

CITY SISTERS



NEWSLETTER



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NOTED ARCHITECT IN SOUTH BEND

How do you define your space in your own home? (Or do you?)
How do societies define the space for minorities? Can it be that
even our space is determined by sexual politics?

Leslie Kanes Weisman, a nationally known author, speaker, and professor of architecture, will be in South Bend on April 16 to give a talk, with slides, on "Sexual Politics of the Man-made Environment." Prof. Weisman is currently teaching (among other subjects) a new course for three different eastern universities. Entitled "The American Home & Household," the course is a cultural, architectural, and psychological analysis of various American homes and households throughout history.

The public is cordially invited to Prof. Weisman's talk on April 16 in Northside 113 from 2:30-3:45 P.M., Indiana University South Bend, and to the reception for her from 4-5 P.M. at the Women's Center, 913 S. 20th Street, South Bend.

Prof. Weisman is giving essentially the same talk at the Harvard Graduate Design Center in March. Her ideas are exciting and provocative. This definitely a lecture not to miss!

what's hill-burton?

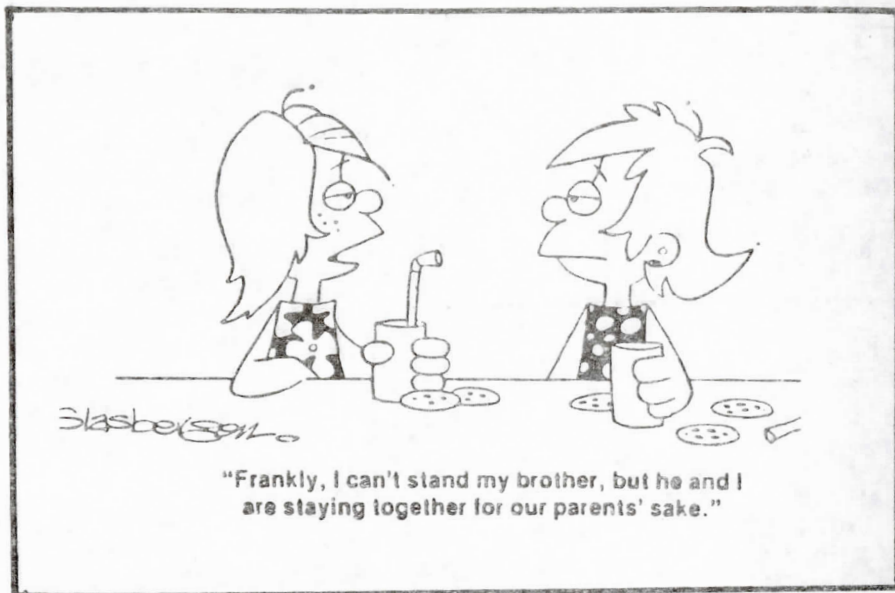
People with incomes below the national poverty level, laughingly set at about \$5,800, who are not covered under federal health aid programs can get free hospital care under the Hill-Burton Act. Hospitals have construction costs paid for by the government in return for providing this care. Hospital personnel are often unaware of the Hill-Burton provisions. So be firm about Hill-Burton if you land in an emergency room with no money, no insurance, and no means to pay the bill.

FEMINIST CULTURE

The 7th NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL--
May 29-June 1. Four days of sharing, learning
and celebrating, featuring concerts, workshops,
jam sessions, open mics, films, and a
Saturday night dance. Confirmed performers
include Meg Christian, Maxine Feldman, Terry
Garthwaite, Holly Near, and Teresa Trull.
Week pass \$32 until April 10th. Write:
NWMF, Box 2721 oob, Station A, Champaign,
Ill. 61820.

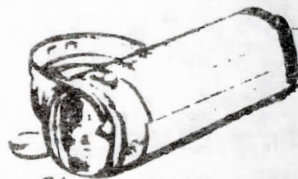
SOJOURNER TRUTH CELEBRATION POSTPONED TO FALL

Originally scheduled for April 13, 1980, the celebration of Sojourner Truth has been pushed ahead to the fall of 1980. Although Mary Sue Freitag has been gathering materials for an IUSB library exhibit and altho' other preparations are in the works, the Women's Studies Committee felt that things were not far enough forward to make the occasion the gala affair they had intended. So watch for future announcements! We will be celebrating Sojourner this year--and in high style!



HOORAH! (for a change...)

In the first "civil rape" case in Seattle, Washington, since 1916, a judge ordered that a man pay \$15,000 to a woman who claimed that he raped her. The Portland Oregonian reported that no criminal complaint was brought against the accused because the prosecutor said it would simply be "her word against his," but that the woman went ahead and pressed civil charges anyway. When the case was settled in the woman's favor, Superior Court Judge Barbara Rothstein said that there was very little precedent for the case (see Ms. "Gazette," March, 1979, "Sue Your Landlord, Your School . . . or the Rapist") but that "rape is a traumatic experience, to say the least." The defendant's attorney said that he believed his client would be "traumatized" in trying to meet the payment.



Fathers can cause birth defects too. Drug exposure of the male before conception—particularly to methadone, Darvon, caffeine, thalidomide, alcohol, anesthetic gases, and nicotine—can result in reduced birth weight, reduced learning ability, and increased infant mortality.

B250 CALENDAR I.U.S.B.

The public is cordially invited to the following programs, all from 2:30-3:45 P.M. in Northside 009 (unless indicated otherwise):

March 31 (Mon.) "History of Feminism in France"

Anne-Marie Poinssatte, Ph.D., University of Chicago; Associate Professor of French, IUSB; One of the co-founders of B250.

April 2 (Wed.) "Hunger in the Third World"

Heather Johnston Nicholson, Ph. D., University of Iowa; currently Humanities/Science ICH Fellow at Purdue University; author of Distant Hunger (1979) with Ralph L. Nicholson; teacher of broad span of courses in political science.

April 7 (Mon.) "The Changing Shape of the U.S. Labor Force"

Collette Moser, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; labor economist; has served as consultant to U.S. Dept. of Labor, to Gov. Milliken of Michigan, as well as all over the U.S.; currently teaching at Michigan State University; author of many papers in her field.

April 16 (Wed.) "Sexual Politics of the Man-made Environment"

Leslie Kanes Weisman, Associate Professor of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Co-founder, Women's School of Planning and Architecture; author, Flight from Suburbia (1973); active in many planning and feminist organizations. IN NORTHSIDE 113.

April 21 (Mon.) "Problems of Black Women"

Brenda Eichelberger, Chicago Black Feminists

April 23 (Wed.) "Mai Zetterling's Stockholm" (1978). FILM.

For other speakers and dates, check the WOMEN'S BULLETIN BOARD, just outside the IUSB Library in Northside Hall.



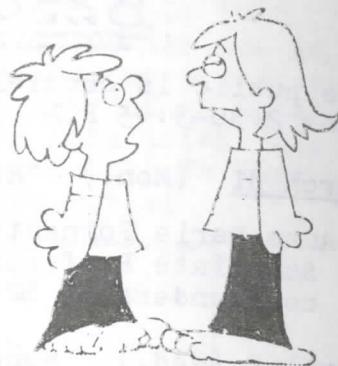
Jan Alexander-Leitz

Serving Up Food for Thought

Customers enjoying a leisurely Sunday lunch in a funky-elegant seafood emporium look bewildered when three young women, wearing white coffee-shop-style waitress uniforms, burst onto the dining-room floor as if the entire restaurant were a stage. The "waitresses," a Los-Angeles-based group of feminist performing artists, launch into a guerrilla theater presentation. One woman, armed with comic-book radar equipment, runs through the dining area reporting on hazards to waitresses spotted at "The Greasy Spoon," "The Hole in the Wall," "The Grinder," and "Mom's Kitchen." Waitresses here are hired strictly for their looks, waitresses there are forced to run meter dashes in three-inch heels, she reports. Another "waitress" in Viking-like armor plays Super Waitress and mimes pouring coffee into customers' cups. The third performer plays the xylophone and sings "Queen of the Road," "Proud Mary," and "I'd Like To Teach the World To Sing."

The six performers then arrive at "The Aware Inn," where they "communicate in new ways," shed their armor, and help one another. Their journey ends when they reach "The Gathering," a place where "waitresses are not dependent on tips or sexuality, service is not demeaning, being a service worker is admirable, and service workers are respected. A place that is nourishing to all, where you can get a good meal."

Former real-life waitresses Jerri Allyn and Anne Gaudin organized the group in 1977. They've performed since in restaurants, art galleries, and theaters throughout the Los Angeles area and abroad.



"But if Mommy isn't a carpenter, how come she's always going to board meetings?"

Heaven won't protect the working girl.

A Labor Department booklet called *A Working Woman's Guide to Her Job Rights* will give you facts on all federal laws affecting women as paid workers in nongovernment jobs, from hiring through retirement—with sample complaint forms just in case. (Laws affecting federal employees not included—Hmmm.) Send \$T 60 to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Booklet order number is 029-016-00056-9.



An on-going story that is mostly unreported...

Tallahassee Feminists and Doctors at Odds

By JO THOMAS

1977

Special to The New York Times

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Nov. 17 — Any one who remembers the 1930's might feel a sense of déjà vu in the chaos of pamphlets, posters and communiqués in the sprawling, Mediterranean house near the center of the state capital, so isolated in the Florida Panhandle that people say you can't fly to heaven from here without going through Atlanta.

The house, which has an old "for sale" sign out front, is headquarters for the Feminist Women's Health Center, an activist organization that has so alienated the local medical community that Tallahassee doctors have refused to provide any services here for the last four years.

The center, which had to turn to out-of-town doctors for the 3,000 abortions it has performed in this period, gets 400 telephone calls a week from women anyway, inquiring about anything from birth control to home remedies for gynecological infections. The clinic treats about 100 patients a week.

The Tallahassee controversy, which has given rise both to an antitrust suit against six prominent doctors and jail sentences for four feminists, emerged from a fundamental difference of opinion about the degree to which the feminists should be able to challenge traditional medical care for women and to offer an alternative.

Doctor Quits After Interview

"Ninety percent of what happens in a gynecologist's office women could do for themselves," said Susan Griffin, one of the workers at the center, which actively seeks to promote the philosophy that women can and should be more independent of doctors.

The Tallahassee center opened quietly in March 1974 with educational programs for women and two months later began offering gynecological services, birth-control advice and low-cost first-trimester abortions using the once-a-week services of a respected local doctor who had staff privileges at the city's only hospital, then called Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. He was later joined by another doctor, and in the first year they performed 816 abortions.

Then, in a June 1975 interview with The Tallahassee Democrat, Linda Curtis, a founder of the center, made clear it was not just another doctor's office.

Women should be more involved in their own health care, she said, and while this did not mean doing without a doctor, it did mean doing without a doctor when possible. Women need better, cheaper, more accessible health care, she said, and the center would keep files on local doctors and make its own recommendations on which doctors women should see.

The article enraged local gynecologists and obstetricians, who saw it as blatant self-promotion by a group that, without apologies, stood as both critic and competitor. The day after it appeared, the clinic's main doctor quit, saying that the clinic had violated its agreement with him not to advertise. Within two months, the second doctor also quit.

State Investigation Sought

The feminists said they then got in touch with more than 60 local physicians, half of those in the area, to seek help, but without success. Instead of closing the clinic, they began using resident doctors from Jacksonville, 169 miles away.

Tallahassee doctors, who have insisted all along that their only concern was the welfare of women in need of medical care, asked the State Board of Medical Examiners to investigate the center. Out-of-town doctors, they observed, were at a disadvantage in providing follow-up or emergency care for abortion patients. The state concluded that the clinic was operating within the law.

Within a short time, the residents quit. The feminists countered by filing an antitrust suit charging six Tallahassee doctors with attempting to restrain trade and monopolize health care in Tallahassee. The suit was dismissed in Federal District Court but was reinstated by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The United States Supreme Court recently refused to intervene and sent the case back here for trial.

Whatever the outcome of the trial, the feminists' cause suffered a setback in March 1977, when about 30 women's health activists attending a national

meeting here made an unannounced evening "inspection" of the labor and delivery rooms and newborn nurseries at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital.

Activists Entered a Nursery

Nurses and other hospital employees said later that the women were quiet, stayed only a few minutes, left when asked and did not enter any of the labor or delivery rooms. However, a few of the activists did enter a nursery, an act that enraged a judge, who later sentenced four of the women to jail for trespassing.

In Leon County Court, Judge Charles D. McClure did not allow into evidence testimony that entering the nursery posed no risk to a newborn. "I think the potential damage to these infants in there is insurmountable," he said, and a flurry of letters to the editor showed that many in Tallahassee agreed.

Two of the women who went into the nursery, Virginia Cassidy-Brian and Carol Downer, both of Los Angeles, face 60-day jail terms. The others, Miss Curtis, who now lives in New York, and Janice Cohen, also of New York, face sentences of 30 days.

"I think it's very harsh," said Joan Lovering, a director of the New Hampshire Feminist Health Center in Concord, N.H. "They should have considered what these women were doing and why."

Miss Lovering said the New Hampshire center was faring better with the local medical community than the Tallahassee center — doctors will cooperate and will refer patients — but other centers report similar problems.

In Chico, Calif., for example, physicians have refused to work with the Chico Feminist Women's Health Center, the only clinic north of Sacramento which offers abortions.

In Tallahassee, the center has managed to stay open but workers say that, without the cooperation of local doctors, it is an administrative nightmare.

"We approach every doctor who comes to town," said Anne Haskell, a member of the center's staff. "Sometimes they sound interested, but then they attend a medical meeting and realize they can't work with us."



Who invented Kabuki, the famous all-male theater of Japan?

An actress named Okuni, that's who. Her troupe began giving song, dance, and mime performances in 1586, with women in both male and female roles. By 1629, the government had banned women on stage as a danger to public morals—and men have been playing all the roles ever since.

Poet of the month



**Audre
Lorde**

We honor her.

**'WOMEN USA' BEGINS NEW COMMUNICATIONS
MEDIA FOR WOMEN'S INFORMATION: 24-HOUR,
TOLLFREE "800" NUMBER "HOT LINE"**

"WOMEN USA's Hot Line is now in operation. . . . Dial our nationwide tollfree number, 800-221-4945 [in New York State direct dial 212-344-2531], to hear a timely information and action message on an important women's issue," wrote Bella Abzug, President of WOMEN USA.

"By enabling women across the country to react quickly to a call for action, we hope to make the majority voice of women heard more effectively in Washington and nationally.

"Our plan is to change the WOMEN USA Hot Line message as frequently as the need arises. If an emergency develops that requires a prompt response by women all over the nation, our Hot Line can quickly send out an alert.

"We will be reporting on national legislation and executive actions that affect women as well as major campaigns by women's organizations. To do this, we need your input.

"Here's how you can help us make the WOMEN USA Hot Line an effective nationwide alert system for women:

"1. Get the Hot Line habit yourself. Dial us every week.
"2. **Publicize our Hot Line number at your organizations' meetings and in your publications.** [Emphasis added.]

"3. When your organization has an important message that you must reach women with nationally, please get in touch with us. *We will give prompt consideration to using your message on the WOMEN USA Hot line.*

"WOMEN USA will also be lobbying in Washington on issues that affect women's economic, political and social status. We will keep you informed of our activities, and we would appreciate your placing us on your mailing list so that we can receive news of what you are doing."

**UNORGANIZED'S ONLY NEWS SOURCE NOW IS MASS MEDIA;
HOTLINE INFORMATION WILL COME FROM WOMEN**

"After President Carter fired me for telling him his budget cuts would hurt women the most," Bella Abzug said, "thousands of unorganized women wrote to me, saying they felt they had been fired too. I decided we needed a vehicle for the many women who don't have much time to be active, but want to do something for women's rights. WOMEN USA will provide that outlet."

The Hot Line, the organization said, was for those women who agree that "it's time to connect with other women in a national action network," and who need "to find out what to do and where to go." In addition to the 24-hour, 7-day-a-week "hot line" for information, WOMEN USA will provide "action alerts, fact sheets, expert lobbying on legislation and other issues affecting women and making women's power count."

For more information or to be on the mailing list, WOMEN USA can be reached at P.O. Box 8214, Washington, DC 20024 or 76 Beaver Street, New York, NY 10005. To become a Founding Sponsor of WOMEN USA, send a contribution of \$10 or more.

murder

A midwife in Monterey, California is being charged with first-degree murder, the first such charge in the history of the establishment's fight against midwives and home birth, for having attended a birth at home in which the child was stillborn. Information about the case and contributions toward what promises to be lengthy and very costly litigation can be gotten from and sent to: the Rosalie Tarpenting Defense Fund, 16 Saucito, Monterey, California 93940 (408-899-3648).

more des misery

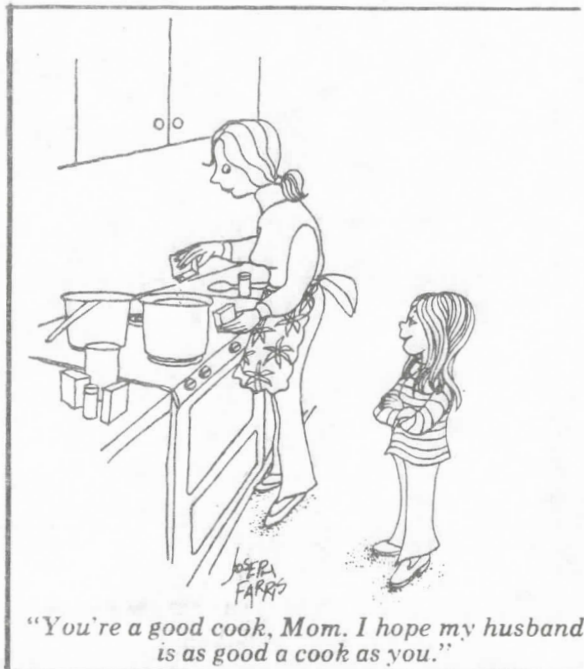
The list of dangers to DES daughters, women exposed to DES while still fetuses because their mothers were given the drug to prevent miscarriage, continues to grow. In addition to being at an increased risk for cervical and vaginal cancer, DES daughters who themselves become pregnant have been found to have a much higher incidence of miscarriages, premature births, and infants who die. Unlike their mothers, however, they will not be given DES to prevent miscarriages, because after a million women were given the drug for that reason, it was discovered that DES, a synthetic estrogen, did not prevent miscarriage. Although DES was banned from use as a fattening agent in chicken and cattle feed, it is still being given to menopausal women for symptom relief, to women who have just given birth and do not want to breastfeed, and to women who had unprotected intercourse as a morning-after pill.

In 1977 there were 13.9 million women 65 and older as opposed to 9.5 million men in that same age group. By the year 2035 the U.S. government estimates that number will increase to 33.4 million older women and 22.4 million older men. Because the needs and achievements of older women have been largely overlooked, the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Mental Health have published "The Older Woman: Continuities and Discontinuities," a booklet that explores health, family, and work issues. Single copies are available from Expand Associates, Inc., attention Jim Giglio, 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 508, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

the lid's off the cap

There's good news and bad news about the cervical cap, a birth control method that the National Women's Health Network has been encouraging for the last several years. The cap is a cup-like rubber device, similar to but much smaller than the diaphragm, that fits over the cervix. Its advocates say it is easier to use than the diaphragm, does not become dislodged during sex, can remain inside longer, is much safer than the pill or IUD, and quite cheap. More than 100 women's health centers reportedly prescribe the cap, which they import from England and other European countries since its manufacture here stopped with the advent of the pill.

The bad news, according to cap advocates, is that the FDA has decided to reclassify the device, making it illegal to use as a contraceptive. The good news is that the FDA will no longer confiscate cap shipments from Britain and HEW's Center for Population Research will make funds available to test the cap's effectiveness, which means that clinics can continue to prescribe the cap if they apply for federal funds to test the cap's effectiveness. The National Women's Health Network advises its member health centers and clinics to contact the Feminist Health Center 38 S. Main, Concord, NH 03301 if they want to be part of these efforts.



"You're a good cook, Mom. I hope my husband is as good a cook as you."



CITY
SISTERS

of South Bend

ARE YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST?

If you received this through the mail, the answer is YES. If not, write to the Women's Studies Committee, Arts & Sciences, IUSB, South Bend, Ind. 46615, & we'll put you on.

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