

SHE DOESN'T NEED A CLITORIS

In the nineteenth century under the influence of Freud, doctors instructed husbands to avoid the clitoris during love-making; Freud thought that clitoral pleasure retarded the woman's ability to experience a "mature" orgasm, that is, one deriving solely from the penis. In 1962 we still read "if there has been much manual stimula-

tion of the clitoris it may be reluctant to abandon control, or the vagina may be unwilling to accept the combined role of

arbiter of sensation and vehicle for reproduction."¹²

Several texts said that most women were "frigid" and two instructed gynecologists to teach their patients to fake orgasm. Scully and Bart concluded that "these texts used Kinsey's report selectively; findings which reinforced old stereotypes were repeated, but the revolutionary findings significant for women were ig-

nored. For example, one often finds in the textbooks that the male sets the sexual pace in marital coitus, but nowhere is it mentioned that women are multiorgasmic."

Nine of twelve texts published in the last decade preferred the traditional female sex role: in 1967 we read "an important feature of sex desire in the man is the urge to dominate the woman and subjugate her to his will; in the woman acquiescence to the masterful takes a high place."¹³ And a 1970 text states, "The frequency of intercourse depends entirely upon the male sex drive . . . the bride should be advised to allow her husband's sex drive to set their pace and she should attempt to gear hers satisfactorily to his. If she finds after several months or years that this is not possible, she is advised to consult her physician as soon as she realizes there is a real problem." Again, no call for the man to act on the problem.¹⁴

One can easily see the influence of patriarchy on medical knowledge. It took medical

science several centuries to discover that the clitoris is the female organ of sensation although people in pre-patriarchal societies knew it. Even when the supremacy of the penis and the myth of the vaginal orgasm did not reign over anatomic knowledge, the recognition of clitoral control was simply used to manipulate women: in an 1899 gynecology text we read "it is advisable to use electricity or an exhaust pump to enlarge the size of the clitoris in cases where it is deficient in excitability. This procedure has been successful in making satisfactory wives."¹⁵

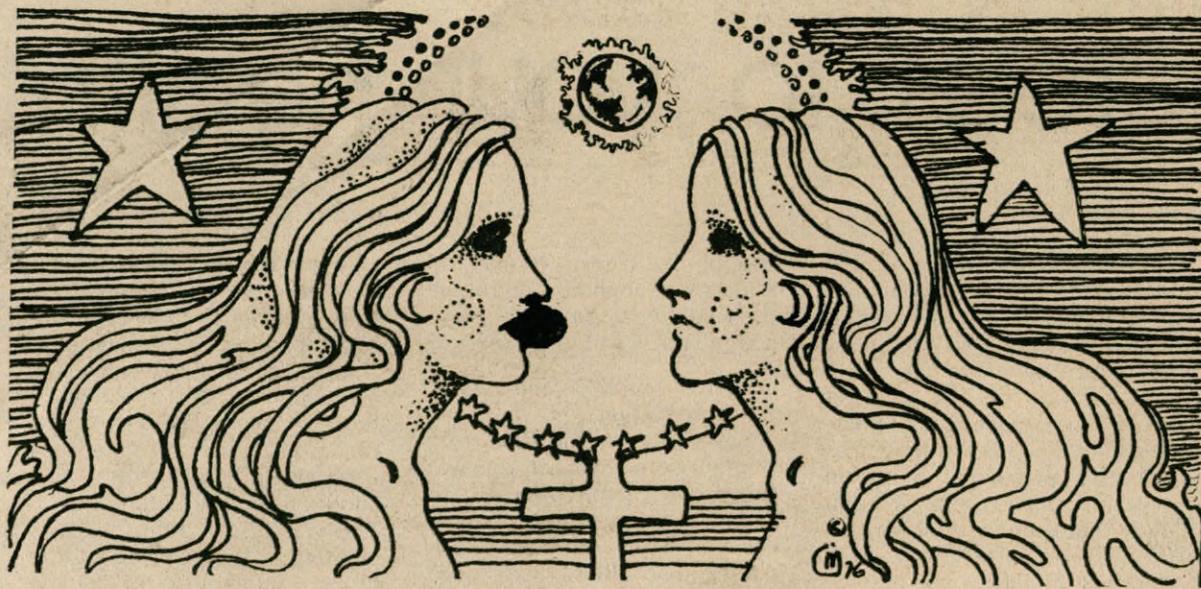
In a 1926 text doctors were instructed to expose the clitoris to x-radiation to "diminish the hypersensitivity of women suspected of excessive sexual activity."¹⁶ Around the turn of the century, hundreds of American women were treated for "self-abuse" in the most barbarous fashion -- clitorectomy.¹⁷ This was justified on the basis of medical opinions about the proper appearance of female genitals -- those of a virtuous woman were thought to be pink and soft with a clitoris that was hardly protuberant.

If the attitudes of gynecologists make women paranoid, rushing to a psychiatrist may be of little comfort. Freud reigns there as well. In a recent article "Femininity and Paranoia" in the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*,¹⁸ required reading in some medical school courses, Dr. Leonard Sillman explains to medical students that their role as future psychiatrists is to help women accept "reality," that is, sexual oppression, which exists because of women's biological inferiority. Women who have careers usually feel guilty, says the doctor, but "where the sense of guilt is weak, the woman vents her hatred of men by emasculating and rendering ineffective or impotent the individuals involved." The menopausal woman is a "shriveled shell of a woman, used up, sucked dry, de-sexed and, by comparison with her treasured remembrances of bygone days of glory and romance, fit only for the bone heap." Female anatomy is "designed to be a receptacle subordinate to the male's and from his and her exaltation of aggression and its symbol the phallus, she becomes turned by the unconscious into a thing to be 'used,' 'enslaved,' and subjected to the unjust social circumstances they must live with so that their bitterness does not rob their husbands of their right to love. A part of the woman is profoundly envious of the superior physical power and strength of the male." Analysis must focus on "her sadism, which longs for masculinity . . . and, with its urge to degrade and debase . . . seeks to macerate and consume the ego of her husband with incessant derogation, criticism, nagging." The good doctor concludes that a psychiatrist must "persuade a female patient to abandon her wish for a penis on the ground of its being unrealistic."

Admittedly, the psychiatric profession is undergoing changes in treatment of women. But reform in psychiatry will not help women who receive psychiatric referrals from their gynecologists for symptoms of uterine cancer.

With doctors like these for friends, who needs enemies?

Footnotes, page 12



Satellites: potential benefits for women

By Karen Barrett

A mind-boggling communications technology may come within our grasp very soon.

On October 17, 1976, the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA) sponsored a two-day conference, a "Public Service Communications Satellites User Requirements Workshop," in Easton, Maryland.

They invited 140 persons from both the public and private sectors to participate, in hopes of defining public service communications requirements. NASA intends to use information gathered from this workshop as a guide for the possible formation of a possible public service communications satellite system.

The occasion of these discussions is a recent set of technological breakthroughs which will put a new breed of satellites in orbit -- satellites capable of transmitting telephone, television, radio and telegraph signals directly to relatively small (three-foot diameter), inexpensive (\$500 -- \$1500) antennae. A tantalizing prospect of large-scale communication facilities available to small groups and individuals at low cost is rapidly unfolding. As we have seen production costs drop on other technologies in the recent past, we may be able to look forward to ground receivers for satellite communications which cost no more than television sets, or even pocket calculators!

NASA's concern for employing these new satellites in the public interest may be linked to

the fact that this new technology, unlike previous electronic communications technologies such as the radio or telephone, is the product of more than \$80 billion worth of taxpayer-funded research. It might be conceived of as a return on twenty years' investment in the space program.

Breakthrough editor Gertrude Barnstone, in her capacity as a member of KPFT Radio's Local Pacifica Advisory Board, was one of the few women invited to the Easton workshop. Other minorities were even more sparsely represented (one Black and one Indian were present). The possible applications of the new satellites were discussed from the standpoints of educators, environmentalists, librarians, physicians, consumer activists, religious leaders, and various other persons involved in information processing, community organizing, social services, and communications media, as well as a few people representing commercial interests.

Barnstone was the only participant to visualize the benefits that satellite communications technology could bring to the women's movement. She proposed that it be employed for the promotion of social equality for women, through education and increased awareness, through enactment of new legislation and through enforcement of existing laws.

Barnstone foresees two-way satellite communication as a

tool with which to maximize the impact of local, regional and national groups through coordi-

nating their efforts in filing lawsuits and pressing for new legislation. Government representatives might be contacted directly.

Women's groups all across the country could be kept current on each other's activities and could thus benefit from each other's experiences and avoid duplication of efforts. Women in remote areas who are without formal organization might be put in touch with individuals and groups who have faced the same problems.

Satellites could open national meetings, important speeches and other significant exchanges of ideas to the response and participation of people who could not ordinarily afford to attend.

Women across the country need to be made aware of the resources which exist to help them. They need to know their legal rights, their educational and vocational opportunities, the availability of day care facilities and havens for battered wives -- where to seek

advice and counseling on all aspects of their lives. Data collection and exchange on these vitally important issues, on all areas of women's status, would be facilitated by a public interest satellite system. Barnstone cites employment statistics as but one example of the type of information which might be processed better with the use of satellite technology.

As an information source and an organizing tool, a public service satellite communication system presents a vast array of hopes and possibilities for women. Barnstone, a veteran of similar discussions of the high-minded uses to which cable television could be put, has her misgivings and hopes that this will not prove to be another instance of a technological breakthrough co-opted for strictly commercial use.

Should NASA establish a public interest satellite system, we must be prepared to demand access to it, to do our best to see that it operates in our interest.



GLENNA CLOUD of the Houston Women's Health Collective speaks to the Women's Group at First Unitarian Church.

Sunday mornings at 10 am Women's Group meets

By Suzanne Gray

"We are a group of feminist women engaged in the struggle toward self-transcendence and universal becoming. We feel that the liberation of language (to name the self, the world) is rooted in the liberation of ourselves."

So Iris Sizemore interprets the philosophy of the Women's Group at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. It's a vibrant, vital gathering which strives to meet the needs of women in a liberal atmosphere.

The Group, which meets at 10 a.m. each Sunday, is not limited to members of the church. Ruth Leddy, one of the founding mothers, welcomes "friends of the church." Nor is it a rigidly structured organization. It began about a year ago with spontaneous, informal rap sessions around the fireplace and evolved into the planned programs which have attracted so many women.

Dale Hill, a psychotherapist, will speak on November 7 about homophobia, or fear of our own

sex. Dr. Hill says, "Since most of us are more comfortable with what we have always known to be familiar and acceptable, we develop fears and resistance with someone out of the norm -- i.e. homophobia." This engagement was triggered by fear one woman expressed in associating with radicals and/or lesbians in the women's movement.

November 21, Virginia Davidson, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Baylor, and a private practitioner, will discuss the ethics, or lack of ethics, of the therapist-patient sex issue. She delivered a paper on this subject to the American Psychiatric Association in Miami this year. Dr. Davidson says, "The image of women as available sex objects for their physicians is a notion that permeates our popular culture, and our medical advertising as well."

Leddy stresses the idea of "shared leadership from the group of women who come." Planning sessions are open to anyone with ideas for speakers or programs. The general plan is to alternate Sundays of

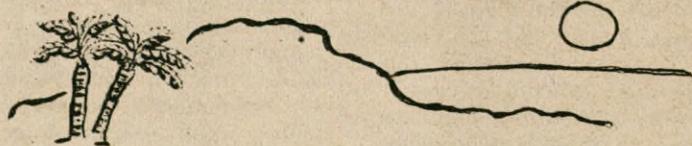
prepared programs with Sundays of open discussion for follow-up. Past speakers have included Dr. Nikki Van Hightower, Houston Women's Advocate; Glenna Cloud, Women's Health Collective.

Ann Harris, who is not a church member, spent three months seeking a consciousness-raising group. Eventually, she was referred to the group at the First Unitarian Church. Harris feels that no place else offers their broad spectrum of programs and speakers. She was impressed with the strong self concepts of the women involved and with the feeling of exploration and absence of "game playing."

Sizemore has often been asked why the group accepts only women participants -- if indeed this doesn't perpetuate the division of the sexes. She replies that the newness of women's identity, as individuals and as a group, warrants this exclusivity. "If women get together, tell the truth, even acknowledging our fears, we can find the common strength to be free."

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The fate of Fourth Ward



Annabelle "Mama" Fontenot, born and raised in the Fourth Ward, points to the area where she attended Colored High School in the 20's. It was the only high school in Houston where Blacks were admitted. In the background, the Houston skyline gets closer to the Fourth Ward with each new urban renewal project. Residents fear displacement. Mama Fontenot says "they're not moving buildings, they're uprooting people. I want the city officials to have that on their conscience. And," she adds, "I want Blacks to remember that when they vote for these public servants."

Fontenot says she wants the Mayor to know that the Fourth Ward area is not all a slum. Homes here are modest but most are well cared for (40% of homeowners are Black). Mama says that even "shotgun shacks" can be pleasant to live in if taken care of. She feels that the area along West Dallas has been allowed to deteriorate and become an "eye sore" so that special interest groups could blot out the predominantly Black area.

By JoAnn Vallie Rush

She calls herself "an advocate for all poor people," "a champion of the grass roots" and "a people lover." But to people who know her, she's Annabelle "Mama" Fontenot. Indeed, Mama is a moving force behind the fight to save Fourth Ward from an almost certain death.

It's being speculated that a move is underway by special interest groups to blot out the predominately black area, to make way for high-rise buildings and businesses that would be an extension of downtown Houston. Many Blacks don't want to see this happen; Mama Fontenot is one of them. She says she first championed the Fourth Ward cause when she heard Mayor Hofheinz say that the area was not worth upgrading. Outraged at the statement, Mama marched down to City Hall the following Wednesday and gave the mayor a piece of her mind.

Fontenot says the Fourth Ward dilemma is not an isolated case, that poor inner city areas all across the country are being quietly phased out to make way for urban development and renewal. But Mama says she's not going to take what's happening lying down. "Fourth Ward is dear to my heart because that's where I was born and reared." She says too many people forget their roots and where they came from.

Talking about that small pocket of poverty, Fontenot visualizes how the first ex-slaves and their families must have settled in the area. She says that as the granddaddy of all the wards in Houston, Fourth Ward has strong historical significance. Fontenot says it was Blacks who first settled the area and first owned the land, no doubt unaware that the area would be so much in demand, due to its closeness to the central business district of downtown Houston.

Mama says when she was a little girl, Fourth Ward encompassed all of what is today the Allen Parkway, all the way to the area where the Shamrock Hilton Hotel now stands. Then

the majority of the grassy, undeveloped land was owned by Blacks. Today, Fourth Ward encompasses Allen Parkway and the immediate surrounding areas and, according to Mama, is now 60% owned by white landlords and 40% owned by Black homeowners. Fontenot believes that more often than not, Black property owners were persuaded to sell by slick-talking developers who gave them less than their money's worth. Since white landlords have taken over the area, the homes have been allowed to crumble and local banks have red-lined the area. Only the poorest of the poor reside in Fourth Ward today.

Some say that those who are championing the Fourth Ward cause are fighting a losing battle against inevitable progress. Fourth Ward residents, however, see nothing progressive about being pushed from one poor area of the city to another, to be crammed once more into dismal living quarters. Fontenot is of the opinion that poor areas of the city should be upgraded and not neglected. She says that with the aid of citizens in Fourth Ward, ministers, concerned state representatives and the support of city officials, Fourth Ward can develop once more into a striving community. And Mama urges Black Fourth Ward tenants to channel all their energies toward getting landlords to upgrade the homes they're renting out.

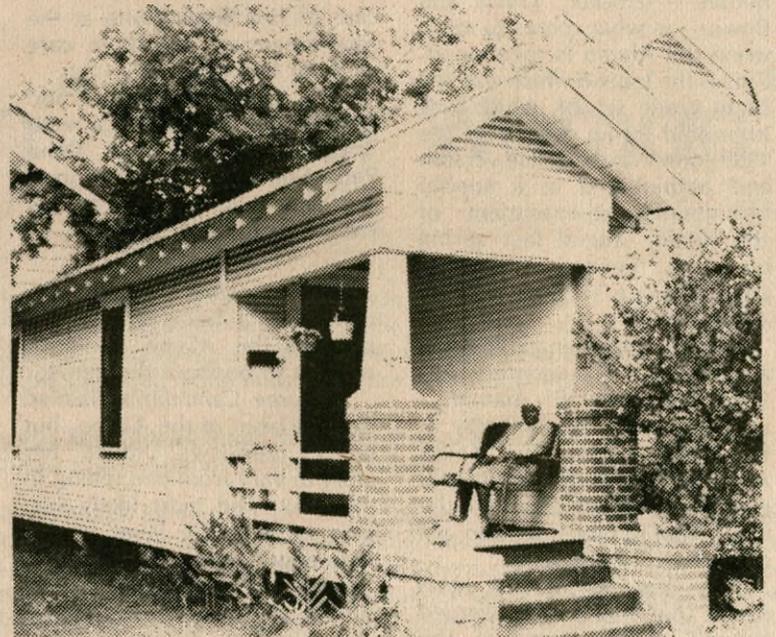
Some hope for upgrading Fourth Ward lies in the community development program, but it seems to many as though the program has been dragging its feet. The program is supposed to help upgrade homes of poverty-level senior citizens and low-income families by providing home improvement grants and loans. So far, however, it has been besieged with problems which have slowed its progress.

Mama Fontenot attributes her activism in the community to her Christian background. Her first love is churchwork, but she's also actively involved in the League of Women Voters, Women in Action and Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of

Errants. And if that isn't enough, Mama is also a volunteer lobbyist in Austin. Mama says she will never grow too old to relinquish her community involvement. She says old folks can contribute so much to the young generation "that they don't need to take a seat in a rocking chair and dip snuff once they reach sixty."

Concerning her immediate task of saving Fourth Ward from a seemingly inevitable death, Fontenot says she's going to muster up city-wide support for the cause. Mama is planning more trips to city hall on the matter and she's going to continue to pray. She says she has faith in God that someone will hear her prayers and help.

What will happen to Fourth Ward no one knows. But certainly its fate depends upon the concern and compassion of people like Mama Fontenot and the attitudes of our elected city officials.



Mildred Spencer, lifelong Fourth Ward resident, said she loves the sense of community in the Ward. Now handicapped, she only has to walk a short distance to her church, shops and neighbors. photos by Marilyn Jones

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Remember the Alamo?

Women were there too!

By Jo Anne Gerhardt

"A hundred and eighty were challenged by Travis to die
By a line that he drew in the dust as the battle drew nigh.
He that stepped over the line was for glory
And he that was left better fly.

Over that line stepped a hundred and seventy-nine.
Hey, up Santy Anna -- we're killing your soldiers below
So the rest of Texas will know And remember the Alamo!"

— J. Bowers
Vidor Publications

For most of us, this romantic version of the old mission stoutly defended by mythic heroes -- Crocket, Travis and Bowie -- is what comes to mind when the Alamo is mentioned. This is the legend which was fed us in grade school, which was imprinted in our hearts by the 1959 John Wayne movie version and perpetuated in a special bicentennial re-enactment of the battle, staged last spring by the Texas Army at John Wayne's Brackettville Alamo set.

Filming the re-enactment for a television documentary entitled *Recuerden El Alamo!*, I was struck by its similarity to the Wayne epic. The Texas Army adheres to the traditional romantic interpretation all the way -- one in which women are conspicuously absent.

Very few people are even aware that there were women present at the siege of the Alamo. History, colored as always by the biases of historians, has operated selectively. Transmission of this story from *anglo* father unto son has all but erased the part played by women and even discounted the role of Mexicans, who after all were the victors.

Talking to the Texas Army or the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, either will give you a convincing account of what happened on or about March 6, 1836, in this battle which has been so celebrated in Texas history. Both versions are essentially compatible with the John Wayne account. The interpretation given by each is ritualized and reinforces itself in the public memory.

A recent translation of a Mexican officer's diary by Mrs. Carmen Perry claims that Davy Crockett was hiding when captured. Such heresies are rarely discussed openly. Women's participation in the event, like Davy's cowardice, is also kept a secret.

In the John Wayne movie, the women and children were allowed to leave the mission before the final attack of the Mexican Army. Actually, some fourteen noncombatants remained throughout the siege and were the only survivors. These were mainly women and children, San Antonio citizens of Mexican heritage. No source can verify all of their names, but

the presence of the following women at the Alamo is well-documented.

Mrs. Horace Alsbury, formerly Mrs. Alizo Perez, born Juana Navarro. At the time of the siege, her father was an officer in the Mexican Army. Juana Navarro had married Dr. Alsbury in January of 1836, a short time after she had been widowed. When news of Santa Anna's approaching army reached San Antonio, Dr. Alsbury left his wife and her eighteen-month-old son, Aligo Perez and her younger sister, Gertrudis Navarro, to travel to the East in search of a safe place for the family. The women and children were left in the care of Jim Bowie, who at the final siege was too ill to care even for himself.

Mrs. Gregoria Esparza and her four children, along with Trinidad Saucedo and Dona Petra Gonzales, were also present at the battle but little is known about them.

Mrs. Toribio Losoya was married to a Texas soldier who died in the Alamo and was present throughout the battle.

Madame Candelaria claimed to have been in the Alamo, but many interviews proved her story to vary from one telling to the next. The most likely version is that her lover was a messenger and she left the Alamo with him prior to the final assault. In her later years, she claimed to have been Bowie's nurse and to have hurled her body over Bowie's in an attempt to save his life; however, the Mexican soldiers

pushed her aside and bayoneted him to death. The 1836 records do not bear this story out, but when Madame Candelaria died in 1899 at the age of 113, she was given a full military funeral. During her lifetime she received a pension as a survivor; her story was fully believed by many interviewers who never fully investigated it.

There was, in fact, one *angla* present at the Alamo, inevitably the only woman to merit an occasional mention in the history books. This was eighteen-year-old Suzanna Dickenson, whose infant daughter Angelina is referred to as the "Babe of the Alamo." However much Texans might cherish the name of the sacrosanct "Babe," Angelina Dickenson was notable in later years only by virtue of being turned down by the Texas legislature for a scholarship with which to continue her college education.

Women figured more prominently on the Mexican side. *Soldaderas*, camp followers, comprised almost a third of the Mexican military force. They followed Santa Anna's troops throughout Texas, serving as cooks, companions and nurses and at times as soldiers, fighting beside the men, enduring all the hardships of the march. One general in the Mexican Army, an Italian who was accustomed to European methods of warfare, objected to the presence of *soldaderas* and demanded that Santa Anna order them to leave. The latter dismissed this request, saying that if he were to order them to



at 30



at 60

Suzanna Dickenson was about 18 at the time of the Battle of the Alamo. Her husband, Almeron Dickenson, was in charge of the Alamo artillery. Her second husband, Peter Bellis, accused her of running a brothel in Houston and divorced her. Her third and last husband, J.W. Hannig, saw Dickenson converted to the Baptist faith.

leave, half the army would desert.

The 1976 Brackettville event was all male with few exceptions. The Mexican artillery had one *angla* (female derivative of the Spanish word *anglo*) dressed in uniform. The Mexican Army was comprised of *anglos*. General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was played by a Chicano bystander. Since there are no Mexicans in today's Texas Army, he was drafted for the part.

The competition was heavy for roles like Travis, Crockett and Bowie. Five men competed for the role of Davy Crockett (the role John Wayne played) and eventually this part was

given to the best-costumed one, who had learned to play the fiddle for the occasion.

Davy could actually play the fiddle and did so for the troops the night before the final assault.

The role of Santa Anna -- the general who won the battle, and outstanding general throughout his military career, apparently was not as sought after.

The wives of the members of the Texas Army were generally non-participants in the Brackettville event. Several women were costumed and played fictitious parts as wives inside the Alamo walls -- one claimed to be the wife of Davy Crockett in a film interview. Actually, Elizabeth Crockett was in Tennessee with the children in 1836 and only came to Texas years later to claim her land grant as did other widows and relatives of those who died. Davy was once asked about the family he left in Tennessee and remarked, "I've come to Texas -- they have been set free."

A review of our heroes' backgrounds indicates that they had failed in law (Travis), in politics (Crockett), and business (Bowie), so some perhaps were in Texas because of problems elsewhere.

The Alamo itself is maintained by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. In a film interview Mrs. Charles A. Hall, a representative of the Daughters, credits the original preservation of the Alamo to a woman, Clara Driscoll, whom Mrs. Hall refers to as a "great lady," leaving the audience with the impression that Clara Driscoll was a genteel, delicate woman who never raised her voice. Her philanthropic nature cannot be disputed, but as it was noted by other sources, "Politicians learned to respect her: she could drink, battle, cuss and connive with the best of them, outspend practically all of them." This description



A woodcut printed in a *Crockett Almanac* of the 1840's shows Elizabeth Crockett assisting in the killing of a marauding bear. History says the marriage of Elizabeth Crockett (1788-1860) to Davy Crockett after the War of 1812 was one of "convenience." Both she and Crockett lost their respective spouses. Davy Crockett needed a guardian for his children so that he could pursue a career in politics. After her husband's death at the Alamo she took advantage of her land grant from the Republic of Texas and moved to the frontier. She died in what is now Hood County and a statue is still standing in the Acton Cemetery near Granberry.



probably better fits a woman who negotiated with a New York hotel syndicate to prevent the Alamo from being demolished for a new construction site. Clara Driscoll was also Democratic National Committee-woman for the state of Texas from 1928-1944.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas have given little or no credit to Adina de Zavala, who actually occupied the site for three days in 1908 without food or water protesting the sale of the Alamo to this New York hotel syndicate. Adina de

Zavala also belonged to a local chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. However, the state Daughters of the Republic of Texas (all *anglas*) was given custody of the Alamo and the Adina de Zavala faction left the Daughters. Obviously, the group lacks Spanish-surnamed daughters today, reflecting another historical inaccuracy and giving substance to accusations of racism leveled against the DRT.

The re-enactment of the battle at Brackettville lasted three hours. Some families had

arrived the night before and were anxious to leave as soon as the battle ended. Women and children who generally had not participated in the activity, save for maintaining the camp, were retrieving their coonskin-capped male counterparts and departing. As Santa Anna once predicted, the women were leaving and the men followed these modern day *soldaderas*.

The army was dispersed as the sun sank into the horizon of a deserted John Wayne Alamo set.



MADAM CANDELARIA

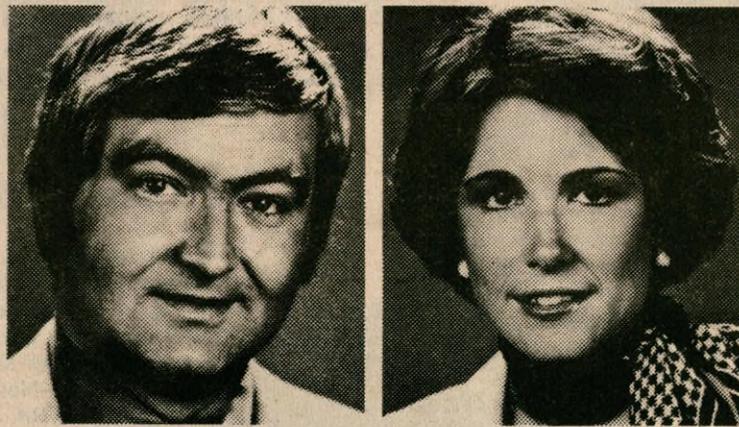
This photo of Madam Candelaria (1785-1899) was made two years before her death at age 113. She is holding a Mexican hairless dog which slept at her feet, curing her rheumatism. At this time she was totally blind.



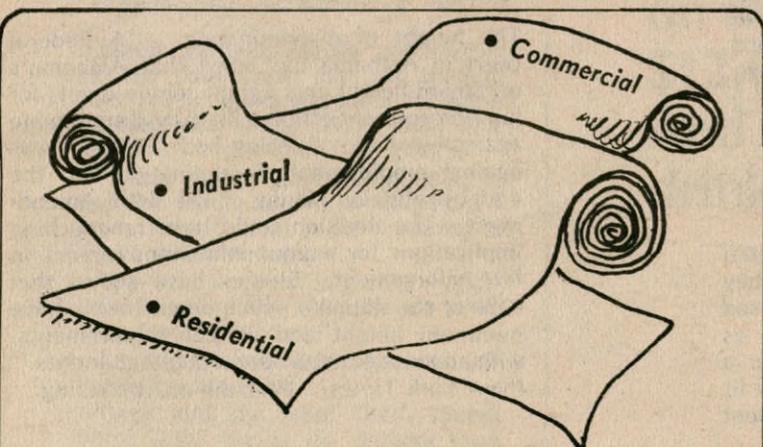
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EYEWITNESS NEWS



Pats and Pans

Gabrielle Cosgriff, Editor

Award a **PAT** to Mike Connors, who was on a TV talk show recently to plug his latest made-for-TV movie, "Revenge for a Rape." He said that making the movie had raised his consciousness tremendously about rape, in that he had not realized the severity of its effects both on the victim and on those around her. He went on to do a little consciousness-raising of his own, by pointing out that most rapes are not even reported and that the victim is usually treated as if guilty of a crime.

Jeff Millar, worthy recipient of a Dead **PAN** this month, has another claim to notoriety. He provides half the wit for the Chronicle's 'Tank McNamara,' a jock-full-of-fun comic strip. His co-author is Bill Hinds.

Does this have a familiar ring? "It's a shame we have to exist . . . we are doing the work of the big newspapers and television stations . . . the major media carry no serious news about us . . ." No, it's not Breakthrough, it's a newspaper put out by and for the elderly. **PAT** the Elder, started by VISTA volunteer Greg Huth in New Haven last year. Huth feels the elderly are discriminated against by the media. "There is no news about older persons except 'cute stuff' such as when somebody turns 104 years-old in a nursing home," says Huth.

Consumer advocate Jack Woods strikes again . . . and again in his new news role this fall as the "Gulf Coast gadfly" on KLYX. In a recent commentary on those "water boy" flood land promoters whose schemes Woods calls "welfare for the wealthy," and "socialism for the rich," he warned consumers in Fort Bend county they were about to be hit by a blivet. What is a blivet, you ask? "Why it's ten pounds of manure in a five-pound bag." **PAT** the timbre of Woods' reporting.

A joint **PAT** to the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Department of Public Welfare, who are sponsoring a series of thirteen one-day seminars throughout the state on child abuse. A record 34,834 child abuse cases were reported in Texas last year and almost a third of these were confirmed, a spokesperson said, adding that only about one out of every 10 cases reaches the attention of authorities. The Houston session will be held December 3. For information, contact the State Bar of Texas in Austin.

Carol Vance, Harris County District Attorney, has distributed a publication to area businesses called 'Crime Prevention and the Businessman,' featuring the new Texas Penal Code statutes concerning business crimes. His forward is addressed to "the Businessmen of Harris County." **PAN** Vance's sexism. The booklet was printed by the Responsive Printing Company. We wish.

"Newsmen were told . . ." Yes, folks, it's Frank Agraz of Ch. 13 again. He still hasn't learned that word 'reporter.' Our latest polls indicate that he holds a commanding lead in the Chauvinist Pig **PAN** race. (media division).

Ring up a **PAT** to the Texas Civil Liberties Union for a timely phone call to the Texas Department of Public Safety. "TCLU was contacted by a woman who had been denied enrollment in the cadet training program by her regional DPS office. The reasons for the denial were patently specious. There was no question that the woman was qualified. A phone call to the DPS state offices in Austin, suggesting that a sex discrimination suit would be filed, resulted in the immediate admission of the woman into the cadet training program." (TCLU Action Report).

Mary Jane Schier, Post medical writer, did a story "Woman gets vital nutrients from vest" (Post Oct. 21), in which the subject asked to be referred to in print by her first name. Mary Jane wrote "The feminine liberation tendency to refer to women by their last names only is not for her." Prescribe a **PAN** for Mary Jane. We know she's unfamiliar with the movement but medical writers should get their terms straight.

'Fritz' Mondale didn't exactly come off smelling like a rose recently with his remarks that Gen. George Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was unfit to be a sewer commissioner. Dean Hill, vice chair of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, wrote Mondale saying that she works hard being a sewer commissioner, and that if her department did not function competently "it could cause a stinking backup." Mondale's office replied that the senator holds the sewer commissioners of this country in great regard. **PAT** Hill for protesting the odious comparison.

A bipartisan **PAN** to both major presidential candidates. In their third televised debate they were asked if they would support any proposed amendments to the constitution. such as abortion, prayer in schools, gun control or a balanced budget. Neither one of them saw fit to mention the ERA as being an amendment worthy of their consideration.

MARvin ZINDler, Ch. 13 Eyewitness News commentator deserves a **PAT** on the pate for his recent story on two women who lost their jobs at Liberty Mutual Insurance because they were enrolled in law school (evenings). They were told this was company policy. Zindler reports they were excellent employees and had just received promotions. Zindler was furious and said that the policy was "crazy." Their company would not comment on the charges "in anticipation of legal action."

Texas Right to Life of Houston polled the candidates on 1) Do you support a human life amendment to the U.S. constitution which protects life from conception to natural death? and 2) Do you oppose the direct or indirect use of local, state or federal tax funds to pay for abortions or abortion facilities, personnel or supplies? A **PAN**ful of local replies: Walter H. Mengden, Jr.: "Keep up the pressure and you shall prevail. You are doing God's work and doing it well." Jack Ogg: "So far as I know, I am in total agreement with your entire program." Durward Johnson (write-in): "These are moral questions, but so is death by electrocution. It is time legislators thought more about moral laws than laws of immorality. If elected, I will pledge myself to standards of moral decency, and will get enacted a law to fence all apartment swimming pools for the safety of our children." J.L. Brisco: "Thank you for the opportunity to express my sincere support for your concern for life." Jim Clark: "Yes, I agree because I am a Christian and have a strong feeling for life . . . I would have to see how the amendment was written and that it didn't condemn any of our women to shame or to death."

Earl Butz out. A **PAN** is too inadequate for the former Agriculture Secretary's obscenities about Blacks, which caused him to resign, but he gets one anyway as does President Ford for not firing him immediately. The incident occurred while Butz was en route to Mexico to help dedicate a screw-worm eradication plant.

President Ford has had a full page ad running in several newspapers, which shows a photo of him immersed in thoughtful discussion with several Black leaders. The caption reads "For Black Americans, President Ford is quietly getting the job done." Too quietly for some, apparently, since he neglected to ask the other people in the photo for permission to use it. One of the participants, Vernon Jordan of the National Urban League, protested the use of the photo and said that he did not intend to support Ford. **PAN** Ford for his quiet job.

The height of discrimination. "A Federal court in Alabama has ruled that Alabama's minimum height and weight requirements for law enforcement officers illegally discriminate against women, violating both Federal laws against employment discrimination and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. The decision could have far-reaching implications for women who want careers in law enforcement. Studies have shown that 97% of the nation's police departments have minimum height and weight requirements, with an average minimum of 5 feet, 8 inches." (New York Times). **PAT** the court's ruling.

Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Houston, deserves a **PAT** for pushing through a rider to the State Board of Control's proposed budget to assure minority enterprises an equal opportunity on state business deals. Leland said the action would help improve conditions in the minority communities of Texas in that "we will now begin to identify minority businesses which can meet some of the needs of the state and we can educate and encourage them to bid for state contracts."



Jeff Millar

Dead Pans

The future of women's advocacy

Excerpts from *A History of the City of Houston*, 1984

BACK WHEN THE office was first created, a woman's advocate for the city government seemed like a good idea. No one was arguing with the fact that the female employees of the city needed someone who'd look out for their interests in the midst of a male-dominated administration.

But if the men who created the office thought the office would be safely cosmetic, good PR designed to get the Feds and nutcase feminists off their backs, they had another think coming.

The first indications that the woman's advocate had clout occurred when she was able to get a whole city department renamed. She determined that the title of the Manpower Division was "inappropriate." It was changed to "Comprehensive Employment Training Division" over the objections of the City Controller's office that all correspondence from the newly-renamed division required two sheets of paper just to accommodate the letterhead.

The woman's advocate then discovered an obscure paragraph in some title of some Federal municipal assistance program. It was determined

that the city could be denied towering piles of Federal matching sums if the city were caught engaging in vaguely-defined "sexist behavior." With the considerable leverage of being able to blow the whistle to the Feds, the office of woman's advocate suddenly developed clout. It quintupled its staff as the woman's advocate began her "mandate to completely desexify city government."

When it was learned that some male city officials jokingly referred to themselves as "male chauvinist pigs," the OWA began a massive crackdown on jokes.

"Humor is no defense," announced the woman's advocate sternly in a televised address. "Sexism aside, city government is serious business. There's no room for joking. Jokes in city hall should be taken as seriously as those in airport departure lounges."

Special agents of the OWA's Humor Squad began patrolling hallways. Men's rooms were equipped with hidden microphones. High level city officials were confronted with tape-recorded

evidence of having said "tootsie," "cupcake" and the like. Most resigned after a court test determined that a city employee's right to joke was "limited to the privacy of his/her own home."

In 1977, OWA won its most dramatic victory to date, finally crushing its most truculent opponent, Public Works, with a stunning one-two punch. First, after a two-year struggle, Public Works, following the other city divisions such as Real Estate and Legal, agreed to drop "department" from its title. The OWA had determined that the last syllable of the word was sexist.

When Public Works refused to change the word "manhole cover" to the OWA recommended "Subterranean Work Area Access Portal Closure Device," OWA succeeded in getting a Federal court injunction authorizing OWA to impound and remove all the offending objects. Public outrage over the disappearance of 24 children and their tricycles forced Public Works to comply.

By 1979, the OWA's 5,240 employees had moved into their own 23-story building in the Allen Center complex. More than 2,000 additional staff

were hired to begin what the woman's advocate called "the final thrust of civic desexification."

OWA determined that "a subtle sexism" existed in many of the city's street names. OWA Nomenclature Alternation Specialists began the task of providing new names for streets which the woman's advocate promised "will be as close as possible to what residents are used to — without containing sexist syllables."

Quitman St. was renamed Quitperson St.; Manchester St. was renamed Running Among All the Ship Channel Industries St. despite the objections of residents of the area that the new street signs caused their yards to die from lack of light.

In 1984, OWA issued what it conceded would be its most unpopular decision. Saying that "sexism is sexism," more than 150 city employees were required to change unacceptable syllables in their names.

Rather than lose their jobs, all those affected complied except one councilperson, who complained that he would have to change his entire surname.

When told of the councilperson's reaction, the woman's advocate said: "Tough toenail."

Appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* (801 Texas, 77002) on October 3, 1976.

Submitted by Jana Pellusch

Woman writer barred from UT dressing room

Austin (AP)—A female sportswriter for The Daily Texan says she tried to interview Longhorn players in the dressing room after Texas' 13-12 victory over SMU but was prevented from going in.

"Naked football players scampering to and fro would not be a distraction," Laura Tuma insisted in the University of Texas student newspaper.

"My only purpose," she said, "would be to listen and take notes. No one would even know I was there."

A policeman noticed her, however, and barred her entrance.

Tuma said she asked Coach Darrell Royal about visiting the dressing room after games.

"No women and that's that," replied Royal.

"Would you consider —?"

"No," he said. "It might not bother you, but it would bother the boys."

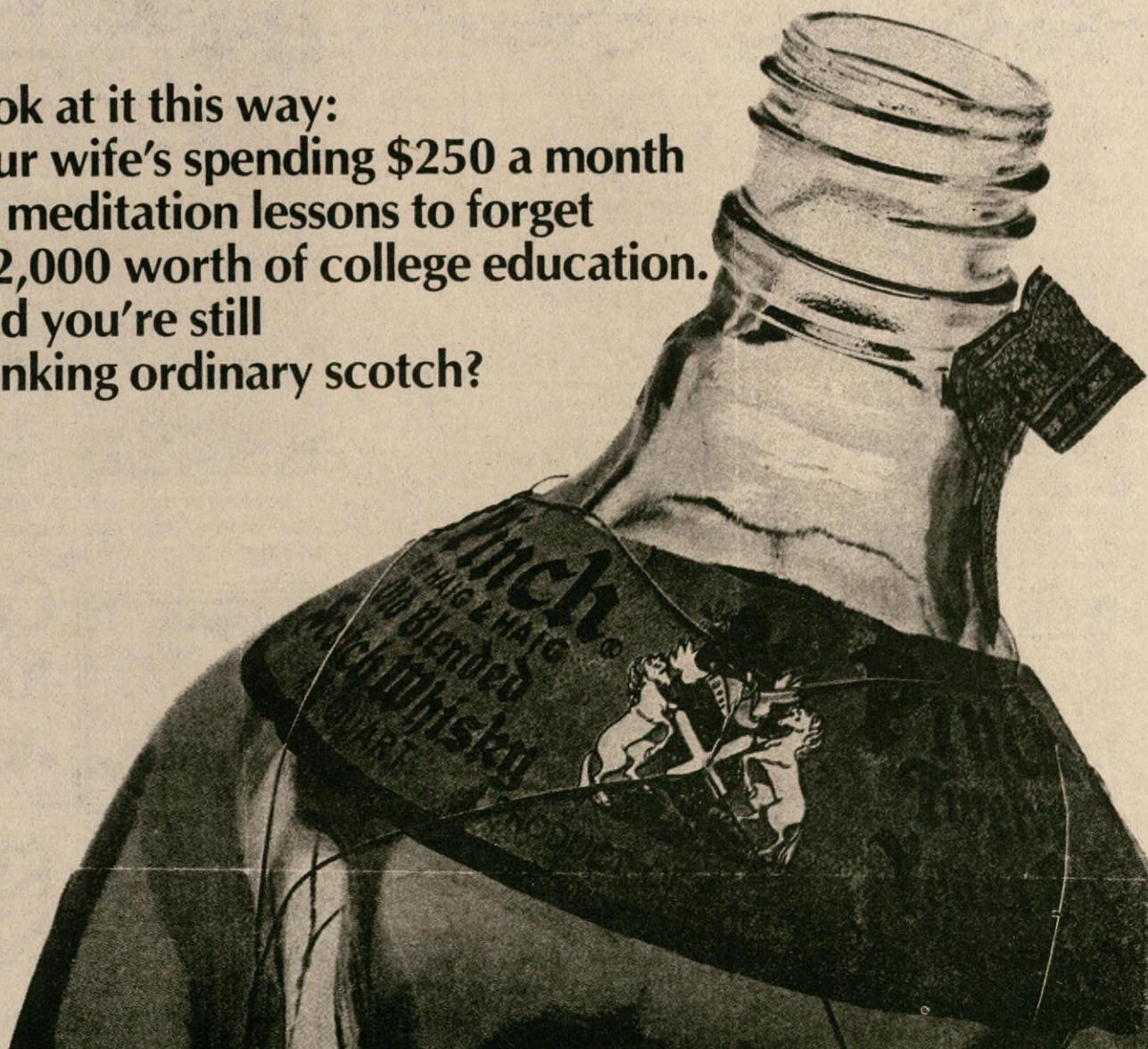
"Could you arrange some way for women to conduct postgame interviews?"

"Well, I give interviews all the time, but not in my bedroom," she said Royal replied.

Appeared in *The Houston Chronicle* October 27, 1976
Submitted by Jan Cunningham

Submitted by Dave Gibson

Look at it this way:
Your wife's spending \$250 a month on meditation lessons to forget \$12,000 worth of college education. And you're still drinking ordinary scotch?





MARTINA STAPLES

getting started: in law

By Barbara Hugetz

After eleven years of teaching high school English and four years of attending law school nights and summers, Martina Staples, at age 34, was sworn in by the Supreme Court of Texas on November 1.

"I simply was not realizing my potential in teaching. It became increasingly frustrating and inhibiting to me particularly in the amount of record-keeping and lack of administrative support. Law school," she says, "was the most exhilarating, mind-expanding experience of my life."

At South Texas College of Law, Staples became a member of the South Texas Law Journal and received the Journal's award last spring for the outstanding article published in the

field of federal law. She also qualified for the school's honorary fraternity, Order of the Lytae and received two American Jurisprudence Awards for the highest grades in her torts and family law classes. In addition, Staples was honored with recognition for scholarship by the national chapter of her law fraternity, Delta Theta Phi.

Despite her law school credentials, Staples found employment difficulties in the law profession. "I interviewed for a number of legal positions before deciding to go into private practice," she says.

"Although it is true that every profession is now open to women, law firms still only hire a nominal number of women.

As one interviewer told me, 'We just want to be sure we get the right female.' *The one and the only one* is what they are saying."

When she first entered law school she was single, recently divorced. "Both financially and emotionally it was tough," she says.

The greatest difficulty she found in law school was the lack of a strong support base.

"When a man enters a professional school, he is embraced with support from family and a degree of envy from other men. When a woman does the same thing, she is still often con-

fronted with why she is not getting married, having children or caring for her family full-time."

Interviewed in her office at 711 Main, Staples said that the main area of law practice in which she would like to see reform is domestic relations.

"Too often in the past women have not participated as fully as they could have in their own legal battles because their lawyers made the decisions." She adds that women have encouraged this by looking on their lawyers as father-figures to take care of them. However, increasingly, women are wanting

to know what are their legal rights, risks and options.

"Formerly passive and accepting women who are at the crossroads of their lives in becoming autonomous and independent persons certainly want enough information to make their own decisions.

"I like best what Eleanor Roosevelt said concerning women and life. '...we discover what we really are and we make our real decision for which we are responsible. Make that decision primarily for yourself because...The influence you exert is through your own life and what you become...'"

"When I get home from the office, it's feet-up and find-out-what-I-missed time. My man is Steve Smith. He's really a cut above anybody else in town."



Let Steve and his friends Alexis South and Ron Franklin make your day, weeknights at 6 and 10 p.m.



Come home to Steve Smith at 6 and 10 p.m.

KHOU-TV NEWS 11

footnotes continued from page 5

1 Ehrenreich, Barbara and English, Deirdre. *Witches, Midwives and Nurses*. Glass Mountain Pamphlets, Oyster Bay, N.Y.

2 based on statistics gathered by Dr. Linda Fidell, Assoc. Prof. of Psychology, California State University; Sex Differences in Health Care, American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, 140th Annual Meeting San Francisco. In 1972 40% of U.S. adult female population were prescribed mood altering drugs. About half of these women manifested symptoms of physical disease.

3 Adams, Aileen and Cowan, Geoffrey. "The Human Guinea Pig: How We Test New Drugs" in *World*, December 5, 1972.

4 Depo-Provera, IUDs, injectable contraceptives and DES were a few described in Kennedy's Congressional Hearings "Quality of Health Care -- Human Experimentation." Hearings before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, U.S. Senate, 93rd Congress, Parts 1a and 3, February, 1973.

5 J.R. Willson, M.D., C.T. Beecham, M.D. and E. Carrington, M.D. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 4th edition. C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis. All quotes in this paper are taken from 55 page descriptions of women's minds (Chps. 4&8 entitled, "Psychology and life periods of women" and "Sexual responses of women, dys-

menorrhea and premenstrual tension.") Copy of text with quoted passages outlined is available upon request.

6 Freud, "The Economic Problems of Masochism." 1924 *Collected Papers*, Vol. II.

7 Scott, R.C., M.D. *World of a Gynecologist*. London: Oliver and Boyd, 1968.

8 Statistics supplied by C.V. Mosby Publishing Company, St. Louis.

9 Ralph Nader has published in his column "Nader Reports" in *Ladies Home Journal* that 50% of hysterectomies are unnecessary, according to a poll of leading pathologists.

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11 Ruben, I.C. and Novak, Josef. *Integrated Gynecology: Principles and Practice*. New York: McGraw Hill, 1956 p. 77.

12 Parsons, Langdon and Sommers, S.C. *Gynecology*. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, 1962, 1962.

13 Jeffcoate, Thomas. *Principles of Gynecology*. London: Butterworth, 1967.

14 Novak, E.R. and Jones, G.S. and Jones, H.W. *Novak's Testbooks of Gynecology*. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1970.

15 Lewis, Denslow. Reprinted in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* by M.H. Hollender, M.C. 1970, p. 108.

16 *Diseases of Women*. C.V. Mosby Co., St. Louis, 1926.

17 Greer, Germaine, *The Female Eunuch*.

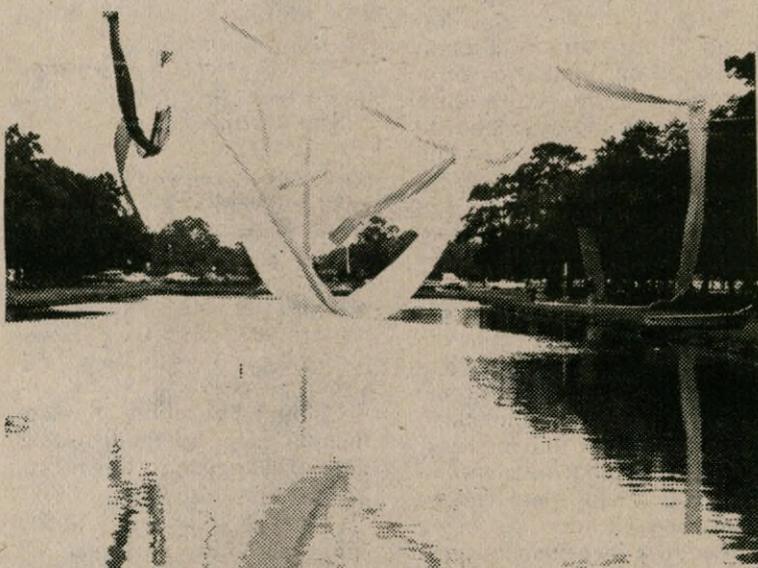
18 Sillman, L.R., M.D. "Femininity and Paranoidism" in the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*. Vol. 143, No. 2 p. 163.

Arts and Reviews

on the other side of Main Street



Artist GERTRUDE BARNSTONE (far left) got lots of help unfurling 250 yards of blue and yellow nylon fabric up and over the Hermann Park reflecting pond for the recent Main Street '76 Art Festival.

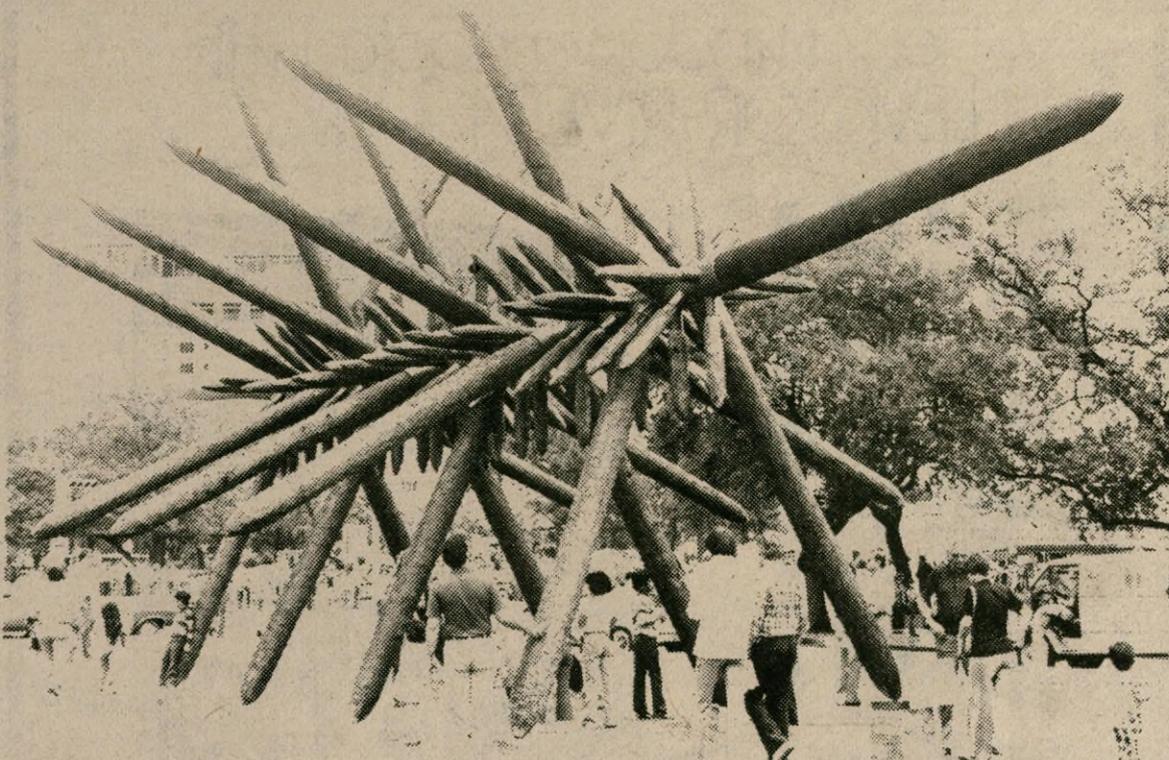


"Flowing nylon fabric interacts with wind and creates constantly changing forms -- a swaying sensor and reflector of air movements. In all of its vulnerability, fabric sculpture is thrilling and unique because it has a life of its own, ever changing and independent of its maker."

Gertrude Barnstone

photos by Arlo Moore

Arlo Moore



STICKER WOMAN BY JAMES SURLS
First Prize in Visual Arts Projects
Main Street '76

Ideas on "Sticker Woman"

By Becky Zeller

To the subconscious of every woman, politically unaware, who sees this sculpture, a reinforcement of fear is again established to be forever aware of the power of the penis -- the patriarchal system. Not to question absolutely, much less buck the patriarchal (male) hierarchy. Not only is this piece a blatant symbol of power, it can be compared to the porno-violence of the film *Snuff*.

"Sticker Woman" is a phallus with knives projecting from it to kill when inserted. It simply represents -- symbolizes -- the death of womankind at the hands of the male system.

What is most interesting is that in the raw naivete of this Texas male artist, he has made an object blatant in an art world that has worked at trying to be subtle, that has denied the existence of sexism and has presented its male art in male abstract form, consequently couching the patriarchal power in supposedly "high" art. I think the male art world has always understood the subterfuge it has perpetrated on the public, and this is proven by its stupid -- *stupid politically* -- award given to Surls for exposing a truth that's been so deviously hidden.

I will not undermine Surls as an artist -- in his honesty he has actually done all women a service. Only after sexism is so blatantly exposed can we fight it. As long as it is denied, it is impossible.

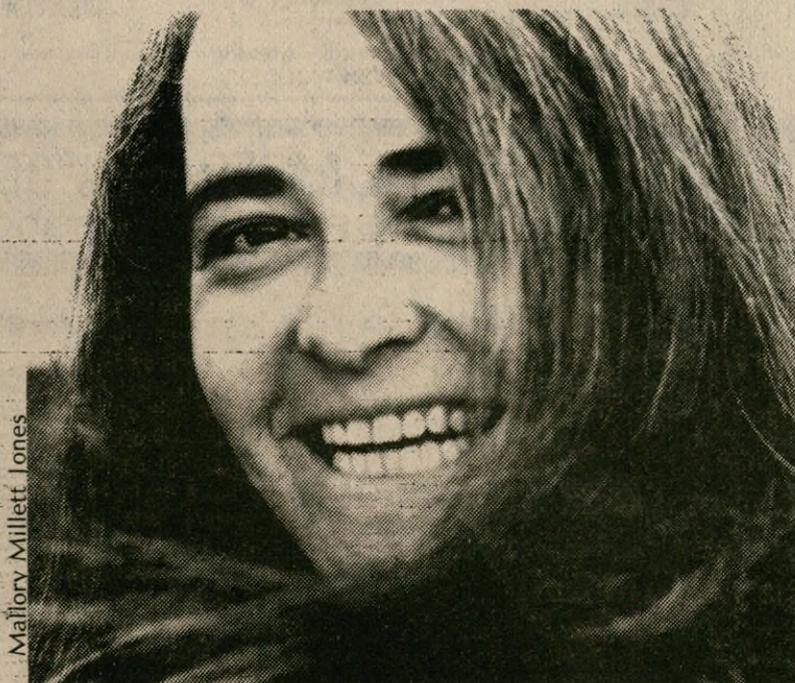
Millett coming Nov 18

Kate Millett, renowned feminist author, is coming to Houston November 18 to speak on "Female Sexuality."

Scholar, teacher, creative thinker, Millett is one of the most famous, most admired women in the feminist world.

Her first book, *Sexual Politics*, brought instant fame including her picture on a cover of *Time* (Kate Millett of Women's lib" August 31, 1970). The immense problems of dealing with the overnight change in the tenor of her life resulted in her second book, *Flying*. As with most second books by writers who have achieved sudden success, *Flying* earned both intense admiration and vicious attacks. Millett survived both.

Her creativity does not stop with the written word. She is a filmmaker and has had one-woman shows of her sculpture in Tokyo and Greenwich Village. An active member of feminist groups, Millett has also worked for the Congress of Racial Equality and with NOW.



Mallory Millett Jones

KATE MILLETT

Kate Millett is always searching for new approaches and new interpretations. She likes to write a new piece for each

lecture. Her lecture on "Female Sexuality" will be at the UH Agnes Arnold Hall at 8 p.m. on November 18.

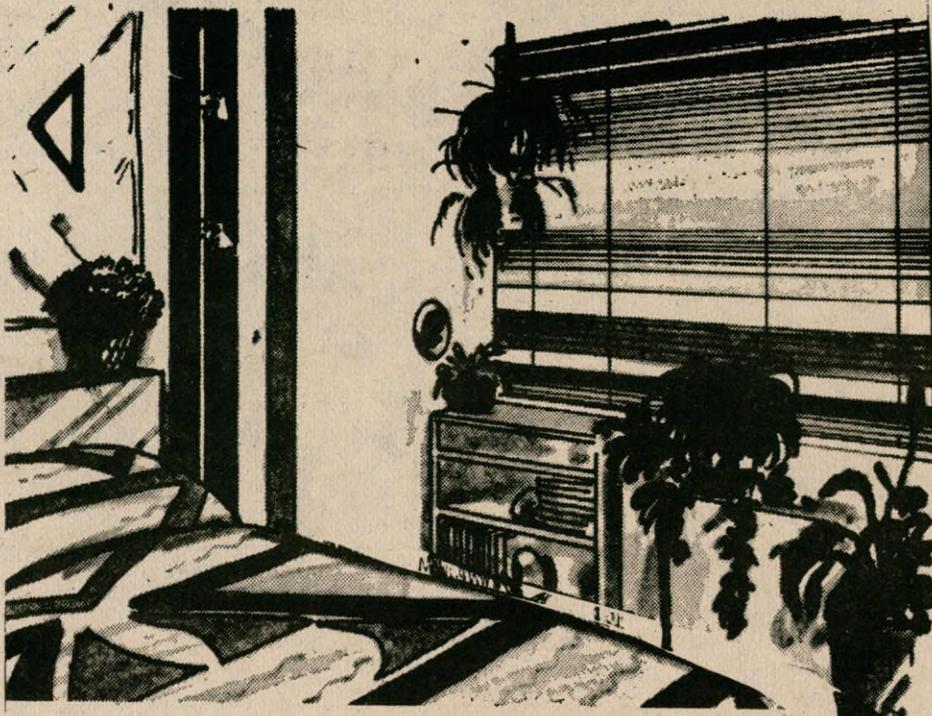
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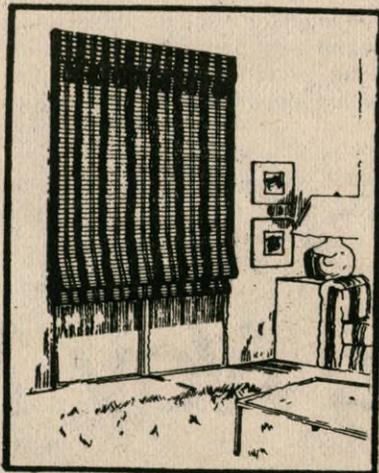
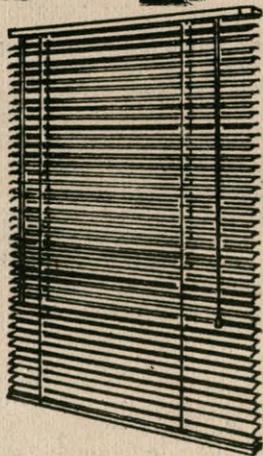
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MANPOWER

continued from page 1

Toward the end of the job descriptions was one for a security guard. The pay was over \$700 per month and the only requirement was a high school diploma. I pointed it out, and the counselor laughed so loudly that every head in the office turned in our direction. "Be realistic," she said.

After having spent several hours at the center, I had to leave to meet other obligations. I was told to return the next morning when, hopefully, they would set up interviews for some of those office jobs. After several queries about child care it was suggested I try to get on a waiting list for "Headstart." One counselor offered me some helpful advice. Since I hadn't any work experience it would probably help to impress my future boss by "fixing yourself up." (I was wearing a neat skirt at the time.) "Wear stockings, a nice dress, makeup -- you know what I mean."

Gehrig Coleman, a Rice student, was curious too and offered to go through the program himself. His assumed background was similar: divorced father of two with no support; little job experience; two years in college. When he arrived at the Service Center, only one other applicant was waiting, which created a relaxed atmosphere. Coleman completed an application form immediately; the CETA program was fully described to him; and he was offered testing and training. In response to his question on child care, he was given the name of a nursery where he was told he would receive reduced rates.

Saying that he preferred immediate placement, Coleman and a Texas Employment Commission counselor discussed jobs in labor, sales and management training. He told me later, "It's possible that because I'm a man and had some college experience I ended up being pointed to a management position." He was eventually offered an interview for a job as manager trainee earning about \$700 per month.

The practice of counselors earning points for every applicant placed in jobs encourages direct placement. However, the main ambition of CETA is to provide vocational training.

Many CETA applicants receive training at the Skills Center, 1500 Louisiana. Although the center is a division of Houston Community College, the majority of the 466 students presently enrolled are CETA participants. Of these, 81% are Black, 14% are Mexican-American and 5% are White. Trainees are pre-tested for aptitude in a given vocation prior to enrollment at the center. During training each student is counseled regularly to ensure his or her satisfactory completion of the course. "We train competent employees ready to enter the local job market." Students can work at their own pace in one of the 17 courses available. Ernest Luna, director of the Skills Center, stresses "student accountability."

Two hundred women are enrolled in training programs, 90% of them in the "clerical cluster," which includes file clerk, steno I, and clerk typist training. One man is enrolled in this area. About 15 women are being trained for non-traditional jobs, and the ones I spoke to requested this training on their own initiative. Most of these named higher earnings as a prime incentive for their choice. They like the programs at the Skills Center and felt they've received the same treatment and training as their male counterparts.

Janice Melton expects to find a good job as a machinist after graduation. But Theresa Chavez, a welder, thinks she'll be lucky to find a job as a trainee when she's through. She feels a man would not have any problem.

The promise of CETA is realized in these few women. They exude determination, foresight and self-confidence. But for the majority of women, who do not already possess an awareness of the broad range of their alternatives when they enter the program, is CETA just another dead-end street?

In his new \$4,500-per-month office at One Allen Center, CETA director Palmer Bowser outlined services one should expect to receive at one of four CETA Service Centers in the city.

He was as cool and polished as the room he occupied.

Standardized achievement tests, "hand-on" skills aptitude assessment and counseling are used to evaluate all clients, he said. A report is then made indicating four choices for that candidate and she or he is referred to such supportive centers as VGS, Inc., Houston Skills Center and the Urban League.

General Education Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs are also offered.

CETA received over 10,000 applicants in the past year. Of that number, 3,049 completed job training programs and found permanent, unsubsidized jobs. Bowser feels that this is a "good average," and explained that some participants enter college or the armed forces. Describing the CETA program as a "big success," Bowser sees these positive effects on our city: it benefits the economy, reduces welfare recipients, builds individuals' self-esteem and reduces crime.

The majority of CETA participants are women. Not only are they accepted in every area of training, Bowser said, but counselors are urged to encourage their training in non-traditional fields. This view was repeated at UH's Center for Human Resources, which trains CETA counselors. Free day care centers are also provided.

When informed of my experiences, Bowser replied, "I don't think it is indicative of the system as a whole."

The CETA program is a study in contrasts. That women are not receiving true equality in guidance and training is a present reality. That they will be a promise that is long overdue.

League, continued from page 3

Leaguers worked during the week at the local office. Lynn League, Chair of the Housing Committee, directed the thirteen Unit Chairs who served as ushers and were thus unable to actually see the debate.

Aileen Moulton, prospect coordinator for the Houston League, who worked in the debate staff headquarters, was fascinated by the numerous details and the frantic activity which is necessary to put on a television show, Nancy Mauch, Voters Guide chair, who also

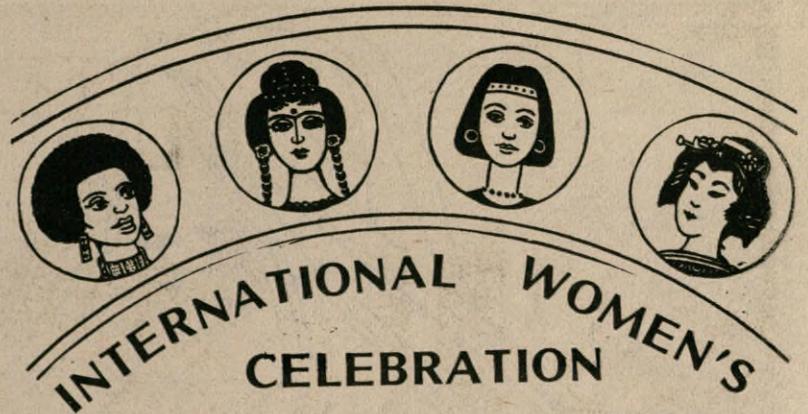
worked at the Alley when she wasn't involved in distributing the Guides, said that "at one time, not only were the telephone men doing their work, but others were taking pictures of them doing it. Caterers were trying to serve lunch to the technical staff while they were trying to lay cables, the press was trying to get in, decorators were bringing in furniture for Dole and Mondale's dressing rooms, union officials were settling a dispute, and everyone else was hurrying around or talking into a telephone, a walkie-talkie, a headset or, if they were Secret Service, into a microphone in their sleeve."

When she first saw a Secret Serviceman with a plastic ear plug, Nancy Douglas, Chair of the Administration of Justice Committee spoke loudly and distinctly because, she said, "I thought the poor fellow was deaf. And when he began to talk into his sleeve, I thought he was crazy."

By early Friday afternoon, the preparations were completed -- the candidates had tested the facilities, the tickets and press credentials had been distributed and the police barricades were being put up.

Was having the debate in Houston good or bad for the local League? "It was a tremendous experience for all of us to play a part in making the first vice-presidential debate possible," Appel said. "Deciding who would get tickets did create some problems, though. Most of the public and League members were very understanding but naturally, some felt slighted by not being able to attend. And our long distance telephone bill will be horrendous, even though the national League will contribute a certain amount to help meet our expenses."

Will the Houston League ever again invite the national League to hold a debate in Houston? An enthusiastic member replied, "We're already making plans for 1980!"



University of Houston
November 8

12-2 p.m. — Pacific Room — AFFECTION (Bulgarian film about a girl growing up)

2-4 p.m. — Pacific Room — MAHANAGER (Indian film about a working wife)

4-5 p.m. — Atlantic Room — WOMEN IN MAINLAND CHINA (slides and discussion)

5:30-7:30 — Pacific Room — LUCIA (Three Lucias in various periods in Cuban history)

8-9:30 — Houston Room — INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PANEL (Women from countries around the world compare women's roles)

November 9

2:30-3:30 p.m. — Pacific Room — THE KOUMIKO MYSTERY (Documentary about a modern Japanese woman)

3:30-4 — Pacific Room — SAMBIZANGA (film about a young Black woman and liberation in Angola)

6-7 p.m. — Pacific Room — WORKSHOP — Women's Rights/Human Rights (Third World women share feelings)

7-8 p.m. — Houston Room — RECEPTION Honoring UH International Women

8-10 p.m. — Houston Room — INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOW (National dress from around the world)

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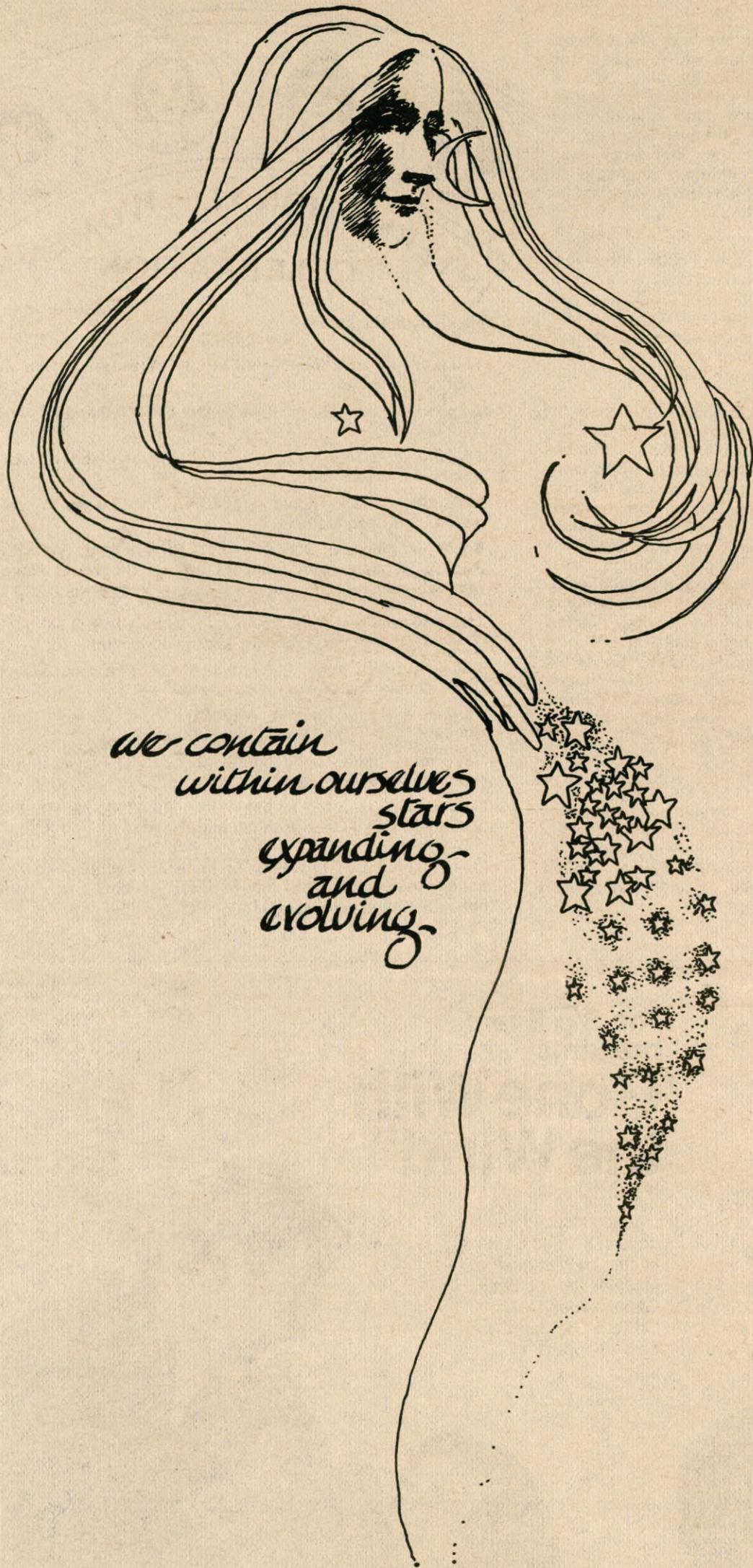
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UH continued from page 1

shall not, on the basis of sex, apply different rules or regulations, impose different fees or requirements, or offer different services or benefits related to housing . . ."

Van Hightower said that since UH is a state university receiving federal funds the regulations "would deal with all university facilities" including the dormitories.

"I think they have absolutely no business in trying to lock the women away. It's just the same old stereotype of women being protected," Dr. Van Hightower added.

"My own personal opinion is that we're dealing with human lives. Many girls have a certain satisfaction that it (UH dorm policy) comforts them from rape and other crimes such as theft," Thomas S. Pennet, UH Associate Director of Housing said.

"We have had some incidents (of rape) in the past five years but none for two to three years now," he said.

Pennet said that "things improved dramatically and there were no assaults" since around -- the -- clock security guards were added to the all-female tower of Moody Towers dormitory. The female students living there are required to complete a form giving a guest's name, phone and room number where they will be visiting.

"My recollection is that there were two actual rapes in the bathroom areas of Moody Towers and one attempted rape about five years ago," Pennet said.

Yet Pennet said there was the same number of rapes in the UH Quadrangle dormitories, which include two co-ed dormitories where both women and men live on the same floor. Pennet also said there were "no incidents of rape in the Quad" in the past two to three years.

He said that many female students desire the policy of limited visitation along with the parents of new students who "select this for their daughter."

"I'm caught" Pennet said. "I'm in a position of you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. If we don't have some kind of guidelines we're going to catch all kinds of hell."

"To be real frank with you, if they (students) don't like it they can go live somewhere else," Pennet said.

A few women students verified that they felt safer with the security and visitation policy. But they were in the minority.

In a recent poll of 80 dorm residents from all dorms on campus, 80 per cent of the students felt that signing a guest in and out infringed on their guest's privacy. A 70 per cent majority of students felt that their own privacy was invaded by the practice, and 79 per cent of the students disagreed with the policy of requiring females to sign male guests in and out.

Ninety per cent of the women in Moody Towers wanted more visiting hours as compared to only 30 per cent of the Bates Hall residents. One hundred per cent of the men polled wanted to keep 24-hour visitation in the all-male dorms.

Ironically, 76 per cent of the students thought females needed more protection than men. Sixty per cent of the males polled thought women were discriminated against in the UH dorms compared to 43 per cent of the women who felt they had been discriminated against.

Beth Tudor, anthropology junior, said that many female students "commonly refer to Moody Towers as the 'virgin vault.' You feel like a virgin being jailed in an ivory tower," she added. "Security and the people at the desk were literally keeping tabs on who visited you." Tudor said she "had a bit of a run in" with one of the security guards who currently works in the security at the dormitory. She added that she would tease her about the male friends she had to her room. Tudor said that the security employee's friends that worked at the desk on other shifts kept track of her visitors and would also try to embarrass her.

"They've (desk personnel) given some women bad reputations. They are just like little sponges," Tudor said. "The thing about locking women up is that it attracts the men and creates a mystique." The former Moody Towers resident now lives in a campus co-ed dorm.

"If an SA (student advisor) wants to get in to visit his girlfriend, he can very easily -- and believe me they do," she said.

Tudor said that she would not be afraid without the security personnel. "That's never bothered me. It seems to me if you are old enough to be in college, then you're old enough to take the precaution of locking your door and not letting any strangers in."

Tudor added that a student would be confronted with the same situation when living off-campus after graduating. "Let's face it, there's going to be men in the world and risks. Even if it bothers you, you can't change that fact."

There are other laws that might apply to discrimination in UH dorms. An attorney who considers himself "well-versed in the federal housing discrimination laws" said that he "is of the opinion that it (the UH policy for all-female dorms) violates these laws. The policy is obviously discriminatory," he said.

The attorney has a private practice and also works in cooperation with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He said "the only way to know for certain that the practices are illegal would be to try them in a court case."

The attorney, who requested that his name be withheld, referred to Fair Housing section 3601 through 3631, including section 3604: ". . . it shall be unlawful . . . (b) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin."

Another ACLU cooperating attorney, Patti O'Kane, said that it is a violation of Title IX. She also said if she were to prosecute a similar hypothetical case, she would refer to the state Equal Rights Amend-



UH women students sign in all male visitors. There are no restrictions for men students in their dorms.

ment or Article I section 3a of the Texas Constitution. It states that "equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin."

"Both of these are applicable but as far as direct channels go, trying the case with the state constitution would be much faster," said O'Kane. O'Kane said that trying the case with Title IX would involve more red tape because the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare would be the prosecuting party instead of a private citizen.

O'Kane cited a case based on the Equal Rights Amendment, Texas Woman's University (TWU) v. Chaykintaste Et Al., concerning sex discrimination. Two TWU students sued the university because females were required to live on campus and males were not. The case was won in the lower courts but by the time it reached the Supreme Court the university changed the policy to apply to both sexes with equal force.

UH Coordinator of Housing, Bobby Brownstein, disagrees about the legality of the UH policy. He said that he thinks

the policy for all-female dorms are legal because the women vote on the policy in a referendum each fall. Brownstein said that there has not been a referendum yet this fall because "the students in charge of it have been dragging their feet." He added that the residents of the all-male dorms do not vote on their dorms' policies.

Yet Brownstein does agree that "there is a double standard and there's no way of getting around it."

Brownstein was aware of Title IX and also the TWU case. He wrote a hand-out for a convention of university and college housing officials which UH hosted last summer.

He said that "the UH policy is quite liberal compared to Baylor's and other universities" which permit less visitation than UH.

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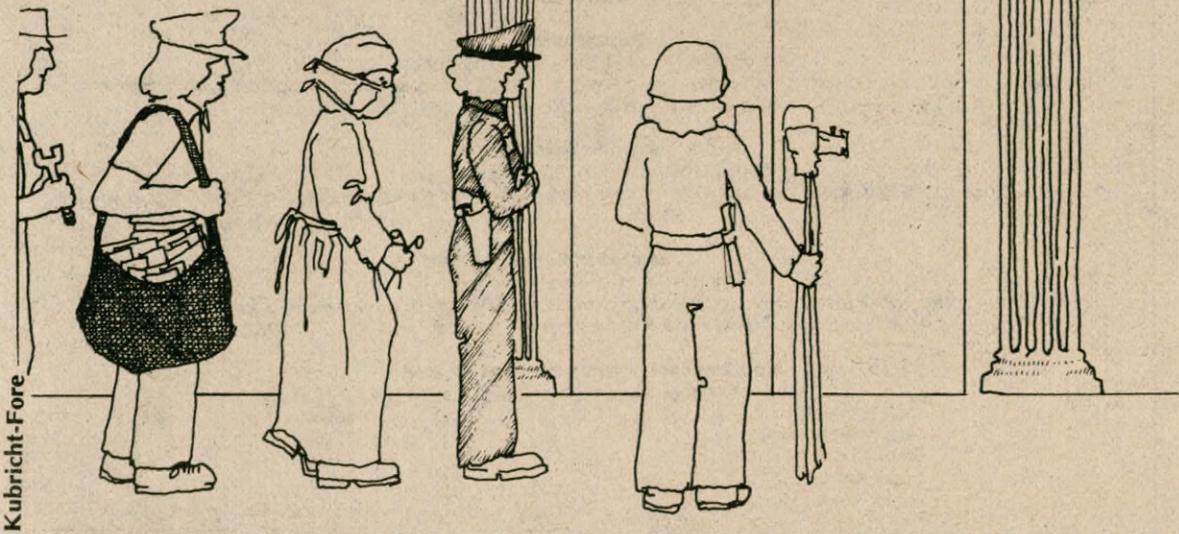


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"The reason women want non-traditional jobs is because these jobs pay better. It's a simple matter of economics."

— Fredell Bergstrom,
Director of Project EVE

EVE

The roots of our dual occupational system can be traced to the educational system. In 1975, The Center for Human Resources at UH developed a program for Texas schools to eliminate discrimination in vocational programs. Texas is the only state in the nation to commit its own research monies to the problems of vocational education for women. The program became known as Project EVE (Equal Vocational Education). EVE staff at Sam Houston High School, the demonstration school, developed a formalized recruitment program which included presentations to sophomore girls. That year six girls entered traditionally male vocational training courses.

EVE staff maintained close contact with these girls during the school year, in addition to an intensive community-wide publicity campaign. Response from students, teachers, parents and industry representatives was overwhelmingly positive. This year, 10 city high

schools participated in the EVE program and 109 girls entered technical and industrial training programs. This is especially timely since the craft and industrial job market will provide the greatest opportunities in the next ten years.

Project EVE hopes to bring about "true equal opportunity for women in the last bastion of male domination, the skilled/craft jobs."

VGS

More than 90% of all American women work for pay at least part of their lives.

Yet women continue to be concentrated in stereotyped, dead-end occupations paying much lower wages than do the occupations which are traditionally male dominated.

The average entry earnings for skilled workers in "male" fields, such as carpentry, auto mechanics and plumbing, pay \$6.46 per hour. This is more than double the average entry earnings -- \$3.18 per hour -- for "women's" occupations.

Urging women to consider the economics of broad employment choices is one of the aims of VGS, Inc. This United Fund agency at 2525 San Jacinto "exists to promote and to improve the welfare of those area residents whose socio-economic, mental and/or physical status creates barriers to attaining that end." VGS is composed of three programs: Vocational Guidance Service Central, Manpower Division and Center for Life Sciences Division.

Gaye Brown-Burke, program supervisor of Vocational Guidance Service Central, also points out other considerations in non-traditional jobs for women, such as satisfaction in seeing end results of work, physical exercise and diverse environments. She helps her clients broaden their views of themselves and of the world of work. This is done through supportive listening, assessment, testing and self-help groups including role playing.

Vocational Guidance Service Central counsels housewives

Roots Reveals

How long was Rapunzel's hair? We don't know . . . but

Swami Pandara Sannadhi, head of an Indian monastery, had the longest recorded hair, measuring 26 feet at his death in 1949. His hair being matted, he undoubtedly suffered plica caudiformis.

Jane Bunford wore her hair in two plaits which reached her ankles, indicating a length in excess of 8 feet. The tallest woman in medical history, Jane received a head injury at age 11. At 13, she was 6' 6" tall and at her death in 1922 she was 7' 7" tall. She suffered severe curvature of the spine and would have measured 7' 11".



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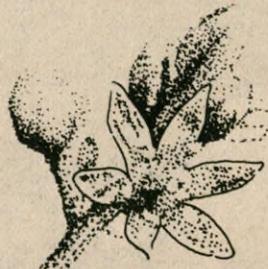
who are facing an "empty nest," displaced executives, handicapped persons and students who seek assistance in college and curriculum selection. Clients' fees are determined by sliding scale. This division of VGS also includes Employment Related Services, which offers welfare recipients counseling, job referrals and day care. This service places about 20% of its participants in jobs each month.

The Manpower Division, which receives CETA funds, provides disadvantaged, unemployed Houstonians with education, skill training and work experience necessary for entrance into the job market. Clients are referred from CETA service centers. The three facets of the program are: Adult Work Experience, which assigns trainees to jobs in non-profit human service agencies to gain necessary experience; Youth Out-of-School Services, which provides 16-19 year old drop-outs with counseling,

training and work experience; and Emergency Jobs Program, which provides jobs in non-profit agencies to Houstonians who have been unemployed for at least 30 days.

The Center for Life Sciences has two parts. The Alternative Program is a drug-free treatment program that offers residential therapy and outpatient counseling to drug-dependent individuals. The Junction Program is a juvenile delinquency control program.

Charles G. McCarthy, Chief Executive Officer of VGS, Inc., describes himself as a "totally emancipated vocational free agent." All programs, he says with enthusiasm, "thrust toward vocational success." Feeling that sex segregation in the labor market is a major problem, McCarthy says that women have "only scratched the surface." He stresses that VGS will not place anyone in jobs. Rather as he sees it, the clients receive the tools necessary to find their own direction.



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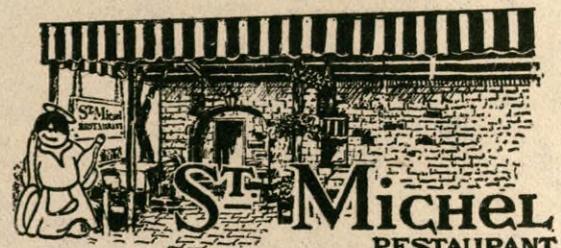
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Announcements

Author Kate Millett (*Sexual Politics and Flying*) will present a talk on "Female Sexuality" at Agnes Arnold Hall at the UH campus at 8 p.m. on **Nov. 18**. Her visit is being sponsored by the UH Dept. of Women's Affairs and The Program Council. Her talk will highlight a two-day Women's Health Seminar on campus: "Biological Aspects of Women's Health" (**Nov. 17**) and "Psychological Aspects of Women's Health" (**Nov. 18**). For more info call UH Women's Advocate Diane Escobedo, 749-1366.

Outstanding Women of the Year will be honored at the second annual AAUW award banquet Thurs., **Nov. 11** at the Rice Memorial Center, Grand Hall, beginning at 6:30 with cocktails. Houston's Women's Advocate, Dr. Nikki Van Hightower will be the main speaker. The public is invited. Cost: \$7.50

Rebates of up to 40% of the subscription price will be given to *Texas Now* on all magazines renewed or ordered for yourself or as a gift through the *Texas Now* Subscription Service. (No rebates on half-price or cut-rate offers.) Make out your check to Alice Johnson and send it with the order information to *Texas Now*, P.O. Box 393, Berkeley, Cal. 94701.

Classified Ads/Information

Reach 45,000 readers monthly with a classified ad in *Houston Breakthrough*. Ads run 20 cents per word (min. 15 words). Women's groups and non-profit groups may run free ads of announcements or services. Any workshop or seminar with registration fee in excess of \$10 must pay per-word rate. Subscribers seeking employment may run free ads (up to 25 words). All copy should be typewritten, double-spaced. Ad copy deadline: 20th of each month.

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Dance classes based on a philosophy of natural movement springing from an inner source. Janice Marie 524-3653.

YWCA, Downtown Branch, announces another series of classes beginning the week of November 8. Business skills, Japanese and Spanish, photography, print-making, yoga, special youth program, many more. Register Weds., **Nov. 3**, 5-8 p.m., 3515 Allen Parkway at Dunlavy. 523-6881. Membership: \$7 for men and women. Class fees: 50 cents to \$20 depending on course.

Employment

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.

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

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

Films/Theatre

Ann Boleyn and King Henry VIII are represented in their own words in "The Hollow Crown," a production which opens New Texas Theatre's winter season at 1821 Lamar. The production draws on the words of kings and queens and the writings of famous men and women to draw sharp and sometimes irreverent portraits of history's most fascinating characters. Performances Friday and Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m. through **Nov. 20**.

Gemini Productions' next film *Woman to Woman*



"Woman to Woman," a documentary about hookers, housewives and other mothers will be screened Friday, **Dec. 3** at the First Unitarian Church, 7:30 p.m. Donations \$2.50

Getting Involved

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

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

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Houston Women's Health Collective offering self-help classes **Monday nights** at 7:30. You may attend single sessions. Topics include: patients' rights, cervical and breast cancer, pregnancy and childbirth, menstruation and menopause. For location or course information call 523-9317 or 526-7406.

Media

KPFT/Pacifica invites your input at the KPFT Women's Meeting at 7:30 p.m. **every Wednesday** at 419 Lovett Blvd. The "Sugar and Spice" (Saturdays 9-10 a.m.) program welcomes community participation. Call Alice Rickel at 526-4000 or 528-0397.

Vol. 1 No. 1 *Texas Child Care Report* is a public affairs newsletter devoted to keeping you up to date on the latest information regarding policies and programs on children and families of Texas. The monthly newsletter is a joint project of Texas Child Care '76 and The Child Care Council of Greater Houston. Enclose \$10 (one year) to 6711 Hornwood #269, Houston 77074.

"The Legal Status of Homemakers in Louisiana" is the first of more than 50 booklets describing the legal status of homemakers in each of the states. It was released by the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year. The Louisiana booklet is available for 85 cents from the U.S. Gov't Printing Office's outlet in Houston.

Political



As Edith Bunker,
I don't have equal rights.
As Jean Stapleton,
I don't either.

I'm a woman. And like all women, I am not treated as a man's equal.

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It's the only way we can be sure that men and women will be treated equally in the future.

The Equal Rights Amendment can be that law.

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.

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T-Shirts

"Women Are News" t-shirts from *Houston Breakthrough*. Sizes S (32-34), M (36-38), L (40-42) and XL (44). Brown silk-screen on natural. Send \$6 (tax & postage included) to P.O. Box 88072, Houston 77004.

Workshops

A workshop designed for women who are interested in developing their personal competency will begin on **Nov. 3** and continue through Dec. 22, Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Westoaks Counseling Center, 9099 Westheimer, Suite 305. Leaders Kenwyn Hopper, ACSW and Denise Weinberg, M.A. will concentrate on assertiveness, role dilemmas, life goals, giving and getting positive and negative feedback and self-image. Fee: \$75.

Register for workshops offered by Family Services Center. "Human Sexuality," "Communication," "Self-Assertion for Women," lots more. Call 524-3881 for information.

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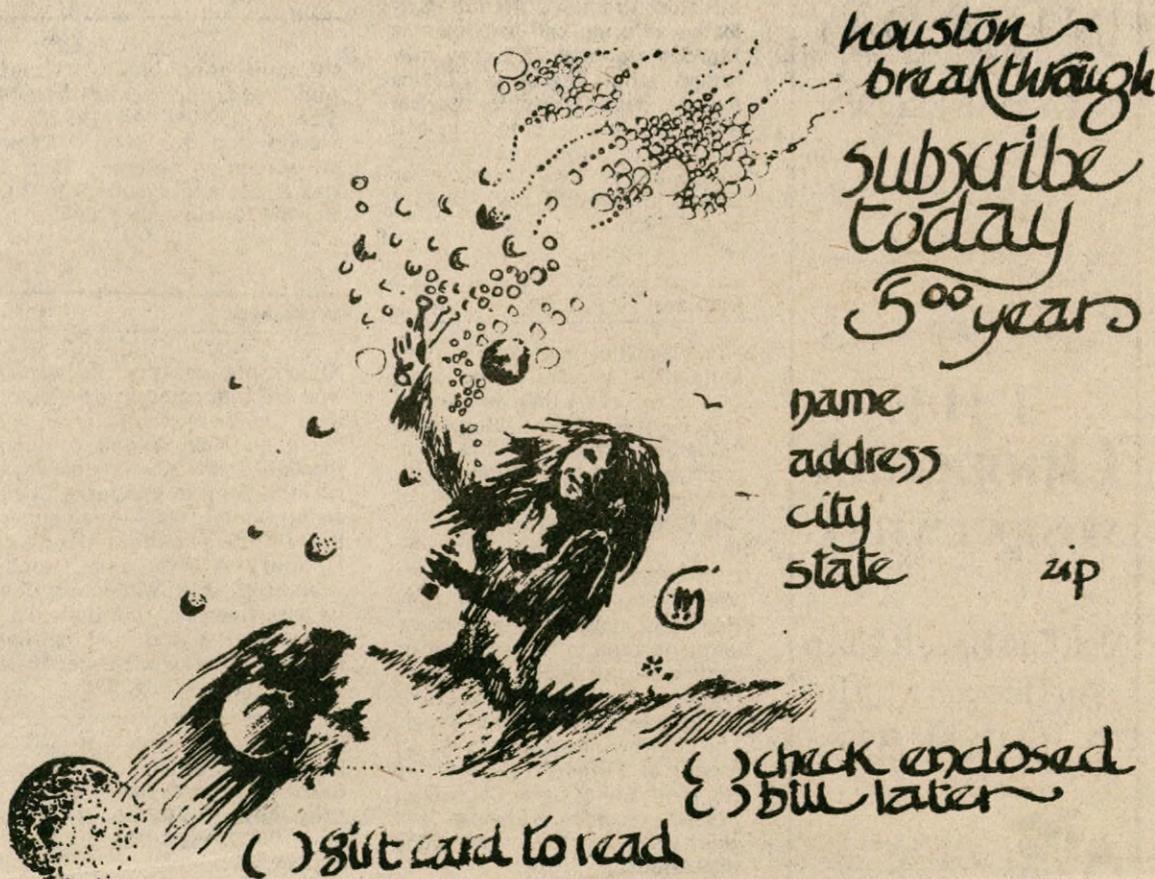
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HOUSTON WOMEN'S HEALTH COLLECTIVE
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