

Houston
Breakthrough
Where Women Are News

Vol. II, No. 6

June, 1977

50 cents

Special: **CHICANAS**



Also in this issue: Interview with Margaret Torres • Austin Round-Up • No-Progress Report on Battered Women

**NO
NEWS
IS
BAD
NEWS**



Please turn to page 17

Editorials

Policewomen

In 1972, the Houston Police Department was looking for John Wayne — a gun-toting man of action (see recruitment ad this page). In 1977, "the badge that cares" is looking for another kind of recruit — someone more concerned with serving the needs of the community than policing the frontier.

It would be logical then for the police department to aim its recruiting efforts at women. After all, who is better qualified by our society to be caring, nurturing and concerned about the welfare of others?

Yet this has not been the case. In fact, the Houston Police Department has effectively excluded women.

Prior to 1974, there had been a quota on the hiring of women. Women were assigned mostly to deal with the women's jail and juvenile offenders. Then Poppy Northcutt became the City's first Women's Advocate and succeeded in abolishing the quota.

Northcutt says, "(Former) Police Chief Carroll Lynn didn't anticipate that dropping the quota would make much of a difference. He didn't think women wanted to be cops."

But they did. Within a year, 49 percent of the recruitment class were women. The day that class began training, new entry requirements were imposed: 5'6" minimum height (80 percent of all women are shorter than that) and an agility test 90 percent of all women are unable to perform. The next police cadet class had no women in it.

Yet a recent Police Foundation study (by Catherine Milton) points to the critical need for women in law enforcement. After observing sex-integrated police departments in seven cities, the Foundation concluded that one benefit of assigning women a broader law enforcement role is a "reduction in the incidence of violence when women are assigned to patrol." The report goes on to say that evidence and experience suggest "women tend to defuse volatile situations and provoke less hostility than men."

In Houston, there has always been a certain amount of antipathy between our police and a sizeable portion of our community. But lately, allegations of police brutality have become so numerous that they are no longer being denied outright or dismissed as "isolated incidents."

Assistant Chief of Police Harry Caldwell told *Breakthrough*: "All the requirements for entry into the Houston Police Department are now the subject of an intensive study by psychometricians." A report of those findings and their impact on requirements was scheduled for release last December and again in March and then late May of this year. Still no word.

Meanwhile, cadet classes are being filled at an extremely high rate — over 300 positions a year. It won't be long before all jobs are filled and quotas are reinstated.

Over \$200,000 has been spent to determine whether women are physically capable of becoming police officers.

In view of the severe problems we face, would it not be a better use of public funds to determine whether men can do this kind of work? (There are 2635 men and only 144 female officers in the Houston Police Department.)

A fully integrated police department is a logical answer to many of our grievous problems.

Fully integrated. That means 50-50.

Houston
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Where Women Are News

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Getting involved with a career in the Houston Police Department means professional status, income security, opportunity for advancement.

These are among the reasons why you owe it to yourself to find out if you can make the grade as a Houston Police Officer. Not everyone can do it. Some are not temperamentally suited for the heavy responsibility. Others cannot learn to temper strict justice with common sense. Some lack the courage and steadfastness which is often required. But if you are one of the best . . . if you are a man who feels the personal responsibility to get involved with today's problems . . . if you look forward to promotion and progress in an honorable profession . . . then this proud career may be open to you. Look over the requirements and advantages listed below and then make your application for the next training class. Your friends and family will be proud of you. Most important, you'll be proud of yourself!

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The title of police officer is one of the most honorable to which a young man can aspire. The great majority of Americans, from the frontier period to the present, have always held the professional police officer in the highest regard and for the best of reasons: it is he who makes an orderly society possible and it is he who shields the general public from criminal anarchy. With rising crime rates and other attacks on the American system, today's police officer is the bulwark of justice and freedom for every citizen. That is why today's professionally trained police officer must be both a stalwart man and a concerned citizen.

The Houston Police Department is an elite group composed of the finest and most dedicated men who can be selected. They are well paid; they are carefully trained; they are promoted on the basis of competitive Civil Service examinations. Houston's citizens receive the highest degree of police service per tax dollar available anywhere in the United States and the department is considered a model of efficiency throughout the country.

ADVANTAGES OF HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP

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 - Provide general Police services to the community as a Radio Patrolman;
 - Traffic direction and control;
 - Accident Investigation;
 - Numerous other assignments, including the use of scientific skills in crime detection.
- Promotion from within the department only.
- Association with dedicated men and women in the Houston Police Association.



(1972 HPD recruitment brochure)

Submitted by Women's Advocates, Inc., P.O. Box 4157, Houston 77201.

A year later...

Still no shelter for battered women

By Deborah Wrigley



PEGGY KIRKENDALL

Meanwhile, calls for help average 100 a week

Recent studies have concluded that for every population of 10,000, there should be at least one shelter for battered women. Houston, despite its number five ranking in U.S. population, has no such shelter. Houston should have at least 100. The newly formed Coalition for Abused Women is currently searching for the first shelter.

This new coalition banded together to aid Houston's battered women after the local YWCA decided to shelve a similar project. The dissolution of the Y's Committee for Women in Crisis was due, some say, to restrictions imposed on their funding campaign by the structure of the United Fund. Others feel the reasons went deeper than that.

THE YWCA

The Y committee formed to study the alternatives for beating victims nearly a year ago. It proposed to create a shelter for "Women in Crisis." Assorted frustrations and differences in philosophy put a stop to the fledgling project this spring.

Beth Kendrick, hired by the YWCA to research funding options for the project and organize plans for its implementation, feels that the polite vagueness of the "Women in Crisis" title was supposed to make a distasteful problem more palatable to the United Fund and other potential donors. "Every time we talked about battered wives, they would refer back to women in crisis."

Kendrick resigned from the committee as the internal conflicts escalated. She subsequently lost her job when the project folded. She agrees with some other committee members that the internal structure of the YWCA was the initial source of dissension, but she believes that a basic philosophical difference between a conservative "old guard" and liberal feminists was also involved.

Several members are still griping over restrictions on the program's fundraising capabilities. According to United Fund rules, no single project can go directly to the public to solicit money. A committee is also limited in its



KRISTIN STREIFF

BETH KENDRICK

solicitations of corporations and all fund drives for any branch of the United Fund are suspended from June through November, the period of the Fund's annual multi-million-dollar campaign.

The only source of funding the "Crisis" committee sought and received was a Hogg Foundation grant in the amount of \$4500. Part of that money went to pay Beth Kendrick's salary as a YWCA staff member.

Houston YWCA president Inga Vickers, an ex-officio member of

the committee, is well acquainted with funding guidelines. She contends that there were those who did not understand how to operate effectively within those structures and were consequently very frustrated.

Vickers resists categorizing the dissent in terms of "feminists versus old guard," but does not dispute that conflicts beset the committee from its inception: "The very structure of the Y presents problems for some of them, and I stress some."

"Some of the women wanted to launch a media campaign to solicit public contributions for the project, but our policy doesn't allow that. There was just an apparent misunderstanding in that they did not understand the importance of going through the proper channels," says Vickers.

Committee chairperson Peggy Kirkendall, a member of the YWCA board, feels that fundraising rules posed no real problem. She blames the impasse on the reticence of administrators to make use of potential money sources. That reticence was due, in Kirkendall's opinion, to the YWCA's own multi-million dollar capital funds drive, which is tentatively scheduled for early next year.

"Some of the committee and Y board members felt that donations for this particular project might cut down on the overall contributions for the capital funds drive," Kirkendall says. "For example, if the Women in Crisis project solicited \$50,000 from a corporation and the YWCA went to that same source for money during the capital funds drive, the chances for getting, say \$250,000 would not be as good. Donations for a single project might simply jeopardize overall contributions to the Y as a whole."

Beth Kendrick agrees that the abuse project had to compete

with the capital funds drive for money, but predicted that the Y would try to keep the program alive in some form, if only as an affirmation of its concern for the welfare of the community. Kendrick believes that it is the most valid social program the Y has in the works "if you don't want to count belly-dancing or sewing classes."

Kendrick does feel strongly that the Y committee has wasted valuable time with its infighting. "Most shelters for battered women have opened a month after a commitment was made. There was a sense of urgency among many of the members, but the same feeling was not apparent on the part of some board members. A year was almost up and nothing had been done."



GITTINGS

INGA VICKERS

Kirkendall does not agree with the suggestion that nothing was done. "There was a good deal accomplished," she asserts, despite the fact that no shelter was started. "We succeeded in outlining the basic guidelines for the project, brought Del Martin (an expert in the counseling of battered women) to Houston and applied for the Hogg Foundation funds."

"The fact that no shelter opened is not proof that the committee was dragging its feet," she says. "My concern is that we offer a quality shelter for these women and as a professional in this area, I will not settle for anything less."

THE UNITED WAY

When the Women in Crisis project fell into limbo, news of yet another program reached the public. Jack White, manager of Information Services for the United Way, announced just in time for Mother's Day that a group of local organizations were sponsoring brief stays in hotels for battered women. To take advantage of this option, women must call Crisis Hotline for referral.

"There are certain qualifications an applicant must meet before she can be granted accommodations," White said. "The woman's situation must be evaluated and community resources considered." This operation is considered a stopgap measure, but it is better than nothing.

The alternative to the untitled United Way project is a stay in the Salvation Army Women and Children Center, which does not accommodate male children over age seven.

THE COALITION FOR ABUSED WOMEN

Feminists from the YWCA project, among them Beth Kendrick, Peggy Kirkendall and Nikki Van Hightower, have formed their own coalition and are committed to opening a shelter sometime in the near future. They hope to accommodate as many as 2,000 women a year. Initial plans are for free accommodations, including free meals, with a sliding pay scale to be adopted in the future.

In its bid for independence, CAW has apparently managed to go its own way with the approval of the YWCA. "They're going on absolutely with our blessings," says Inga Vickers. Coalition members note that good wishes do not necessarily include the Hogg Foundation's money, originally granted the Women in Crisis committee to draw up blueprints for a crisis housing project in Houston.

At the May YWCA board meeting, the Y voted to table the committee issue for another month, reportedly to monitor the direction taken by the Coalition for Abused Women. At the next meeting, the board will also decide whether or not to keep the Hogg funds.

If the funds are retained, the Y will have to revive their committee once more, hire another staff person to oversee it, and start over. In any case, the Hogg grant is intended to underwrite the cost of working up proposals for funding a shelter; it is insufficient for the actualization of a crisis housing program.

At this point, the Women in Crisis committee is at a standstill, while the Coalition for Abused Women is still in the rough, formative stages. There is no program in Houston offering long-term accommodations (free of charge) for battered women and their dependent children.

Though the CAW may lack the name recognition of the YWCA or United Fund, its autonomy should allow it to move more swiftly to alleviate a serious situation.

Meanwhile, battered women in Houston are calling the YWCA and Crisis Hotline in ever-increasing numbers — more than 100 calls a week.

some grim statistics

— one in every four women who is living with a male to whom she is related by blood or marriage or intimate cohabitation is physically abused by him at some time in her life. Varying interpretations of available figures have implied a higher rate — as high as one in every two women.

— at least 80 percent of all women in the U.S. come into contact with wife-beating — either personally or through the experience of a friend.

— one in every five police officers killed in the line of duty in 1974 died while attempting to break up a domestic quarrel.

— the Houston Police Department receives more domestic quarrel calls than any other type of service call.

— every thirty seconds, at least one woman in this country is beaten by the man with whom she lives.



Vera Juanita Glover (left), mother of Milton Glover, and Margaret Torres, mother of Joe Torres, Jr., at a recent Barrios Unidos meeting. Both of their sons died in cases of alleged police brutality.

By Janice Blue

MARGARET TORRES

"Sometimes I say 'Why, God? Why did this happen?' Maybe God chose him to open the eyes of people to police brutality. Maybe God chose him."

Margaret Torres searches within herself for some answer to explain the death of her son. She comforts herself by thinking, "He's in heaven. I'm sure he's in heaven."

Joe Torres, Jr. had been missing for three days when his family took time out to have a Sunday picnic in Moody Park.

"I still can't believe this happened on Mother's Day. We were having dinner in the park when my brother-in-law came and told us he had seen them taking Joe's body out of the bayou. He had seen it on the TV."

An evening news report said only that an unidentified Mexican-American male body had been recovered. But the camera showed a close-up of a large belt buckle with the face of an Indian, and her brother-in-law knew then that the victim was his missing nephew.

Mrs. Torres is still bitter about the way the family learned of her son's death: "Why didn't the police tell us?"

She is not satisfied with Police Chief B. G. "Pappy" Bond's reply that the Harris County Medical Examiner performs that function. "We have no part whatsoever in notifying a relative," Bond told her.

"They always have rules. They break rules. They even break the law. My son died at the hands of police. They should have met with us."

Margaret Torres attended an ACLU public meeting on police-community relations at the First Unitarian Church in late May. There she met Bond for the first time.

"I just stared at him the whole time. I felt so many things inside."

Bond left the meeting early and Mrs. Torres and the Mexican-Americans in the audience followed him outside.

"We had to come to this meeting to see you," she told Bond. "Why don't you come to the community? If you lived there, you'd know."

"Our people are treated like dogs by the police," a Chicana next to her told him.

"Do we have to protect ourselves from the police?" someone else asked. While his driver waited, Bond stayed with the group and tried to answer their questions.

But Margaret Torres asked him questions he could not answer.

TORRES' DEATH SPARKS

"Mr. Bond, one of those officers could have stopped the beating. Mr. Bond, why did they give him no chance to defend himself? Mr. Bond, why do those officers want their jobs back?"

"Mrs. Torres, I am the father of three children and I have eight grandchildren. I have great compassion for you," was all Bond could say.

The officers later abandoned their bid for reinstatement.

Back at Barrios Unidos leader Rachel Navarro's home on Memorial Day afternoon, Mrs. Torres remembers the brief encounter — her uncharacteristic outspokenness and the police chief's condolences. "Only I know how I feel inside," she says quietly.

"At home I just stare ... I stare and I think how he must have felt when they were beating him, how he couldn't get up and do nothing. And then how, half-dead, they threw him into the bayou."

"Then I'll start to cry and I go into the restroom because I don't want the kids to see me. My husband says 'It hurts me to see you cry because I can't cry.' But I feel some relief when I cry."

Besides Joe, who was 23, Mrs. Torres has two sons in the service: Philip, 22, and Gilbert, 20. There are five daughters at home: Mary Ann, 18; Rae, 16; Margaret, 14; Jane, 11; and Sandra, 9.

"So many," she says, shaking her head and breaking into a smile. "I have trouble remembering their ages."

Navarro, sitting next to her, who has five children herself, asks if it was hard when the children were young.

"Oh, I thought they would never grow up. But it wasn't too hard, because I was used to it. I had to get used to it."

Margaret Torres grew up on the north side of Houston and went to Our Lady of Guadalupe School. Her mother died when she was 11. She quit school after the eighth grade to work in a factory and help her father support her three sisters and two brothers.

"My father never remarried — until about 10 years ago. He always worked and helped us. I married when I was 16 and even after I was married, he helped me and the children."

She removes her glasses. Deep ridges are visible on the sides of her nose now. She rubs the imprints to ease the pain.

"I just haven't had time to fix the glasses," she says. She and Rachel talk about the upcoming week: two demonstrations in front of City Hall and another community meeting at Guadalupe Church.

"I have gotten a lot of my support and strength from Rachel. They were the first ones to come to me on Sunday night. They tried to comfort me."

Rachel Navarro says she talks over all the planned activities with Mrs. Torres "to be sure it's what the family wants."

"I never used to go to meetings," Margaret Torres says. Sometimes I don't understand some things. I don't know the politics of all this ... I don't know which ones are which ... I've never been through all this before, so I have to look out. But I'm sure Rachel is doing the right thing. She's trying to help me fight the police. I couldn't do it alone."

RACHEL NAVARRO

There is very little traffic in the northside city streets leading to Rachel Navarro's house.

Everyone from the neighborhood is either in Galveston or Moody Park — or so it seems.

It is Memorial Day. Around 12:30 in the afternoon.

Rachel Navarro says she does not know where the time has gone. She has been on the phone since early morning. Her daughter Veronica, age 10, and son Joe, 9, take turns answering the calls while she finishes working on a press release.

Navarro's dining room is the headquarters for Barrios Unidos, a citizens' group formed by the northside Raza Unida party. They are helping Joe Torres' family keep the issue of his death before the public.

"It was cold-blooded murder," she says. "The autopsy report shows he had a fractured skull, broken ribs, a broken arm and leg. All of this and he was handcuffed when he was found."

Police reports say the handcuffs were removed before he was asked if he could swim and then pushed into the bayou. This discrepancy is one of many that Navarro and the Torres family hope to clear up before "another cover-up" takes place.



PHOTOS BY JANICE BLUE

Rachel Navarro (second from right) reads a press release to Margaret Torres (far right) and her own children, Joe and Veronica Navarro.

The report quotes at least one officer at the scene saying, "Let's see if the wetback can swim."

Another unresolved question is whether Torres was even the man who was picked up for a disturbance at a Canal Street bar the night he disappeared.

Navarro says witnesses described the man involved in the barroom incident as wearing blue jeans and a red shirt. Torres was found three days later in his army fatigues.

Navarro feels that Torres may have been known to police, because they had previously picked him up on a drunkenness charge. "They might have just had it in for him."



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CALL FOR UNITY

Rachel Navarro did not know Joe Torres or his family until she heard about the death Sunday, May 8. She, her sister and two other members of northside Raza Unida went to visit the family.

"We just wanted to help and told the family this called for a demonstration."

Afterwards, according to Navarro, two officers of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) met with the Torres family to plan a mass meeting.

Telegrams were sent to the Justice Department, U.S. Att'y Gen. Griffin Bell and Gov. Dolph Briscoe. The media were called and the first community-wide meeting took place at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

"Our group worked day and night," Navarro recalls.

"The room was so packed, you couldn't find a chair, and then we were shut out," she says bitterly. "We couldn't even talk."

She accuses LULAC leader Mamie Garcia of taking over the meeting.

"All they did was have these big-shot lawyers from San Antonio and from the government there. They didn't give the community a chance to speak up."

She says Barrios Unidos was formed after that meeting so that the community could speak up for what they felt — "because tomorrow it could be them in the bayou."

The group, through its Commission of Inquiry, holds weekly meetings in different northside churches, where the public is invited to share personal experiences of police abuse. They have also held several demonstrations in front of the police station and City Hall.

LULAC is conspicuously absent from their meetings and demonstrations, but several LULAC officials have been meeting with Police Chief Bond through the Coalition for Law Enforcement. This is a group of ministers and community leaders which had already formed before the Torres incident to discuss problems between the minority community and the police.

"That group excluded Mrs. Torres from their meeting with Bond," Navarro says. "How can they speak for her?"

At this point, Margaret Torres, Joe's mother, drops by to see Navarro. They greet each other warmly.

Mrs. Torres, overhearing the last remarks, agrees: "That's right. I couldn't go to the meeting. They said my name was not on the list."

Navarro sees major political differences between LULAC's leadership and Barrios Unidos:

"They (LULAC) are the upper and middle class. They don't want to have any part of people just living on a Friday-to-Friday basis as far as pay is concerned. They tried to use Mrs. Torres to get a little light on their own organization."

Navarro claims Mamie Garcia was asked to sit on the Commission of Inquiry but refused.

"She doesn't want to work with us because she can't run the show. She told the priest we were a bunch of radicals."



Mamie Garcia (right) and other local officers of LULAC (Delores Guerrero shown here) meet with Mayor Fred Hofheinz.

"We're radicals because the Houston Police Department wants to kill people. Any citizen would become radical if they thought it could happen to them."

When two children come home for lunch, the political talk moves into the kitchen. Mrs. Torres peels vegetables. Navarro changes into a pair of blue jeans and prepares formula for her baby, Melissa. Her nine-year-old son runs an errand to the grocery store.

"My son that just left — he wants to be a police officer. That's why I'm working so wholeheartedly. This has to be straightened out before he grows up."

"I want to see police in the barrio where people say 'Here comes Joe, good ol' Joe' and not 'Here comes that pig!'"

Margaret Torres stops peeling and adds, "Yes. Someone that could be respected. Now we don't know which are the good ones and which are the bad ones."

Rachel Navarro and Margaret Torres say they would like to see police officers working in the community centers with barrio children and parents, where everyone would know each other.

That is a hope that unites them.

MAMIE GARCIA

"We work differently. We believe in diplomatic channels. They believe in demonstrations. While they're marching, we're working with lawyers."

That is how Mamie Garcia sees two groups, both outraged by the Joe Torres case. One is La Raza Unida party, which formed Barrios Unidos in response to the situation. The other is Garcia's own organization, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Garcia is District 8 Director of LULAC, the oldest (48 years) and largest (160,000 members) national civil rights group for Latin Americans, concerned with education, housing and police-community relations. Her district covers 13 Texas counties.

Garcia feels Margaret Torres is being "used by radicals in La Raza, a socialist party. But that doesn't stop the fight."

Mamie Garcia is one of the members of the Coalition for Law Enforcement and has met with Police Chief Pappy Bond and District Attorney Carol Vance, even before the Torres case broke.

She and her group had scheduled a meeting with Bond for the week following Torres' death. The group presented a list of speakers for that meeting.

"The reason she (Mrs. Torres) was not allowed to attend is that she was not on the list," Garcia says emphatically.

"Mrs. Torres is welcome to join the coalition. The membership is open."

Mamie Garcia met the Torres family at the funeral home and discussed sending a telegram to Attorney General Griffin Bell.

Next, Garcia called on the community "to unite our efforts and work."

It was then that she says Rachel Navarro and other northside Raza Unida members asked to participate in the first community meeting.

"We had one speaker from their group on the program that evening. They wanted 10. They pushed aside the lawyers from the Morales case who flew in from San Antonio. They tried to grab the microphones," Garcia claims.

Garcia says that the San Antonio lawyers came at the invitation of St. Rep. Ben Reyes.

"Ben helps me and guides me. I don't run the League 'the Mamie Garcia way.' I call in experts. Before I do anything, I have to consult with legal counsel."

"For example," she says, "we hide away from all media. Our lawyers have said 'none of that' because it might jeopardize the case."

Her only reason for not attending the Barrios Unidos meetings or serving on their commission is that "I can't be everywhere and I can't be in everything."

She strongly refutes the middle-class image of LULAC: "We live in the barrio. We work in the barrio. We are not rich. I am a Mexican-American from the bottom of my heart. I was born and raised in Clayton Homes in the Second Ward, near Guadalupe Church. I'm the director of senior citizens at Ripley House. I've served 12 years as a volunteer for LULAC in the Canal Street area. How much more barrio-oriented can you be?"

She says LULAC is just not a radical group. "We don't believe in being radicals or destroying buildings or using anybody."

But she sees room for all groups to work together: "We cannot march, but we can give legal help. In a critical situation like the Torres case, we need the help of all organizations, not just one or two. We need the entire community — black, Mexican-American and white."

IWY Texas Women's Meeting June 24—26

See page 18 for details

problem pregnancy?

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Processing a Bill

Bills can be introduced in either the House or the Senate. Assume a bill starts in the House. It undergoes the following process:

FIRST READING

The bill is read by title to the full House, and referred to a committee by the Speaker.

Committee assignment is crucial. An unfriendly committee can kill a bill, while a friendly one can move it quickly on to the next step.

The Speaker wields a great deal of power. Not only does he choose the committee to which a bill is referred, but he also appoints the chair and the vice-chair of each committee and fills all vacancies. A strong speaker can structure the committee makeup so that legislators who support his policies constitute a majority in each committee. He appoints his strongest allies to chair and vice-chair positions. Committee chairs decide what bills will be considered in each meeting.

COMMITTEE

No bill can be voted on by the House before it has received public hearing and been voted out by a majority of the committee.

If the chair does not like a bill or its sponsor, he/she can decline to schedule a hearing — the bill dies then. Or the bill can be sent to subcommittee to be studied and amended. The committee chair appoints the subcommittee chair, who may or may not schedule meetings on it. A majority of the subcommittee must vote to send the bill back to the full committee, which in turn must vote the bill out. The process can take weeks or even months. Since the Legislature meets for only five months every two years, thousands of bills compete for consideration. Delays are crucial, and often deadly (a committee is not required to report on all bills referred to it).

CALENDARS

A bill which succeeds in getting out of committee is sent to the Calendars Committee, which determines what bills will be considered by the full House.

Calendars is the most powerful committee in the Legislature. A bill can be reported favorably by its committee, but never be debated by the full House. Out of approximately five thousand bills introduced each session, only 1700 make their way through the committee process to House Calendars. Of those, even fewer make it to the floor. About half of the 1700 are placed on a "Consent" calendar. This means that there is little or no objection to them. The remainder are scheduled for debate.

In the closing days of the 65th session, the list of bills waiting to be scheduled for debate on the House Floor was 108 pages long. Obviously there is not enough time to debate them all; consequently, hundreds of bills simply die in Calendars.

SECOND READING

A bill which is placed on a calendar is then brought up before the full House at the discretion of the Speaker. It is once again read by title, then debated, amended, and voted on by the full House.

THIRD READING

When a bill passes second reading, it is printed with amendments and then read a third time by title. If it receives a simple majority, it has passed the House.

TO THE SENATE

If a bill passes the House, it is sent to the Senate, where it follows generally the same procedure.

The bill is read the first time and referred by the Lieutenant Governor to committee. Like the Speaker of the House, the Lieutenant Governor appoints all chairs and vice-chairs, and fills all vacancies.

A major difference between House and Senate procedure lies in the second reading. The Senate does not have a Calendars Committee. When a bill has passed a Senate committee, two-thirds of the senators must approve a motion to consider it in order for it to proceed to a third reading.

FINAL PASSAGE

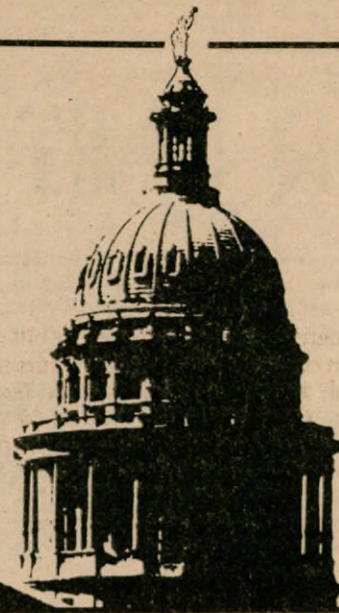
If a bill passes both houses, it is sent to the governor to be signed into law.

If the Senate amends the House version or vice-versa, the bill returns to the house in which it originated. If a majority of that house agrees with the other's amendments, the bill is sent to the governor. If not, then a Conference Committee is appointed to work out a compromise.

A Conference Committee report cannot be amended. If a majority of both houses agrees to the compromise, then the report is sent to the governor. If either house disagrees, the bill is dead.—AK and D McC



Senate pages had their day at playing senators before the session ended. Latreese De Santis (left) and Ellen Richards (right) rejoice over De Santis' success in passing HB41, which would allow pregnant women to apply for unemployment compensation (see Roundup at right). De Santis assumed Gene Jones' senatorship for the day and after heated debates on the floor, her bill was the only one pages allowed to pass, by a slim margin of 13-12.



Austin Roundup

By Ann Kennedy and Dolly McClary

ABORTION

The very meaning of terms like "radicalism," "puritanism" and "sexual liberation" must come into question when we are reminded that for all 19th and many 20th century women, sexuality, childbirth and death were intimately connected; that the right to her body has always been the radical political issue for women, since male domination has been founded on male control of female sexuality and reproduction, on institutionalized male ownership of women and children.

— The New York Times

Five major bills relating to the regulation of abortion were introduced during the 65th Session. HB1875, by Rep. Tim Von Dohlen (D-Goliad) progressed the furthest.

HB1875 defines viability, the point at which the fetus can survive outside the womb with the aid of life-supportive machinery, at 22 weeks of gestation and defines an abortion after that time as a felony, unless the physician can prove that the life of the mother was endangered.

It also prohibits saline abortions after the 12th week "where a safer method is generally available." The bill's provisions were so broad and its language so ambiguous before amendment that Caesarean births, IUDs and morning-after pills would have been illegal (see *Breakthrough*, May '77).

The Attorney General questioned the constitutionality of several clauses of the bill. It made it through subcommittee and the House Health and Welfare Committee. It made it through Calendars and was passed by the House by a vote of 99-32, with 19 abstentions. In the Senate, the bill was favorably reported from subcommittee. The Chair of the Jurisprudence Committee received 170 telegrams in one day urging him to pass the bill out of committee and onto the Senate floor. Three days before the Legislature adjourned, HB1875 narrowly failed to pass out of the Senate committee by a vote of 4-3.

The House Appropriations Committee attached a provision to the general State Appropriations Bill prohibiting the use of Medicaid family planning funds for abortions. This provision was deleted by the Senate.

RAPE

Governor Briscoe has already signed into law HB1963, relating to venue in rape cases. **The bill, sponsored by Lynn Nabers (D-Brownwood) in the House and Oscar Mauzy (D-Dallas) in the Senate, allows for the prosecution of rape cases not only in the county in which the rape was committed, but also in a county in which the victim was abducted, or any county through which the victim was abducted in the course of abduction and rape.** Formerly, rape cases could only be prosecuted in the county where the rape actually occurred, which was sometimes difficult to determine or prove.

PROSTITUTION

Rep. Stan Schleuter (D-Salado) passed two bills dealing with prostitution. HB678 raises the penalty for first offenders from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor. **HB 679 extends prostitution penalties to "persons who solicit another to engage in sex with another person for compensation."** In other words, the bill includes pimps and prostitutes, but not purchasers. Jody Richardson, testifying against the bills during the House Committee hearings, raised the issue of penalties for purchasers, to which one committee member responded: "Now, that's a point I hadn't thought of." Nonetheless, the committee reported both bills favorably by large margins.

LABOR

Rep. Irma Rangel (D-Kingsville) and Sen. Carlos Truan (D-San Antonio) succeeded in passing HB1755, the AFDC Education and Employment Act, a bill which will assist adult AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) recipients in gaining vocational education skills at 20 cooperating community colleges throughout the state. Intended to aid them in breaking out of the welfare/poverty cycle, HB1755 will have the greatest impact on women, who comprise nearly 96 percent of the target population. The program will place a high priority on training women for traditionally male occupations. It will be administered through DPW (Department of Public Welfare) in conjunction with the Texas Employment commission and will utilize state and federal funds at an annual cost of approximately \$1.5 million.

Another major success was passage of Displaced Homemakers' legislation (SB515/HB444) sponsored by Sen. Bill Patman (D-Ganado) and Rep. Bill Sullivan (D-Gainsville). It will set up multi-purpose centers to assist untrained and unemployable persons who find themselves "displaced" in their middle years through divorce, death of spouse, or loss of family income. The centers will offer job counseling, training and placement. (See *Breakthrough*, March '77.) The bill allows for the development of two centers, one in a rural area and one in an urban area, and will be administered through the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. However, its supporters have managed to wrest only \$200,000 from the general appropriations bill to fund the project, which means that there will be only \$50,000 per year per center to cover salaries, rent, utilities, phones, supplies, etc. Federal legislation providing matching funds is still pending.

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Dallas) introduced HB41, which allows certain pregnant women to qualify for unemployment compensation. In order to receive these benefits, a woman must meet certain requirements, including availability and ability to work. The question of whether pregnant claimants are able to work has caused administrative difficulties for TEC. The bill was intended to ensure that pregnant claimants were not treated differently from other unemployed individuals. It was heard by the House Labor Committee, which Johnson chairs, and recommended for the Consent Calendar, where it was bumped off twice. Fortunately, however, Johnson managed to have

this provision included in a more comprehensive unemployment compensation bill sponsored and passed by Sen. Bill Moore (D-Bryan).

The Nurse Practice Act, SB392, sponsored by Sen. H. Tati Santiesteban (D-El Paso) turned out to be a very controversial labor issue. Concerned that passage of the bill would have disallowed what was described as appropriate "utilization of these girls" (available nurses with sub-standard training), the Texas Hospital Association vigorously and successfully opposed Texas Nurses Association bill, which contained an extensive series of amendments to the state's 50-year-old nurse licensing statute. Controversy arose over provisions which would have made licensure for professional nurses mandatory as opposed to permissive. (See *Breakthrough* May '77). SB392 made it as far as the Senate intent calendar after having been considered by the Human Resources Committee and a special subcommittee where it underwent several re-drafts. It was never brought to a vote on the floor, however, since the sponsor knew that the votes just weren't there. Eleven House members sponsoring a companion measure were left waiting for the Senate to complete its work on the bill.

Teacher salary and retirement benefit increases were a major issue of the session, and for good reason. Teachers who retired in 1976, after 30 years of service, receive a pension of \$248 per month and Texas teacher salaries are below the national average. **As a result of a strong teachers' lobby, a \$213 million bill passed, increasing the benefits of those who have already retired by 7 - 15 percent, depending upon how long an individual taught and how long she/he has been retired.** Benefits for those who will retire in the future were increased by 14 percent. The issue of teacher pay raises will be brought up in the Legislature's special session in July.

EQUALITY

Efforts to recall the Texas ratification of the federal Equal Rights Amendment received a great deal of attention again this session (see *Breakthrough*, May '77). House Concurrent Resolution 35, by Rep. Clay Smothers (D-Dallas) was favorably reported by a subcommittee of the House Constitutional Amendments Committee, but was not taken up by the full committee.

Legislators do not want to vote on this issue. Either a pro or a con vote will make enemies. A threat by Rep. Jim Nugent to bring up HCR 35 for a vote on the House floor generate a huge number of protests from individual members.

Sen. A. R. "Babe" Schwartz (D-Galveston) and Oscar Mauzy (D-Dallas) sponsored a broad anti-discrimination package which passed the Senate. The House State Affairs Committee, which often functions as a graveyard for bills the Speaker does not like, killed the bill. SB 51 would have allowed the state to enforce the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 with the addition of sex as a classification. Currently, the feds have a backed-up case log of over 130,000 discrimination complaints. Passage would have given the state authority and responsibility to intervene in such matters in housing, education, real estate transactions and financing, and employment.

For the second session in a row, serious attempts were made to create a Commission on the Status of Women. Sponsored by John Wilson (D-La Grange), HB875 would have created the commission as an official body to gather information and provide assistance to the state in assessing the status, needs and problems of women in the state and to make recommendations to the Legislature. Sen. Betty Andujar (R-Fort Worth) was ready and waiting to carry the bill in the Senate as she did successfully last session. Expectations were high, especially since the governor announced his support for the commission in his state of the state address in January. However, the bill stopped in the House Calendars Committee. As it now stands, supporters expect the governor to create the commission through executive order, thereby making himself something of a champion of women's rights as the next governor's race approaches.

CHILD SUPPORT

The Department of Public Welfare says 65 percent of current child support payments in Texas are delinquent — \$700,000 of support goes unpaid each month.

Rep. Chris Miller (D-Fort Worth) passed HB1271. The courts may decide that as a condition for serving jail time in off-work hours and on weekends, persons guilty of non-support may request their employers to deduct from their paychecks an amount to be credited against arrears in child support payments.

HB997, passed by Rep. Luther Jones (D-El Paso), defines failure to provide legally required support to children or a needy spouse as a felony.

House Joint Resolution 17, by Rep. Abe Ribak (D-San Antonio), would allow garnishment of up to half a person's net wages for court-ordered child support payments. It would enable the court to direct an employer to remit a specified portion of the person's wages to the court.

Ribak asserted that 47 states already have similar garnishment laws and that enactment of his resolution would decrease welfare payments by 50 percent. Enactment of HJR17 would have involved a constitutional amendment, which requires a 2/3 majority. It was supported by a simple majority of the House, not enough to carry it.

LANGUAGE

Legislators are beginning to take note of the discriminatory effects of language in legislation. A few are taking it upon themselves to draft legislation without exclusive reference to male gender. **Rep. Ben Grant (D-Marshall) succeeded in passing a bill which will eventually overhaul the "Workmen's Compensation" statutes by requiring that all references be changed to "Worker's Compensation" when those laws are amended in the future.**

Senator Gene Jones (D-Houston) sponsored a Senate Concurrent Resolution which instructed the Legislative Council, which is responsible for the actual drafting of most legislation, to discontinue the practice of referring only to the male gender unless it was specifically required by legislative intent. The resolution passed the Senate on the local and uncontested calendars, but was stopped by the House Administration Committee chair, W. E. "Pete" Laney. Laney claimed that the bill's intent was to embarrass the Council's executive director, even though that director insisted that he had no problems with the resolution.

DAY CARE

Although Rep. Sam Hudson (D-Dallas) introduced three separate bills relating to state supported and administered day care programs, none of them were even brought to a vote in committee. (Hudson spread himself a little thin this session: He tried to carry nearly 100 bills and, discouraged about their lack of progress, he began to fast in protest. He lost about 40 pounds and a lot of bills.)

The appropriations bill, however, addresses the issue. State appropriations for day care will be \$30 million for each of the next two years. Although that figure represents a \$3 million increase over last year, it does not begin to compensate for either "cost of living" increases for services, or the costs which will be incurred as the centers move to meet stricter federal guidelines.

Consequently, there will be a forced 15 - 20 percent reduction in day care slots statewide for 1978 and even further reductions for 1979. The program currently serves approximately 20,000 children of low-income families, most of which have female heads of households. DPW and Child Care '77 estimate that the program at its current level only meets one-fifth of the need in terms of eligibility.

It is important to note that the problem has less to do with the state's economy than with its legislatively determined priorities. Amazingly early in the session, upon an "emergency"



JANICE BLUE

JODY RICHARDSON

JUDITH GUTHRIE

CRISTIANSON—LEBERMAN

Lobbying for Women's Issues

The sponsor of the Displaced Homemakers' bill had managed to amend the House Appropriations bill to give \$300,000 to the project. I thought it was all set. But the House/Senate Conference Committee met on a Saturday and removed the money. I got a call on Sunday night about it and called on some Caucus members to send mailgrams. Monday morning I went to the Conference Committee meeting. A motion was made to put the money back in. The chair overruled and only agreed to give the project \$15,000. I knelt by the Lt. Governor, who had committed to help us — he had been talking to a clerk and had not paid attention to what was happening. He assured me that he would take care of it. Senator Brooks (D-Houston), a committee member, came in the room and made the motion again. With his strong support and a couple of words from Lt. Gov. Hobby, the committee agreed to fund it at the level of \$200,000.

In this manner, Texas Women's Political Caucus lobbyist Jody Richardson guaranteed the funding of a program vital to many Texas women.

The importance of women lobbying for women's issues cannot be exaggerated. In a currently male-dominated legislature, women lobbyists are highly visible and are automatically identified with their issue, giving them distinct advantage over male lobbyists. "A representative may not remember my name," commented ERA lobbyist Norma Cude, "but he remembers what I want." In addition, chivalry can work to their advantage. Legislators tend to hear them out rather than send them away.

Despite these advantages, a strong institutional bias does exist against women. Many men in the legislature simply are not used to dealing with women in any professional capacity whatsoever and the fact that they are now invading the ranks of professional lobbyists is disconcerting.

By far the greatest handicap, however, is the lack of staff and financial support. The most effective lobbyists have legal assistants, secretaries, offices and virtually unlimited expense accounts. In contrast, Judith Guthrie, a professional lobbyist for Bracewell-Patterson law firm, lobbies on her own time and resources for women's issues as stae president of Women's Equity

Action League, often serving as a team mate for Jody Richardson.

Richardson has meager staff and resource backup as full time lobbyist for TWPC. If chapters of the Caucus need to be informed about legislative developments, she must call or write them herself. If she needs to communicate with legislators about a Caucus priority bill, she must do all of the legwork herself.

In a system where speed and visibility are essential to success, these handicaps place feminists at a terrible disadvantage. The lobbyist needs to spend her time attending committee meetings and daily sessions. She needs to spend as much time as possible talking and developing working relationships with legislators. She cannot hope to be efficient and effective if she has to assume responsibility for all of the support activities as well.

One of the reasons feminist lobbyists are so poorly paid and supported is that their local affiliates simply do not manage to raise their portion of the costs of the lobbying effort. TWPC assessed its local caucuses, based on their membership, for the first time this year. Unfortunately, many chapters, including Hous-

cont. on p. 15

ALERT: The Hyde Amendment to the HEW Appropriations Bill is expected to come up for a vote in the U.S. House on **June 15**. The Hyde Amendment, if passed, will *prohibit* federal funds for abortion unless a woman's life is in danger. This will deny poor women their constitutional right to choose, since they will be unable to utilize Medicaid and Title XX funds to pay for abortions. If you have never written a letter or sent a telegram to your congressional representative, now is the time to strongly urge them to vote in favor of federal funds for abortion. For more information, call Ellen McGovern, National Women's Political Caucus, Washington, D.C.: (202) 347-3531.

Chicanas: How We Feel



What does it mean to be a Chicana?

Odilia Mendez

To me, being a Chicana is great! I love our language, our dances, our culture and our people. Being a Chicana means a responsibility to my people. Fortunately, I have learned the value of my heritage and I feel it is my duty to educate those who have not. There are too many people (even some of my allies) who cannot understand the plight of our culture. Too few feel a necessity to retain the best of the Mexican culture and too many propose a monolingual, monocultural, bland society.

Marta Moreno

Having the perspective of two cultures, two languages, taking the best of my Mexican heritage with its beauty, deep traditions and customs and at the same time never forgetting the advantages and positive things of being an American.

Sylvia Garcia

Loneliness. It's being "the only one" at the rape session, the caucus, the meeting or whatever occasion. It's turning around and noticing you are the only one in the crowd. The others are white faces, which all seem to blend together, except for a few sprinkled black faces. There isn't anyone you can go up to and say, "¿oye, como estas?"

Then you start thinking about it and you feel lucky that you have something to identify with. Your bilingualism, your culture, your background, all the things that bring you and other Chicanas together, over and above other women's concerns. Then you begin to feel special, because there you are. There are few like you. You have a bond that others can never find.

Juanita Navarro

Being a Chicana means upholding and continuing with our traditions, language and customs which we hold so dear.

Guadalupe Quintanilla

To me, it means having the opportunity to draw from a bicultural set of experiences in order to deal in a more effective manner with the challenges of contemporary society.

It has been said that women have always been separated from each other. We have never had our own ghetto to remind us that we are of the same tribe. We have been separated socially, economically, racially.

Certainly there has been little opportunity for dialogue between Mexican-American women and Anglo women, even in the women's movement, which is still largely white and middle class.

The responses of Chicanas to a Breakthrough questionnaire are a step towards such a dialogue here in Houston.

Cover Photos (and credits): Top row (l to r) — **Tina Reyes** (Al Vasquez), educator, Mexican American Cultural Assoc. (MACA); **Elma Barrera** (Odilia Mendez), news reporter, KTRK-TV; **Lola Lopez** (Janice Blue), Administrative Services Specialist, CETA, City of Houston. Middle row (l to r) — **Olga Soliz** (Al Vasquez), Olga Soliz & Associates, management planners; **Gloria Barajas** (Mike Duhon), public relations director, Housing Authority, City of Houston; **Margaret Acosta** (Janis Fowles), director, bilingual program, SER. Bottom row (l to r) — **Guadalupe Quintanilla** (Doug Swain), director of Mexican-American Studies, UH; **Marta Moreno** (Lopez Studios), Deputy Director, north district, Gulf Coast Community Services; **Odilia Mendez** (Janis Fowles), Media Coordinator, Community Development Division, City of Houston.



What is the status of the Chicana today?

- socially?
- politically?
- economically?

Odilia Mendez

We are at the bottom of everyone's list. Our women are traditionally either left in the kitchen and made to think they belong there or are forced through economics to work in menial jobs.

Many Chicanas are secretaries and damn good ones, because too often they are too good for that position. It has been my experience that Chicanas lack self confidence and therefore hesitate to try for the better positions. Consequently, employers can get away with keeping a Chicana at the same job and salary forever.

In other words, "the squeaking wheel gets the grease" and how many Chicanas or Chicanos really squeak? Actually, our women are taught not to be aggressive, although as more of our people become educated, these trends are changing. But because education is our greatest problem, we remain on the bottom.

Tina Reyes

The status of the Chicana is basically dependent on her education and knowledge of and exposure to the total society. The professional Chicana has the proper credentials to attain certain economic, social and political freedom. While she is still the subject of discrimination, she is capable of defending herself.

The Chicana who has a sixth or eighth grade educational attainment becomes a prisoner of her circumstances. Since Chicanas have the lowest educational attainment level of any group in the U.S. except the Indian woman, this group of poorly educated women encompasses the major portion of Chicana women.

Lola Lopez

Today's Chicana is gradually coming out of her shell, becoming more self-aware and realizing her own potential and capabilities. Where she was always two steps behind her husband in the past, she is now at his side or venturing out on her own.

While she echoed her father's or husband's thoughts in the past, today's Chicana is more knowledgeable of political and economic issues that directly affect the minority female.

Economically, the young Chicana is an independent working woman, but here, most still encounter the problem of being held back in teaching jobs, clerical work and other low-paying positions which are considered "female" work.

She definitely needs more support from her peers and from Chicanos who have found economic success. So often, many of those who do achieve a higher economic status tend to entirely dissociate themselves from the ethnic group, assume a superior attitude and become very anglicized; ultimately they consider it degrading to associate themselves with Chicano causes.

Juanita Navarro

Politically and socially, the Chicana has changed tremendously since the days when I worked in the kitchen, washed dishes and diapers. In those times, that was all we knew. Now women speak out freely. Before, we were told to shut up and we did. We were told we couldn't do something and we didn't do it. The things men said and ordered were never questioned.

Today, more women are working out of the home, helping to support the family. Chicanas are contributing in many more positive ways today.

Margaret Acosta

We have had to struggle to maintain our identity while demanding equality and equity based on our competencies and intelligence. As a group, we have not shared equality socially or economically with Anglo men and women. In the pursuit of employment, more often than not the Chicana is pitted against a Chicano, not against an Anglo male or female. Employers may prefer to hire a Chicana, covering two categories — minority and sex.

Olga Soliz

Politically, the Chicanas are told to help the other minorities first. We are told we are not ready, to wait a few more years and then it might happen.

Due to our culture and religion, to the extended family concept, I feel we are better off economically than the other minorities. The majority of us are surrounded by parents, aunts, grandparents. It's the norm to accept help from your family, even to move into each other's homes to help each other out economically. Because of this, we are the last to ask for handouts, be it welfare, food stamps or child care.

Gloria Barajas

While there have been some improvements in the social and economic status of the Chicana, the majority of our women have not experienced much relief. More Chicanas are entering fields they formerly never ventured into, or for that matter were not allowed to enter. However, salaries and promotional opportunities are not at the same level as those of our Anglo sisters and certainly a far cry from any man's in a comparable category.

Chicanas may be given administrative positions yet not those with real policy-making decisions, where long reaching and meaningful changes can be made. And they oftentimes are not given the salaries of other persons in comparable positions.

Politically, the Chicana has been seen very little in elected or appointed positions. Recently however, we have made some strides with the appointment of several Chicanas to high government posts. At the state level, the story changes — for the entire state of Texas, we have one Chicana elected to a state office. Although in South Texas and other predominantly Mexican-American areas, we do have better representation.

What are you doing personally to improve the status of Chicanas?

Marta Moreno

One has to become involved in what is going on in our community. Belonging to organizations and interest groups that can help improve our plight is not enough. What is required is total commitment in all aspects, whether it is in the home, at work or academically.

How do you feel the media portray the Chicana — if at all?

Odilia Mendez

If you came in from out of town and turned on the tube and did not really see Houston at all, what kind of image would be projected? In a normal day of programming, Chicanos and Chicanas are nonexistent. The media refuses to represent Houston as it is: a bilingual, bicultural society. Unfortunately, we have to use the tools provided by the Federal Communications Commission to get public service programs.

How many articles do you read in the Post or Chronicle in Spanish? None! I predict that the next census will show that our numbers have grown from about 13 percent of the population in 1970 to over 25 percent in 1980. Despite this growth, where are we in the media?

Elma Barrera is our first and only Chicana in the television medium and, thank God, she is committed to the advancement of our culture. Elma has proven that, once given an opportunity, a Chicana is a better newswoman because her background is richer in language and in culture.

Two years ago I wrote the same letter to both the Post and Chronicle, claiming discrimination in covering Chicano issues and in hiring practices. The responses were different. Both newspapers sent me articles to try to disprove my point, but the Post indicated their realization of the problem and reminded me that Richard Vara was employed for that reason.

The Chronicle was hot and indignant. They produced articles that had to go back to 1968 and gloated over a cooking article they did on Lupita Quintanilla (who is a PhD in Mexican American studies). They did not have one Mexican-American doing news reporting at the time.

I still challenge those newspapers, because we don't even get 10 percent of the coverage we deserve.

Juanita Navarro

Chicanas are not portrayed in media. Radio, newspapers and television have ignored the Chicana.

Cont. on p. 16



Sylvia Garcia (left) is a second-year law student at Texas Southern University.



Juanita Navarro (holding up sign) is director of Centro Chicano, a community center for senior citizens.

Sylvia Garcia

The single greatest contribution I personally have made is, perhaps, going to law school (and being able to stay in). Space does not allow me to speak of the underrepresentation of Chicanas and Chicanos in this area.

Margaret Acosta

As chairperson of CARA, Chicana Association for Reform and Advocacy, it has been my task to provide the leadership necessary to re-educate and sensitize the Anglo and Mexican-American communities to the everyday problems faced by Chicanas in our society. CARA is an organization that was created specifically to develop and promote the leadership potential of Chicanas.

Guadalupe Quintanilla

Basically, I encourage everyone I can interest to develop that innate potential that Chicanas, as a rule, possess. I also participate actively in the recruitment of Chicanas for challenging positions in the job market.

Odilia Mendez

I am an advocate at every opportunity. My most fulfilling involvement is with the Panel of American Women. I find that because it is the only vehicle that allows me to spill my guts, usually to young people, in an effort to combat stereotyping. It is the closest that I am able to come to changing attitudes of young minds to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the differences among people.

Lola Lopez

I feel my greatest contribution is to perform the best I can professionally or in whatever I do, because the image I project reflects on all Chicanas.

Therefore, I feel that if I perform well and project a good image, it will open the doors of opportunity for other Chicanas and help to remove the employment barriers in businesses, barriers erected by several centuries of a male-dominated, prejudiced society.

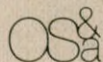
Also, I am once again getting involved politically and addressing issues that relate to minority females. I feel that in this small way, I am representing all of the Chicanas who have something to say but are still afraid to speak up.

¡ Adelante!

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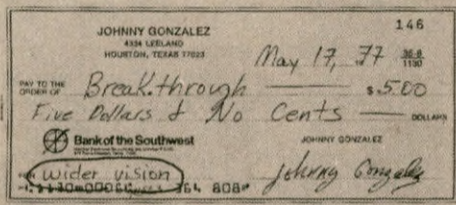
Pats&Pans

A male chauvinist pig **PAN** to the judge who said that rape is a "normal reaction" to sexual permissiveness and provocative clothing. Dane County, Wisconsin Judge **Archie Simonson** made the remark when he sentenced a 15-year-old boy to one year of court supervision at home for raping a 16-year-old girl. The victim was wearing blue jeans, a blouse over a turtleneck sweater and tennis shoes.

Two major manufacturers of hair care accessories, advertising in the Washington Post prior to Mother's Day, asked family members to buy Mom a gun to put to her head. Designed to be aimed straight at mother's coiffure are two slim, black, pistol-shaped hair dryers. One, put out by **Norelco**, is called *Gotcha Gun* and the other is **Clairel's Son of a Gun**. (ZNS)

That triggers a double-barreled **PAN** to the two manufacturers for their hair-raising concept.

SimPATico



PAT Joe Nolan, Houston Chronicle, who did a well-documented story recently on prostitution in Houston. It cast an interesting light on how the vice squad deals with the problem. Asst. Chief Tommy Mitchell says the department's policy "is to get to the base of the problem, and the women are the problem. As long as there are prostitutes out there, men will be buying." Case closed.

Gov. Dolph Briscoe has signed into law a bill authorizing two pilot centers to serve displaced homemakers, mostly widowed and divorced women in their middle years. The centers, under the supervision of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, will offer counseling on income management, preventive health care and how to market homemaking skills. Referrals to training facilities will be made and the centers will seek jobs for displaced homemakers in the community. The objective is to help persons who have worked most of their lives without pay in their own homes, dependent on the income of another family member, who suddenly are left alone and without financial support. **PAT Rep. Bill Sullivant** of Gainesville, who sponsored the bill.

TV game shows are notorious for demeaning women contestants, but **Hollywood Squares** really takes the cake (or at least the **PAN**). Women contestants win Chevettes (\$3200 - \$4000), while the men win Chevy Vegas (\$4300 - \$5500). Does this mean Chevys drive better on the downgrade?

Gerhart Electrolysis ran an ad in the Post which says: *The average woman spends 92 hours a year tweezing her eyebrows.* This works out to 15 minutes a day plucking time, including holidays. Sounds like a very **PANful** process.

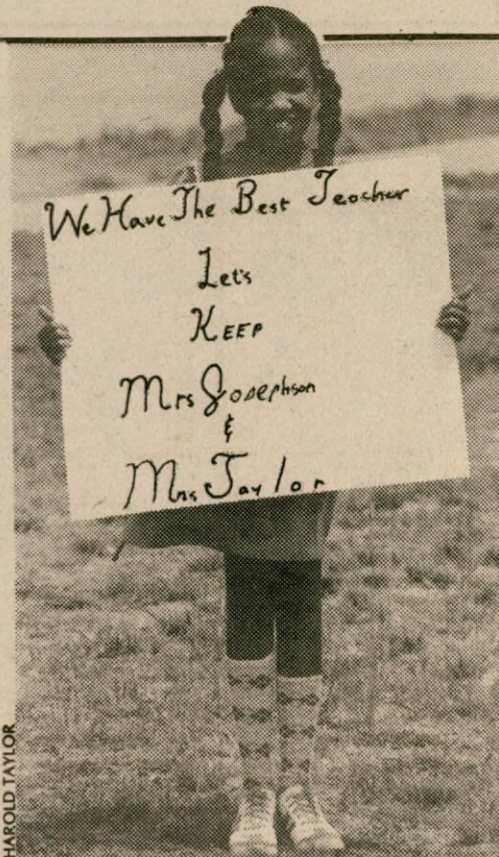
Ch. 8 TV's weekly public affairs show, **The Friday Local**, has been awarded the Sid Lasher Memorial Radio and TV Award by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The award was established "to be presented annually to the broadcast journalist who exhibits unselfish devotion to our community by reporting ... problems which, if eliminated, or projects which, if undertaken, will make our community a better place in which to live." The producers of the show are **Ann Schachtel**

and **Sandra Scott**. A pair of **PATs** to Andy and Sandy.

Both sexes are allowed to take six-month unpaid child-care leaves from **Procter & Gamble Co.**'s Cincinnati headquarters when they become parents. The leaves, which extend the usual maternity-leave period and grant the privilege to fathers for the first time, were begun because local infant-care facilities were scarce. Liberty, Equality, **PATernity!**

A stable kind of person? **Sandra Brode** divorced **George Brode** in 1974 but kept the Brode name for professional reasons after she remarried. Brode sued, claiming his name was loaned to her like "a cattle brand" and that since she was now "part of another person's stable," she should no longer use it. A judge has ruled that Sandra, a law student who says, "I'm not cattle, you can't brand me," can use whatever name she wishes.

Last month, American Women in Radio and Television brought 10 women broadcasters to visit this country and take part in the AWRT convention. Two of the women, Svetlana Staradomskaya of the Soviet Union and Momrajawongse Rasee Amatayakul of Thailand, came to Houston, where they were interviewed by the Post's TV editor, **C. W. Skipper**. Rasee asked, "Is it true that women in America haven't always had equal opportunities with men?" "That is true," answered Skipper, "but generally, they have made big gains, both in pay equality and management opportunities. And there are many women who do not support the liberation movement." An AWRT member agreed: "Perhaps 20 percent of the women are real strong members of the liberation movement." "Then we must have seen all 20 percent of them in Washington," Rasee said. "The three



HAROLD TAYLOR

Ursula Guidry, a sixth grade student in the Vanguard program at Windsor Village Elementary, organized a student demonstration to protest the transfers of two popular teachers. (Apparently, two parents had complained that too much homework was being given the students.) Guidry mobilized grades three through six, and the ranks of the demonstrators were swelled by younger brothers and sisters. The principal, James T. Brock, was not impressed by the youthful dissidents. When interviewed, he said, "I will not lend dignity to the story by giving a rebuttal." **PAT** Guidry and her fledgling freedom-fighters.

AWRT members we rode in the car with in Houston are the only ones we met who didn't support the movement." **PANs** of regret that these two women were not given a more

positive view of feminism in Houston. In that same column (May 12), Skipper describes Playboy magazine's "Playmate of the Year" spread as a "sort of centerfold contest" between the 12 Playmates of the Month. "The spread — forgive me — is done of the winner." He may be Skipper, but we think he missed the boat.

The Ladies' Home Journal conducted a national survey in which 1,000 youngsters, grades one through twelve, were asked, "If you could be any famous person in the world today, who would you be?" The overwhelming choice of the girls was **Farrah Fawcett-Majors**, while her husband, Lee Majors, edged out President Carter as the boys' choice because, as one sixth grader said, "I'd sure like to come home to her every night." Out of the top ten girls' choices, only one, Barbara Walters, was not an entertainer or an athlete. Of the boys' top ten, two were not entertainers or athletes — presidents Carter and Ford. The influence of TV is **PANdemic**. It's time to tune out and turn off when our children's role models are a exploitative non-actress and her bionic mate.

The pipes of **PAN**, the goat-god, are calling for **Rep. Clay Smothers** (D-Dallas) (see *Breakthrough*, May '77), who has been voted the House's "Freshman of the Year." Smothers, who says he has "enough rights to choke a goat," has backed legislation to restrict abortions and to repeal ratification of the ERA and has opposed a bill to create a state park in Houston's fifth ward. And a Houseful of **PANs** to those who voted for him.

A breakthrough for the Houston Post! They took stories on women and women's issues out of Today, and put them in the real-people news/feature sections. **Carol Barnes** had three (yes, three) stories on women and job discrimination, **Monica Reeves** did a story on labor union women and there were at least two other stories on individual women. Post **PATs** all around, especially to Barnes, who seems to be concentrating on women's rights.

Texas Monthly Apple Pie PAN



JOHN SPRAGENS, JR.



(excerpted from the Texas Observer, May 20, 1977)

The folks at Texas Monthly went all the way for Mother's Day this year. *The Best Apple Pie in Texas* is proclaimed on the May cover, adjacent to a photo of Everyone's Rural Granny holding out a three-pound slice of the maternal pastry.

Inside, a two-page layout celebrates 'the best apple pie in Texas'. It was baked by Nettie Daniels, "one of the last culinary patriots" and a cook at the Town House Restaurant for many years.

Well, back to the cover we flip to pay tribute to Grandmother Daniels. Whereupon we learn, from an April 27 item on the front page of the Athens Daily Review, that this bespectacled lady is not Nettie Daniels. The only resemblance between the two ladies is their spectacles. The real Nettie Daniels is black and appears above.

Not that the folks at the Monthly didn't have any photos of Nettie on hand. The photographer who whot the pie took a number of pictures of Nettie as well, leading her to advise friends that she would appear soon in Texas monthly. "Well," she said on finding only her pie in the magazine, "I guess we'll have to tell them it's not my picture."



DEAD PANS

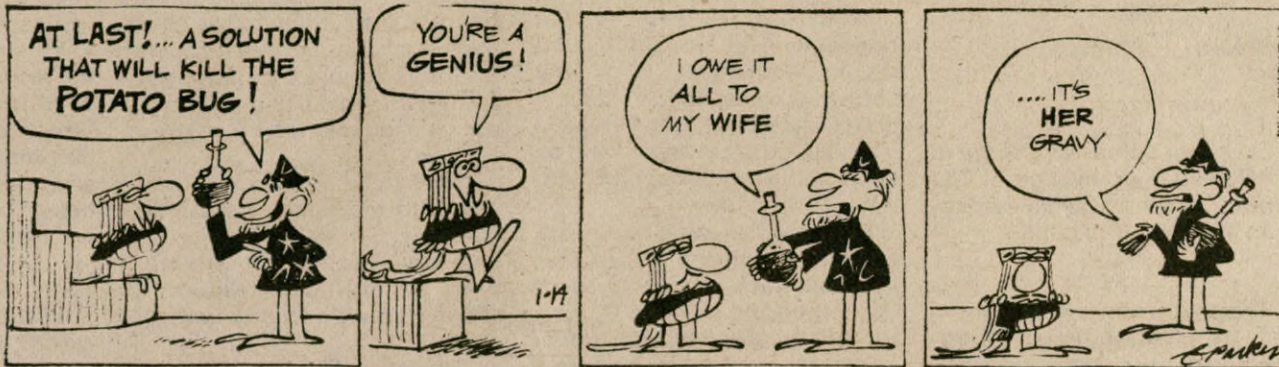
BLONDIE

—By DEAN YOUNG and JIM RAYMOND



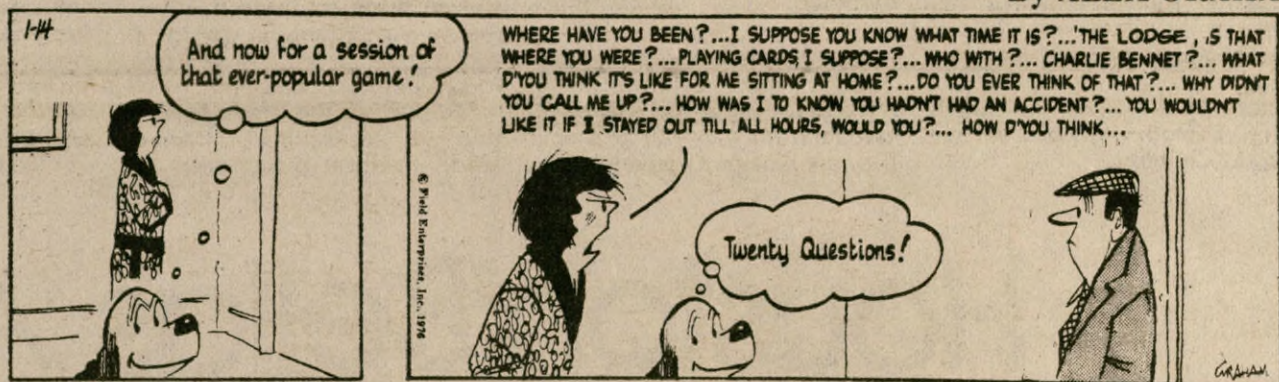
THE WIZARD OF ID

—By PARKER & HART



FRED BASSET

—By ALEX GRAHAM



FUNKY WINKERBEAN

—By TOM BATIUK



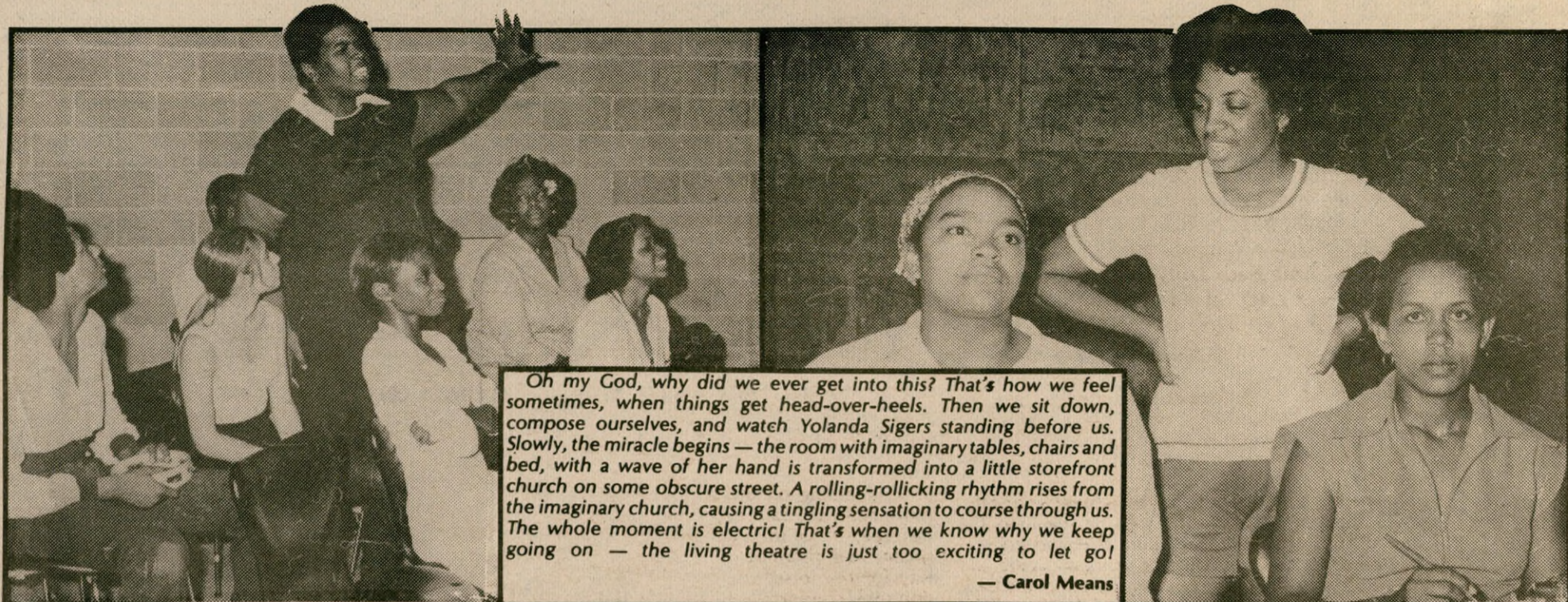
MOMMA

—By MELL



R.I.P.

Appeared in the Houston Post, January 14, 1977
Submitted by Patricia Butler



Oh my God, why did we ever get into this? That's how we feel sometimes, when things get head-over-heels. Then we sit down, compose ourselves, and watch Yolanda Sigers standing before us. Slowly, the miracle begins — the room with imaginary tables, chairs and bed, with a wave of her hand is transformed into a little storefront church on some obscure street. A rolling-rollicking rhythm rises from the imaginary church, causing a tingling sensation to course through us. The whole moment is electric! That's when we know why we keep going on — the living theatre is just too exciting to let go!

— Carol Means

Yolanda Sigers in the lead of James Baldwin's "The Amen Corner."

Brenda Sers (left) is the director of "The Amen Corner," the first production of the Tri-Star company. Carol Means (center) and Rosalind Haith (right) are two of the company's three founders.

PHOTOS BY MARILYN JONES

THE AMEN CORNER

By Marlene Johnson

The *Amen Corner* is set in a storefront church in Harlem (or Houston). Through the artistry of playwright James Baldwin, the self-anointed woman preacher who runs the church emerges as a "wholly rich and beautiful characterization," in the words of the *N.Y. Telegram and Sun*.

As the play opens, the preacher's son, the church organist, seems bent on following in the footsteps of his jazz musician father. The haven this woman has created seems on the verge of crumbling. Many vibrant scenes grow out of this tension.

On June 11, Houston will see its first full-scale production of *The Amen Corner* at Cullen Auditorium at UH, at 8:00 p.m.

The production is being mounted by Houston-based Tri-Star Productions, a new theatrical company comprised primarily of women. Baldwin's drama has been embellished with original choreography and orchestration. Music is provided by the TSU jazz ensemble and a genuine church pianist from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

Amen Corner had its first presentation at Howard University in Washington, D.C., long before the legitimate theatre picked up on it. It later played in Los Angeles for a year and went on to favorable receptions on Broadway and in Europe.

Houston has seen the Black Ensemble Company, Urban Theatre and Black Arts Center each burst upon the scene to vying for a toehold in the development of fine arts centers in this city, only to fade away suddenly without warning.

The three founders of Tri-Star — Carol Means, Carolyn Briscoe Walker and Rosalind Haith — have their work cut out for them. They are women competing in a

business market which has been traditionally dominated by men. And they are black professionals making their bid in a city which is not as culturally aware as New York or L.A.

These three women are committed to more than a theatrical company. Theirs is a group of dedicated people who are tapping all available resources, seeking strength from a unity of artists.

"Tri-Star's goal is to add a new dimension to Houston theatre and to bring the level of black theatre in Houston up to a professional level," says Carol Means enthusiastically.

"Tri-Star has the largest collection of professionally trained black theatrical practitioners in

Houston," Means continues. All three producers are excited about the company they have assembled. They highlighted Brenda Sers, their dynamic and demanding director, and Yolanda Sigers, whom one of them describes as being "not quite Barbara Jordan but close" in the play's lead role.

[Editor's note: Breakthrough regrets that due to a delay in our production schedule this month, you may have missed an opportunity to see *The Amen Corner*. Tri-Star Productions was started by three Houston women who look forward to broad community support. For information on future bookings for the *Amen Corner*, call 523-7311 or 526-2747.]



ILLUSTRATION BY LUCILA SANTIAGO

Houston Bellas Artes

By Jeannine Klein

GARCIA-LORCA

Dramatist, poet, musician, Federico Garcia-Lorca is a magic figure in the Spanish literature of this century. An Andalusian from Granada, city of the Alhambra, no one knew better than he that darkly luminous quality of the women and men of his land. Dead at 37 — he was assassinated in Granada during the Spanish Civil War by anti-Republican forces — his works continue to be read and the critical bibliography of his poems and plays is growing steadily.

Regarding *Yerma*, one can make observations that are true of almost all his dramas. The principal figure is a woman. Next to her, the male characters appear as blind forces impelled by destiny.

It could be argued that Garcia-Lorca's women are subject to the conventions of a society ruled by masculine laws, laws to which they sublimate their own wishes. That is true, but the drama has its roots in that conflict.

The women of Garcia-Lorca's plays represent the power of humanity, a force which the unfairness of society negates. When intelligence and strength are repressed, the frustrated force turns inward and destroys itself. This happens in *Yerma* when fulfillment is denied Yerma and she kills her husband.

In the theatre of Garcia-Lorca, the frustration of women is one of the elements with which he manipulates the development of the drama.

— Mercedes Valdivieso
(translated by Ellen Wilkerson)

Frederico Garcia-Lorca's play *Yerma*, directed and produced by Ande Thomas, will be presented later this year through Houston Bellas Artes.

Bellas Artes is a year-old organization which aims to provide the city with an Hispanic cultural center. A conglomerate formed from the remains of several defunct groups, *Bellas Artes*' emphasis is primarily on the Mexican-American culture. It seeks to establish ties between the Chicano and other Hispanic cultures (both European and Latin American), as well as with the prevalent Anglo culture.

Permanent quarters have not yet been acquired. In the meantime, *Bellas Artes* is sponsoring an ongoing series of events designed to further its cultural goals. Thomas' production of *Yerma* is one such event.

Yerma, written in 1934, is the second in a trilogy of Lorca tragedies.

Novelists talk about their writing

Shirley Ann Grau and Beverly Lowry are two women who have received considerable attention as successful novelists. Lowry, a resident of Houston, was praised by the *New York Times* and *Newsweek* magazine for her recently published first novel, *Come Back Lolly Ray*. Grau, a native of Louisiana, already had established a favorable reputation with her first book of short stories when her novel, *Keepers of the House*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1964.

By Beverly Hebert

Though Grau often places her stories in the South, she has seldom been labeled a "regional" writer, because her themes are universal in scope. Does a writer with her kind of success feel pressured to live up to her old efforts when beginning a new book? Her answer was crisp:

"It's a mistake to dwell on something past. If you try to freeze it and hold it and squeeze it into the present day, you've got an anachronism: phoniness. It's a matter of being true to yourself. American writers have a tendency to end up repeating and parodying themselves. That's what made Hemingway's last novels so pathetic. Heller, with *Catch 22*, was earthshaking. He influenced a whole generation of writers. But you can't raise a soufflé twice. There's an urge to be what the critics said you were. It's bad to listen to critics. They look backward by nature."

"I like *Evidence of Love* (her latest book) for its change of scene and tone. It's black comedy; non-Southern. I tried to do a character rarely done in American fiction: an honest-to-God scholar, a man for whom ideas are more real than chairs and tables.

"Between books I have an arbitrary time limit of three years. If you work alone for long stretches of time, you have to give shape to the days. Actually, only about one year is spent writing the book. The rest of the time I'm thinking about it — just living. I read five or six newspapers and collect information from the back pages. It takes a while to get all the pieces, but at some point they come together. When it comes, it usually comes with most of the details. My husband says he can tell when I'm ready — I start talking to myself.

A lot of people have misconceptions about what writing is. It involves hours and hours of typing, scratching out and retyping, loads of tedium. There's a tendency to think it's glamorous, but it probably makes a secretarial job look interesting. And you have to like being by yourself a great deal.

"I don't see writing as self-expression. I don't write for my own amusement; that's psychotherapy. You write to communicate, so you need to be published. I want other people to see the world the way I do and accept my values. It's inherently a 'listen to me' affair. Entertainment is the bottom line for novels. The better ones add layer after layer of high-quality prose, philosophy.

"I started with single-incident short stories and learned from reading. I went to a finishing-school college and got so bored I decided to read my way around the library. I began to see what was wrong with it as a book, how to improve it. I took a writing class. Classes give you a feeling of other people wanting what you want. Makes you feel you're not so freaky. Southern ladies didn't work then. I don't think my mother was ever terribly happy about working."

Commenting on the women's movement, she said, "As far as I can see, it's a male-dominated society and it's going to stay that way for the foreseeable future. I don't feel comfortable out on the wings with either side... with Betty Friedan or Anita Bryant. I think it's a matter of economics. Society's need for productive women will open doors."

For Grau herself, luck, talent, and timing opened the doors rather easily. But she believes it's harder to break in today, especially for someone outside the New York area.

"When I published my first book in 1955, the publishing world was expanding and magazines were in their heyday. There were always chore jobs to do — commissioned articles. It was a matter of following where the opportunities took me. But today there's a closed atmosphere to New York publishing. They don't read unsolicited manuscripts. I think they're out of their minds not to. Even so, I don't believe many novels of value are left unpublished."



LOREL DOUDEN

BEVERLY LOWRY

Beverly Lowry lives in West University Place, in the heart of Houston.

Perched in a chair in her living room, she noted that the one exception to her collection of good reviews was the *Houston Post*.

"Reviews are something you have to get beyond," she said. "That can be hard, because they are power-wielding. Sometimes even when they're good they can be depressing, because of their emphasis that it's a regional book or a woman's book. When you start working on something else, you start to lose interest in them."

The book Lowry is writing now is set in the rural South, and also gives a precise and fascinating description of the climate in Houston. She said she re-wrote the first page about 87 times.

"I usually work from nine to one — that's the nut. I really think of it as a discipline; it orders my life. Writing works well in a domestic situation. In college, I was more interested in theatre. Then I married, had a child. I turned to writing because of life-style. Most arts demand a lot of space, or a lot of going out."

She agreed that writing and acting require similar skills—the ability to empathize, to get inside somebody else's skin: "That's right. A lot of actors start writing. It doesn't work the other way around as often. Some of the things you have to do to peddle yourself in acting can be fairly degrading. The public exposure is of a different sort."

People sometimes assume that authors have experienced firsthand what they write about, but Lowry says, "Fiction isn't autobiographical. It has imaginative truth — that's something to do with reality, something to do with art, and everything to do with the work itself. I'm not interested in setting down what's happened to me. Obviously, you write about what you've lived and loved and hated.

"But there is one thing I avoided: Once I read that women always write about women sitting inside of houses. Even Virginia Woolfe did. In the story I wrote, I decided these people were going to go out and do something. People have really identified with Lolly going after the long shot, trying to be somebody."

If women can identify with Lolly, they should also be able to identify with her creator. Lowry is a good example of what's been happening to women in the Seventies. Thirty-eight years old and a mother of sons aged 16 and 11, she thinks the seasoning process was necessary to her success.

"I worked through the daughter problems, the wife and mother problems. Writing needs a heightened awareness. It means staying still and quiet long enough to see what's going on. I had to get past the point of being worried about appearances. It takes time to develop 'habit of art' — that's a phrase I came across that stuck in my mind.

"It's a good time; a good age. The women's movement established new timetables and new definitions. Now we are more free to set our own. I know a lot of women my age — my agent, my editor — when we're in a room together I sort of feel we can do anything. There was a time when 30 seemed a bad age to be."

I knew what she was talking about. I grew up thinking over-30 meant worry about spreading hips and straying husbands. It was an age to dread because when you reached it, the exciting part of your life was behind you. Older and younger women conformed to prescribed roles and exaggerated their differences with dress and hairstyles. Women were expected to look their age, as well as act it.

Beverly Lowry, wearing long hair and jeans, pedalling her bike to the bank, writing her books, is a sign of fresh expectations for all of us.

To Present Yerma

set in Andalusian Spain in the early twentieth century. The characters are gypsies and peasants and the concerns of the women in each play are of paramount thematic importance. This is not a trilogy in the classic sense, with a continuity of plot and characters: The three plays are bound rather by a commonality of theme and structure.

The major theme is a primal life force that manifests itself in various forms. In *Bodas de Sangre* (Blood Wedding), the first play of the trilogy, this force is mainly shown in the intense sexual relationship between a pair of young lovers. When the woman is forced into an arranged marriage with an older man, the primal force proves so overwhelming that the lovers run off together from the wedding. But a sense of morality prevails when they quarrel and kill one another.

The third play, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, is a psychological drama. It presents a variety of perversions of the life force as seen in the frustrations of a household of women dominated by a strong mother-figure.

In *Yerma*, the primal force is manifested in the title character's intense desire to bear children. Her arranged marriage to a sterile older man thwarts this desire. Yerma's frustrated longing is expressed through the water imagery of the play and through her wanderings, which form the action. She encounters a young libertine woman, a wise older woman and a virile young man, but rejects the solution offered by each.

Finally, her desperation drives Yerma to an oracular temple, where she takes part in a bizarre fertility rite which summons the devil and his wife. Her husband discovers her here. At this point, Yerma realizes that her problem admits of no solution. And so she strangles her spouse, who has stood in the way of the life force.

"Usually *Yerma* is done as a naturalistic/realistic drama of peasant Spain," says director Thomas. "But I don't intend to dress the actors up as gypsies. I want to translate it into a more universal drama, leaving aside the purely Spanish elements." It is at least partially due to this desire to

present *Yerma* in an abstract environment that Thomas is making a new English translation of the play himself.

Ande Thomas is no newcomer to Lorca. A 1975 graduate in Spanish from Middlebury College in Vermont, he both acted in and directed short Spanish plays and one-acts while there. In his senior year, he produced *Bodas de Sangre* in Spanish.

In addition, Thomas has a firsthand familiarity with various aspects of Hispanic culture, acquired while living in the Virgin Islands, taking a year of high school in Barcelona and teaching English in Brazil. He plans to polish his translation of *Yerma* this summer while traveling in Europe and Africa.

Auditions will be held in the fall and the play will open in December. Actors, dancers, technicians and a general work crew are needed. For more information, contact Ande Thomas at 529-2357 before June 23 and after September 1. Through July and August, call Raul de Anda, Executive Director of Houston Bellas Artes, at 527-8218.

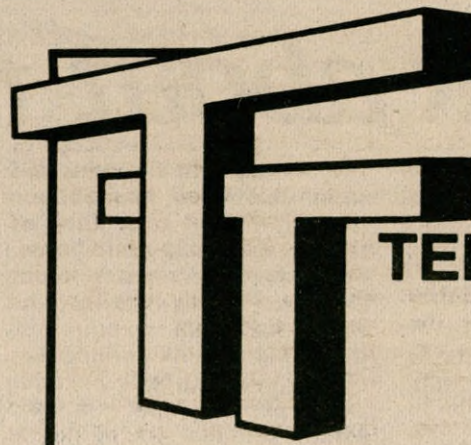
The Ten Best and Ten Worst MEN in Texas

Who are they?

Send us your choices — name the men in this state who have done the most for us or against us. Here are the rules:

1. Only subscribers may participate. (You may enclose your subscription with your nominations.) Your name may be withheld at your request.
2. All nominations must be supported by facts (limit your arguments to one typed page). No nominations will be accepted by phone.
3. Nominate as many men as you like.
4. Self-nominations will be accepted.
5. All nominations must be in no later than July 1.

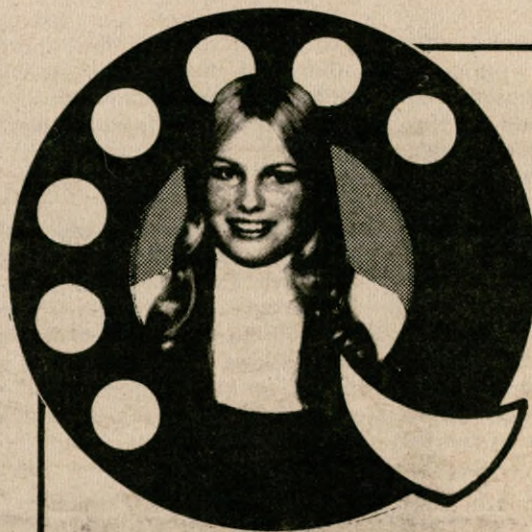
Winners and losers will be announced in the upcoming July-August summer issue.



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Lobbyists—cont. from p. 7

ton, never met their goals.

Another major handicap is that women's organizations, being primarily voluntary and existing on shoe-string budgets, cannot afford to keep their lobbyists working full-time during the 18-month interim between sessions. These interims provide opportunities for effective lobbyists to do some of their most substantive work. They research and draft bills and lobby as many legislators as possible about them before the next session begins. They participate in interim study committee activities and state agency hear-

ings (Such as the State Board of Insurance and the Texas Education Agency, both areas where the Caucus initiated proposals during the session and now face failure through absence.)

"Feminist groups fall way behind during the interim and they slip even further during the beginning of each new session. The new lobbyist, once again hired for only five months, has to master the legislative system, which takes a minimum of two months, and she has to establish her own personal contacts," commented George Strong, lobbyist for Houston Natural Gas.

Despite all the constraints imposed on the feminist lobbying efforts, when one considers their legislative goals and the scope of their strategy, their success this session has been remarkable.

As Fred Williams, City of Houston lobbyist, puts it: "In any given session, it is best to adopt either a basically offensive or defensive strategy — you either try to pass bills or kill them. Defense is usually easier."

Richardson and Guthrie necessarily attempted both strategies this session and met with measurable success. Following the directives of TWPC, Jody's offensive lobbying priorities included pass-

age of Displaced Homemakers' legislation (HB444/SB515) the AFDC Education and Employment Act (HB1755), and the Commission on the Status of Women (HB875). They also concentrated on insurance legislation this session, specifically SB1157, regarding conversion of group health insurance. Judith began to note the importance of insurance legislation for women during the last session and cultivated a working knowledge of the issues during the interim by monitoring State Board of Insurance deliberations and proceedings. As a result, WEAL and TWPC set insurance as a priority and joined hands on this issue and others this session.

Defensively, they concerned themselves with blocking the ERA recall effort and the abortion bills.

With the passage of the first two bills and an indication that the

Governor will create the Commission by executive order, the only setback in the offensive program was the insurance bill. Successful defense efforts on the ERA and abortion bills were assisted by the fulltime lobbying efforts of Norma Cude (ERA) and Peggy Romberg (Pro-Choice). And, no doubt, those combined efforts were also less visibly enhanced by many legislators who had everything to lose and nothing to gain by letting either of these bills out of committee for a floor vote.

WEAL lobbyist Judith Guthrie warns however, that "Women are kidding themselves if they think that legislators will look out for our interests if we're not watching them all the time. The most important component of effective lobbying is constant attention."

— A.K. and D.McC.

Austin Roundup—cont. from p. 7

recommendation from Gov. Briscoe, the Legislature committed extravagant amounts of funds for state highways. This untimely decision left other agencies and groups competing for scarce resources and everybody lost.

AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

As the level of support for day care has been reduced, so it goes for AFDC. For the last biennium, the Legislature appropriated \$359,580,842 for AFDC programs. This session's appropriation, at \$317,013,264, reflects an overall decrease of about 12 percent. It means that once again the Department of Public Welfare cannot raise the standard of need which has remained unchanged since 1969 despite the state population/inflation boom of the 1970's. Currently, of approximately 325,000 Texans served by AFDC (three percent of the population), 75 percent are children who receive an average monthly assistance payment of \$32.06. This places Texas fourth from the bottom nationally in the level of AFDC assistance provided.

Current DPW expectations are that they will provide the same level of assistance to fewer people. However, if the caseload begins to increase beyond their capacity to serve at the current level, they will be forced to reduce the level of assistance payment per family. The food stamp program, which is often used as supplementary support for AFDC recipients, experienced similar cuts in their budget for '78-'79.

LEGITIMACY

Rep. Ron Wilson (D-Houston) and Sen. Don Adams (D-Jasper) passed HB24/SB30, removing information concerning illegitimacy from birth certificates. Wilson also passed HB1784, which permits individuals to have indications of illegitimacy removed from their birth certificates.

SB53, passed by Sen. Lloyd Dogget (D-Austin) and Rep. Sarah Weddington (D-Austin), equalizes the status of legitimate and legitimated children with respect to inheritances.

INSURANCE

Rep. Bill Keese (D-Sommerville) and Sen. Bill Moore (D-Bryan) sponsored SB1157, which addresses the lack of standard provisions required in group and blanket accident and health insurance policies, and the lack of provisions regulating conversion of group health insurance to coverage for a person whose group coverage has been terminated.

For example, if a man who receives coverage for his family through his work dies or divorces, his wife may not realize she can purchase individual coverage. If she does, insurance companies may either straightforwardly decline to cover her, (citing, for example, her age) or effectively decline by quoting rates she cannot possibly afford.

SB1157 requires that group insurance policies clearly indicate that individual coverage is available upon termination. It also states that companies which provided group policies must issue former dependents individual policies providing minimal coverage as defined by the Insurance Code. It passed the Senate, but was killed in the House Calendars Committee.

Under the provisions of HB1722, passed by Rep. Gerald Hill (D-Austin) and Sen. Gene Jones (D-Houston), rate structures for identical insurance coverage cannot reflect differences based upon sex, marital status, age, physical handicap, and location of risk, unless the difference can be justified on a reasonable classification system, on the basis of sound actuarial principles, or in relation to actual and credible loss statistics.

Rep. Ron Coleman (D-El Paso) introduced House Bill 1844, requiring all accident and sickness policies which provide hospital, surgical, or medical coverage provide the same coverage for maternity care that they do for illness and disease.

HB1844 was referred to the Insurance Committee on March 15, and never received a hearing.

hous'ov·kol'man

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

House of Coleman

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How do you feel the media portray the Chicana — if at all?

Cont. from p.9

Lola Lopez

Of course, there are exceptions, but the majority of the media is still depicting the Chicana as a second-class citizen. Not enough attention is given to women who are breaking out of the mold of being housewives and in their husbands' shadows.

How do you as a Chicana relate to the women's rights movement and how do you feel it relates to you?

While all women have basic needs in common that cut across ethnic lines, do you feel the Anglo woman, particularly, can relate or does relate to the distinct differences of your culture?

Gloria Barajas

There are a few rare Anglo women that I feel can cut across ethnic lines and can in fact relate to the distinct differences of our culture. There are many Anglos who feel that because they've worked with Chicanos in the barrios, or lived in Mexico or the Southwest, that that in fact qualifies them to speak on our behalf. They generally appear to be extremely patronizing.

How do you as a Chicana relate to your community and to the on-going civil rights struggle of the Mexican American? How does it relate to you?

Tina Reyes

I see educational development as a means for creative change and economic reality for my community.

Olga Soliz

I give my support to Chicanas in business. My florist is Mexican-American, my beauty operator is a Chicana, and so is my dressmaker. In the areas of entertainment and eating, we try to patronize Chicanas. Recently I have started my own business and it will serve Chicanas in the area of employment.

I keep up contact with Chicana women in leadership roles. The network of talented Chicanas in Houston, the state and the nation is ongoing with me. I give a minimum of 10-15 hours to Chicana issues every month.

I know that in this community of ours, few if any Mexican American women are in jobs of policy. The City of Houston has only one Mexican-American female doing anything for the community. The county has none. The Federal Civil Service, with its 400 branches, has only four women in jobs making \$13,000 or more. Is this fair?

When most people think of Chicanas, they picture a woman cooking tortillas with several small children tugging at her hemline. There are Chicanas who are leaders in education, politics, civil rights, business and community organizations, of whom we hear nothing.

Gloria Barajas

The media does the Chicana a grave injustice. We are featured as maids, housekeepers and cooks and generally have overpowering accents. I'm not saying we don't have some people like those but, by golly, let's open our eyes

Guadalupe Quintanilla

It depends on the person, but in the majority of cases, I would say that Anglo women do not in any way relate to the differences of the Chicana's culture for several reasons.

One of the traditional priorities in the upbringing of the Chicana has been the one of respecting and pleasing the male. It is my understanding that this is not as important a priority in the upbringing of an Anglo female.

In most cases, Chicanas come from a more traditional orientation, as opposed to the more liberal orientation of the Anglo women. Finally, the contact Anglo women have with women of Mexican descent is limited in many cases to the one provided by the maids.

Sylvia Garcia

I've been involved in the women's rights movement since college days. I found out early in my activities that sexism was racism's best friend and one could not fight one without touching the other. So it has been since then that I've known there are two battles and it is going to take a lot of time.

I've found only a handful of *gringas* who could understand. They always give you

Gloria Barajas

As an individual, I relate very closely to the ongoing civil rights struggle of our community. It's extremely painful for me to see what exists in our communities — the injustices, the inhumane treatment and the plain, outright discrimination that our people live with daily.

As a Chicana leader, what problems, if any, do you encounter with male leadership in the Mexican American community? What support?

Tina Reyes

While I understand the good intentions of Houston's Chicano male leadership, I think it is often difficult for them to stop protecting the Chicana. *El Patron*, practice is highly recommended!

Marta Moreno

Very few Chicanos are brave enough to accept women as equals. The Chicano as all other males, is apprehensive of women. They find it difficult to accept the complexities of dealing with us as leaders overlooking our potential and rightful place as it pertains to politics, jobs and decision-making policies.

and take a good hard look at the many types of women we do have. Let's not just praise some of our abilities; let's take time to find out what the Chicana is all about. Let's not continue to stereotype as the media consistently do.

As recently as three months ago, one national women's magazine listed possible female appointees for Cabinet level positions and other major positions and never even mentioned one Hispanic for a single slot. Their response to us was that they were sorry but they ran out of space. Now I call that *bullshit!*

Another recent example was Breakthrough's recent issue on women in the media. Elma Barrera was the only Chicana

mentioned and her photo certainly appeared to be missing. We have other Chicanas in different areas of the media who could have been included.

Additionally, I don't see but two Chicanas on the major television stations working the news beat, one of whom should long ago have been anchoring.

There are many, many more things I'd like to sound off about regarding the media but space is limited. One thing I must say is that while Breakthrough's gesture is nice in terms of dedicating one issue to us, that would not be necessary if we were included in every issue. *Surely Chicanas are news too.*



Lola Lopez

the "Isn't that part of your culture — the machismo?" line, trying to make you feel guilty. Or "For you it must be even more difficult, what with the machismo and all." Hell, it used to make me mad!

Sure, we know that Mexican-Americans generally are not at the top of the totem pole in dollars or educational level, but why is it that the only panel they want to put us on is the women in welfare session or worse — the minority women in the women's movement panel.

Margaret Acosta

Too often we as Chicanas have tended to remove ourselves from Anglo and upper-middle-class-dominated issues, simply because of the irrelevance or non-identification with Chicana lifestyles. However, upon closer examination, our views on the qualities of womanhood, our strong family ties, and our concept of family as institution, can accept a movement which asserts and does not divide. If the movement appeals to the basic issue of human rights for both men and women, if it frees a person from sexism in a relationship and if the appeal is to reason, then it is my belief that we as Chicanas can support it.

I have never been an active participant in the women's movement because I find it very difficult to relate to the issues and especially to its leadership. As a working woman, I can easily identify with such issues as equal pay for equal work and encouraging women to enter traditionally male-dominated careers. However, I cannot relate at all to other major issues being fought for by women's groups.

For example, on the abortion issue, while I fully support women having freedom of choice in the matter, I cannot personally relate to it because of my very strong personal opposition to abortion itself due to my upbringing and religious beliefs.

Odilia Mendez

Although the movement has not quite realized it, Chicanas are the untapped resource that will help us attain our civil rights. Let's use this analogy: Our men feel they need to head the pack and when in battle some of the leaders fall by the wayside, they find that additional troops have not been trained. Women have always been the "footsoldiers" and have not been given the opportunity to be generals.

That brings in another kind of discrimination that I see, which is from brothers and sisters in the Chicano movement. In talking to Raza Unida women, I have heard the attitude of "We can't deal with women's issues. We have to get our men to positions of power first and then we can negotiate for ourselves. As long as the Anglo dominates, there is no hope for any of us."

I do not agree with those attitudes, because the struggle will be won with Chicanos and Chicanas walking side by side.

Lola Lopez

Because of the *machismo* attitude among Chicanos, the majority feel very threatened by the outspoken Chicana. They want us to sit quietly, agree with whatever they have to say and do the work that needs to be done at their instruction, with no recognition for our achievements.

Those Chicanas who openly address issues are immediately labeled as being emotional, troublemakers, loud-mouthed and homosexuals.

If the majority of Chicanos had their way, we would all still be barefoot and pregnant and tending to their needs instead of our own.

What support? I am sorry to say that among the Chicano leadership in Houston, there is no support whatsoever.

Juanita Navarro

The Senior Citizens' group of Centro Chicano has encountered full and loyal support from the male members of the Mexican-American community. We work well with each other. We respect each other.

Olga Soliz

The Chicana is put on a pedestal, not to be treated as equal. The Chicano will take care of us, but he will not help put us in positions of power.

There have been four Mexican-American men in elected positions in the past four years. Not one has trained, helped or pushed a Chicana toward a visible, well-paid position.

Leonel Castillo had a Mexican secretary, but he put Anglo women, such as Merylyn Whited and Connie Acosta, on boards and commissions.

Ben Reyes, John Castillo and Hector Garcia have helped no one.

Yes, the Mexican-American male has been remiss. Rose Mary Garcia asked Leonel Castillo his feelings on her being a Carter delegate. He said, "No, you should not" and still would not support her when Carter won and she needed to raise money to go to the convention in New York.

Carmen Orta, named by the governor and the Democratic Party chair to sit on the Democratic Platform Committee, was fired from her City job. Not one of the Mexican-American male leaders came to her aid.

... and no news is what there'll be unless our financial situation improves right away. That means no news of women active in politics, in business, in the arts, no women's analyses and perspectives on current events, no more of those stories that don't get covered anywhere else!

WHERE WOULD HOUSTON BE WITHOUT BREAKTHROUGH?

Most people just naturally assume Breakthrough operates with a large, full-time paid staff in well-equipped offices. The truth is far from it. We have an all-volunteer staff, only two of whom are full-time (and after 18 months, very poor), while our equipment is minimal and makeshift.

We have reached a sort of plateau, where subscription and advertising income is sufficient to cover our publishing costs, but we lack the available capital and labor to expand, to publicize the paper and attract new subscribers. And we badly need such basics as typewriters and tape recorders that work. And paper and pencils and postage stamps.

We have grown to the point where the daily administrative and clerical chores are more than two people can handle. We could certainly use more volunteers. But it is against our principles not to pay for the talent we employ. We know women's work is worth more. A lot more.

We would hate to find ourselves unable to continue bringing the quality publication you have come to expect. We need to hear from you that you care about the continuation of a women's press in Houston. That you think this kind of network of communication among women in the community is important.

We are happy to announce the establishment of the Breakthrough Foundation, through which you can make tax-deductible contributions to support the women's press. If we do not hear from you soon, we're going to have to give it up. We need to know we're needed. And we need your help.

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To&From

General Announcements

The Harris County Women's Political Caucus now has an answering service: 453-6247. Please call and leave a message if you are interested in membership or participation in women candidates' political campaigns.

The National Women's Music Festival IV will be held in Champagne, Illinois, June 28-July 3. It will consist of evening concerts, workshops, open microphones, space for ensembles and jamming. Veterans and newcomers to music and feminism are welcome. Women who are interested in going and want to share expenses should call Anna at 523-3935.

Kathy Whitmire, candidate for City Controller, needs a campaign headquarters—centrally located, cheap, etc. Office equipment is also needed. If you can help, or have any useful information, call Carolyn Nichols at 627-0700, X 2051, or 528-3919.

Merylyn Whited will kick off her campaign for Houston City Council (District C) on June 18, at a party to be held at the River Oaks Garden Club at 7 p.m. A fund-raising party for her campaign will also be held on Saturday, June 25, from 5 p.m. until 10 p.m., at 302 Bunker Hill Road. Admission \$2.50. Whited is a former Administrative Assistant to Leonel Castillo, and is especially concerned with

women's rights and tax dollar accountability.

The odd-job women are still painting houses, interior and exterior. Call Rose Ann at 523-3987 or Anna at 523-3935.

Houston Area NOW's new telephone number is 453-6247.

Breakthrough News

We are planning to publish a 1978 Houston Women's Calendar as a fund-raising project. We would like to include some pictures of Houston area women in their working environment on the weekly-format calendar. If you have photographs you think would be appropriate for this, please send them to Breakthrough, P. O. Box 88072, Houston 77004. Prints should be black-and-white, and vertical shots are preferred.

Starting next month, Breakthrough will publish a quarterly Book Review Supplement on books dealing with and/or written by women for women. We need competent reviewers and artists. If you are interested in helping on this project, leave a message at the Breakthrough offices, 526-6686.

Credit

Women: To Your Credit is a free booklet on credit rights. A copy can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 16332, Houston 77002.

As of June 1, married women may request that the Credit Bureau maintain a separate credit file in their own name. This file will include the woman's individual accounts and any joint accounts with her husband. It will not include any of the husband's individual accounts. There is no charge for setting up the separate file, but it will cost \$3.00 if you want to know its contents. For more information write to the Credit Bureau of Greater Houston, 2505 Fannin, Houston 77002, or call 652-3440. Also, married women who have retained their maiden name might want to put in their files that they are married, in order to avoid hassles on future credit applications.

Employment

The ACLU is looking for an attorney willing to do civil rights and constitutional litigation cases and aid in organization. Please inquire and send resume immediately to: Joan Glantz, ACLU Office, 905 Richmond, Houston 77006. 524-5925.

Instructors are needed for Women's Self-Defense Classes, sponsored by the Department of Women's Affairs, University of Houston. Salary is approximately \$5.00/hour. Contact Charron Hodge, 749-1366 or 225-0445.

Wanted: Experienced person to care for five-month-old-baby. Evenings and weekends. Chimney Rock—Bellaire—SW Freeway area. Must have own transportation. 664-2103.

Education

The Women's Center at the University of Houston at Clear Lake is now officially affiliated with the university under the Counseling Center. They are still registering people for the Women's Studies Concentration. In late July and August, they will also be offering a Reentry Seminar for women coming back to school. Call 488-9270 for further information

Heading for Mexico or Spain on business or for summer vacation? Learn the language first at the YWCA Conversational Spanish classes. Guadalupe Quintanilla will hold the course sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. For more information call Sharon Rodine or Gwen Lyle at 523-6881.

The YWCA is offering its usual cornucopia of summer programs. On June 11 and 29, they will hold a workshop on "How to Teach Your Children About Sex" for parents of children up to eight years old. Classes and recreational swimming for all ages from



six-months to adult are held at 2114 Peckham. Various other youth and adult programs include a girls' basketball clinic, dance, ceramics, tennis, water ballet and general day camp/day care facilities, and are available at all five Y's. For information, call the branch nearest you: Downtown, 3515 Allen Parkway, 523-6881; Blue Triangle, 3005 McGowen, 659-7630; Magnolia Park, 7305 Navigation, 926-2601; Cora Root Peden, 11209 Clematis Lane, 926-2601; and Spring Branch-Memorial, 1102 Campbell, 468-1727.

Health & Body Awareness

The FDA has recalled 86,000 Koro-Flex Arcing contraceptive diaphragms manufactured by the Holland-Rantos Company. Lot numbers F-6, G-6, H-6 and I-6 are specifically affected, but any Koro-Flex Arcing diaphragm that appears to be defective should be returned. (Lot numbers appear on the edge of the diaphragm rim.) The company is asking purchasers to return the diaphragms to the point of purchase for a refund or replacement. Some of the diaphragms are defective such that the central disc may become separated from the rim, rendering them ineffective as contraceptives. The diaphragms may have been obtained by prescription from Planned Parenthood clinics, surgical supply dealers, pharmacies, doctors and hospitals.

Massage — Yoga Classes for Women: Experience techniques in Massage, Polarity, Reflexology and Yoga. We will share feelings on sexism and body image and work to restore the body's natural flow of energy. Mondays, June 13 — July 11, 7:30 — 10:00 p.m. \$25.00. Call Beth Kendrick at 529-5308.

Good Vibrations: Eve's Garden is a sexual boutique created by women for women to have access to information and products to enhance sexual pleasure. If you would like to share in our good vibrations, please send 25¢ for our catalogue to P.O. Box 4028, Austin, TX 78765.

Media

KUHT-TV (Channel 8) runs a number of programs each month dealing with women and their concerns. *Woman* is a series presented every Friday at 10:30 p.m. (and usually also at 2:00 p.m.). June's topics are: *Breast Cancer Update*, June 10; An interview with nationally-known photographer Lotte Jacobi, June 17; *The Northern Irish Question: Another View*, June 24. *Documentary Showcase*, June 9, 10:30 p.m., will show *Guess Who's Pregnant?*, an investigation of teenage pregnancies. *Decades of Decision*, (June 13, 7 p.m.; June 18, 9 p.m.) will present *Equally Free*, concerning Samuel Adams and Mary Katherine Goddard, a Baltimore publisher during the American Revolution. *Great Performances: Dance in America*, June 22, 8 p.m. and June 26, 1 p.m., features *Trailblazers of Modern Dance*, a history of modern dance in America from Isadora Duncan to Martha Graham.

Meetings & Conferences

The Texas Women's Meeting, celebrating the International Women's Decade (1975-1985), will be held June 24-26 at the University of Texas in Austin. Similar meetings are being held in the other states culminating in the National Women's Conference in Houston, November 18-21. Events at the Texas meeting will include exhibits, films and workshops on health care, women and power, women in the media, credit, etc. Reaction Groups will be organized to provide a forum for feedback from the general female public and to adopt resolutions to send to the national conference. There will also be concurrent events on women writers of the twentieth century, women in the performing arts, and women in jazz. Voting will be held for the 58 delegates to the National Women's Conference. Housing arrangements are available either in the UT dormitories, or reserved blocks in local hotels and motels. Prices are from \$12-15 for singles, \$14-30 for doubles. For more information, call Mary Hightower, 222-4581. Or you can write to the Texas Committee on the Observance of IWY Decade, Federal Building G-161, 300 East 8th St, Austin, TX 78701. They will have information on both the Austin meeting and future IWY Decade activities.

The Association of Women Attorneys of Houston will have a Hospitality Room at the Texas State Bar Convention, June 16-17, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., in the Rosebud Room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. All interested women are invited to stop by the Hospitality Room and meet some of our local women attorneys.

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How to Deal With Them"

TIME: Thursday, June 16, 1977
10:00-11:45 a.m.
2:30-4:45 p.m.

PLACE: Houston Room of the University Center
University of Houston Central Campus

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Persons Most Admired

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