

Local

Speaker says women's lib is self-centered

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff

Because the American standard of living is so high, the American women's liberation movement is complacent and self-centered, a speaker said Monday at the "International Women in Transition" conference at Texas A&M University.

"You (American women) are not fighting to get water in your houses, you're not fighting for health care — you have all of your basic needs covered. You're not interested in ... what's happening in other parts of the world," Marta Lamas, an anthropologist and publicist from Mexico said at a workshop entitled, "The Role of U.S. Women in the International Women's Movement."

Lamas said the women's movement in the United States is strong because it has power, but weak in the sense that it has no involvement with other problems.

"We feel that if American women were really feminists, they would look to problems in other countries," Lamas said.

"A big part of the American movement is dedicated to equality," Lamas said. "In Mexico, we believe we can't achieve equality in our system. Our goal is to change the system and to make life more humane for both men and women."

Feminists in Mexico are working for basic needs which are intertwined with political needs, Lamas said. The feminist movement is very politically oriented in Mexico and all members are working together for a common purpose, she said.

This is in direct contrast to the American feminist movement which is divided by economic status, sexual preference and political beliefs, Lamas said.

Speakers at the conference are Lamas, co-founder of "Fem," a well-known Mexican magazine and Jasleen Dhamija, a native of India currently working for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, in Ethiopia.

Other speakers are Dr. Nawal El-Saadawi, formerly a proponent and adviser on women's programs through the Egyptian Ministry of Health and the United Nations, now an author of fictional and non-fictional works dealing with women in Moslem cultures and Rosemary Sayegh of Lebanon, a journalist and author. Sayegh's most recently published book is "Palestinians: From Peasants to Revolutionaries."

A panel discussion entitled "International Women in Transition — Observations" will be presented by the four speakers at 9 a.m. today in Rudder Forum. Four workshops are scheduled for this afternoon and will begin at 1:45 p.m.

The following workshops will be offered:

— "Women and Technological Transfer to the Third World," presented by El-Saadawi, 404 Rudder.

— "Patriarchal Institutions," presented by Dhamija, 410 Rudder.

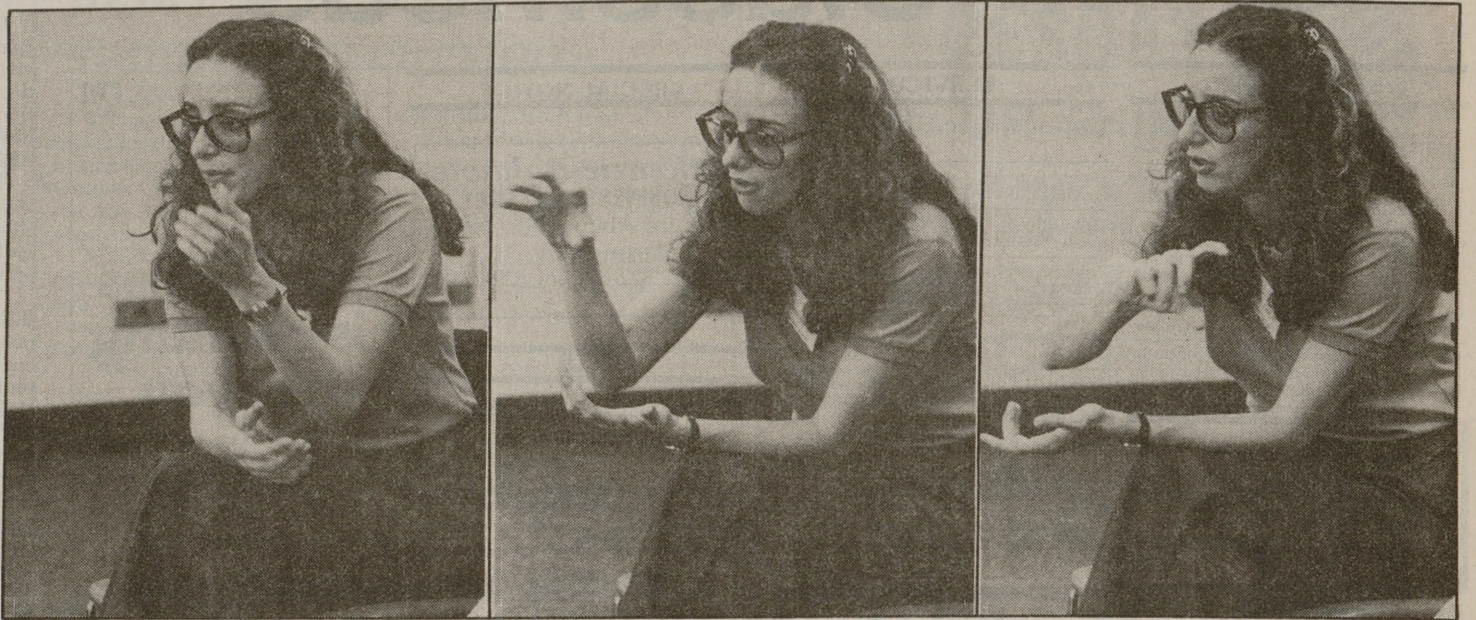
— "The Role of U.S. Women in the International Women's Movement," presented by Sayegh, 504 Rudder.

— "Women, Geopolitics and the Future," presented by Lamas, 510 Rudder.

A banquet and conference wrap-up will be at 6 p.m. tonight in 230-231 MSC.

There is no registration fee for the conference and all sessions are open to Texas A&M students and faculty.

The two-day conference sponsored by the Texas A&M International Programs Office is being funded through the Strengthening Grant effort of Title XII, a 1975 amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Anthropologist Marta Lamas spoke Monday on "The Role of U.S. Women in the International Women's Movement." The workshop is part of the "International

Women in Transition" conference being held at Texas A&M University. A panel discussion entitled "International Women in Transition — Observations" will be pre-

presented by the four speakers at 9 a.m. today in Rudder Forum. Four workshops are scheduled for this afternoon and will begin at 1:45 p.m.

A&M professor says tax breaks help economies

Tax relief, such as the program proposed by the Reagan administration, could be the solution to mounting federal deficits, both in this country and for the economic mess in Great Britain, says a Texas A&M finance professor just returned from England.

Dr. Kerry Cooper studies the British tax system and the political and economic factors that harken the Thatcher administration. Thatcher's fiscal conservatism has led to comparisons with Reagan, and tax relief could be the answer to Britain's problems also, he said.

Cooper said the conservative government in England has created economic hardships through taxation and preoccupation with a growing government deficit — termed the public sector borrowing requirements.

"I went over there during the time the Reagan administration began considering tax relief measures," said the professor, "and was particularly interested in the value-added tax that is being charged in England."

"Before I went, I was a proponent of the value-added tax," Cooper said, "but being there for three months was enough to cause me to change my mind."

While Cooper was overseas former Rep. Al Ulman, then chairman of House Ways and Means Committee, failed in his effort to pass a value-added tax and was defeated in a succeeding election. The value-added tax works like a state sales tax on a national level, Cooper said, but is too costly to administer and presents an enormous amount of paperwork for businessmen.

Cooper said the British government has gone beyond the point of an optimum level of taxation in an effort to balance the federal deficit there and cut back on inflation. Fifty-five percent of all personal income in England is taxed to support local, civil and government programs, he said. By comparison, U.S. taxes account for 30 percent.

"As government grows, he explained, the amount of goods for people to enjoy from the marketplace declines and inflation and unemployment increases.

"By overemphasizing a balanced budget and trying to constrain the money supply, the English have increased taxes," Cooper said. "The overall effect has been to increase inflation and decrease disposable income."

Cooper doesn't foresee such a problem in the United States if the federal budget is balanced over a longer period of time. Creating an excessively tight monetary policy in England has acted only to increase the deficit there, he said.

"The message for us is not to create excessive economic hardships on ourselves while trying to reduce the inflation rate," he said, adding that "Reagan has already made more progress toward reducing government expenditure in his five months of office than Thatcher has made in two years."

England has adopted some tax measures that might be con-

sidered here, Cooper continued. They allow adjustments for inflation on personal income, which helps those who are thrown into higher income brackets because of higher salaries. England has also adopted an advance corporation tax which could be used here to solve problems with "double-taxation" for stock investors.

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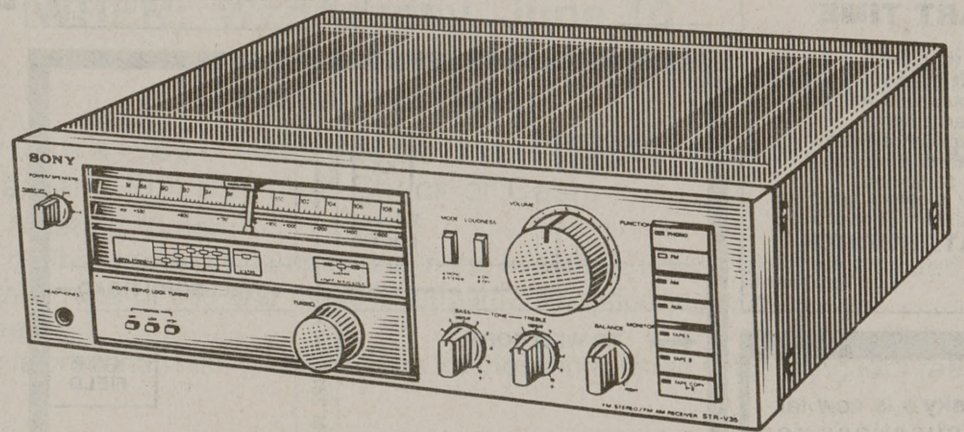
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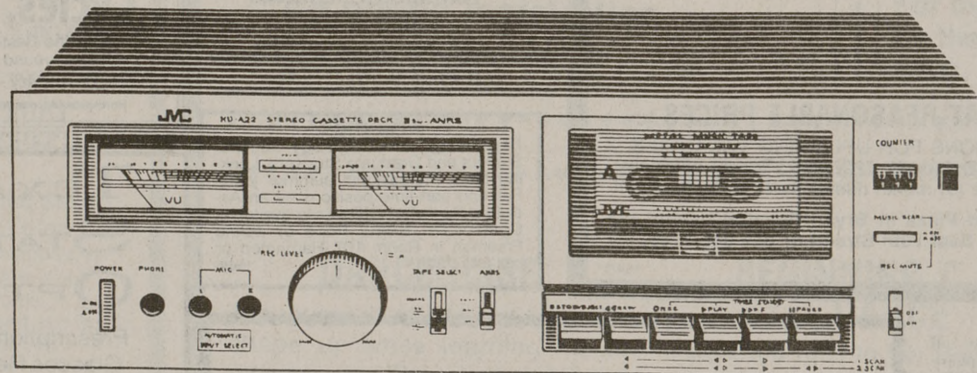
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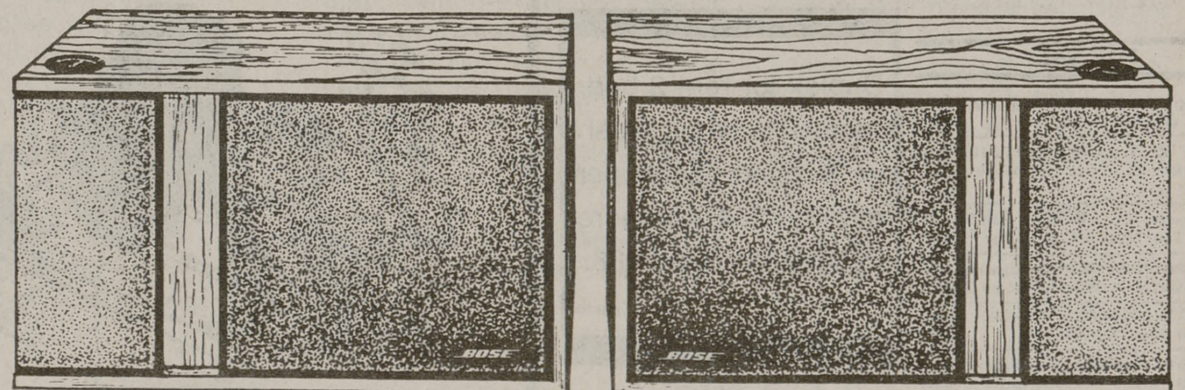
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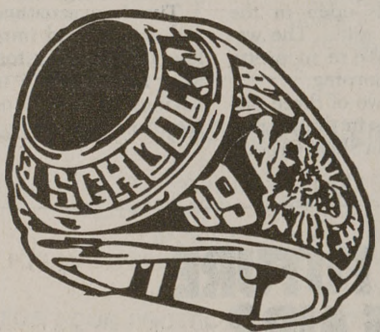


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