

'Herstory' out, A&M prof says

By RUTH GRAVES
Battalion Reporter

Women have been practically ignored in historical writings, a Texas A&M historian said Tuesday night.

Dr. Sara Alpern, who teaches American and women's history here, discussed the subject of her recently completed dissertation — Freda Kirchwey.

Alpern's speech in the Memorial Student Center was sponsored by Phi Delta Gamma, graduate and professional women's honorary society, and South Central Women's Studies Association.

Kirchwey, she said, deserves inclusion in American history because of her achievements while working on the liberal journal *The Nation*.

Kirchwey owned, edited and published *The Nation* from 1937 to 1955. She was influential during her own lifetime, Alpern said, yet she is "virtually invisible" in history.

Because "we see what we expect to see," Alpern said, historians ignore women because women are not expected to hold important political, economic and military positions.

"We see men as making history," Alpern said.

Kirchwey, Alpern said, lived in a time that was characterized by the changing of generally accepted roles of women. Since Kirchwey was a pioneer in choosing what was considered to be a male role, she had problems trying to balance her three identities: wife, mother and professional.

Alpern's research on Kirchwey's life included interviewing Kirchwey's only living son and sorting "nine liquor boxes of uncataloged papers." Much of the information about Kirchwey's personal life, Alpern said, was found in letters Kirchwey wrote to her husband, Evans Clark.

A new trend in women's history, the historian said, deals with women who have accomplishments outside of traditional male roles. The little historical coverage women have had in the past, she said, dealt mainly with professional women.

"If women haven't been in positions of power, who cares?" she said. For example, Alpern said, history should include the ordinary roles of women — homemaker or cook.

"Why not rewrite history with women in it?" Alpern said.



Dr. Sara Alpern, a member of the history department at Texas A&M University, spoke to a graduate and professional women's honorary association and South Central Women's Studies Association Tuesday night. Alpern's speech covered the life of Freda Kirchwey, a leading journalist and publisher of *Nation* magazine from 1937 to 1955.
Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

More Swedes die from suicide than traffic accidents

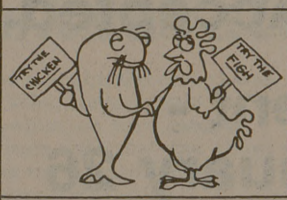
United Press International
STOCKHOLM — More Swedes died of suicide than in traffic accidents last year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The bureau said Monday 1,626 people died of suicide in 1978, a 4 percent increase over the year before, while 1,073 deaths were caused by motor vehicle accidents.

"In 592 other cases it was uncertain whether the fatal injury was accidental or self-inflicted. These ... were chiefly poisoning and drownings," the bureau said.

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New SALT treaty not opposed by Teng

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Vice Premier Hsiao-ping has "made it clear" President Carter that China does not oppose a new U.S.-Soviet strategic arms limitation agreement, White House aides said today.

He understands it might be a necessary thing," the official added. In an interview with Time Inc. editor-in-chief Hedley Donovan, Teng warned of the consequences to the United States if the nearly completed SALT agreement is signed because the Soviet Union's strategic strength "may surpass the United States in the near future."

As for Teng's verbal attacks on the Soviets during the interview, which was published in the Washington Star Monday, and his call for an alliance with the United States and other Western powers "to place curbs on the polar bear," Carter is walking a tightrope, trying to keep a balance and avoid jeopardizing a SALT agreement, aides said.

"The attitude of the Chinese as far as the Soviets are concerned is not markedly different in private than it is in public," they said.

Both Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance have not given an inch in their differences with Teng on the question of Russia.

When Teng agreed, according to the sources, Carter added in a joking tone, "I must warn you that American journalists will feel free to report on everything, just as they see it. In fact, I'd like to send you about ten thousand."

Teng laughed and said, "That's many."

According to State Department sources, the Chinese have agreed initially to accept resident correspondents from UPI, AP, the Washington Post and The New York Times.

They said they expected the agreement-run New China News Agency to establish a news bureau in Washington.

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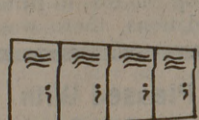
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