

# State and Local

## Female contractor still lives in fear of union extortionists

By Mary Ann Harvey  
Staff Writer

Ann Blackwell, one of the few female contractors in America, said she can never forget the four most horrifying years of her life in which she lived in constant fear and carried a pistol in her purse almost everywhere she went.

The 41-year-old mother of two dealt with a gang of union thugs who once controlled Local 406-Lake Charles of the International Union of Operating Engineers in Louisiana.

Blackwell was at Texas A&M Wednesday to speak to construction science students and to tell her story.

She was born in New London, Conn. and moved to Texas with her family at the age of two. Her father, Len Malinowsky, was a shipyard worker when he started his own construction company in 1964.

At 18, Blackwell married a young Navy officer and they had two children. The marriage ended in divorce in 1975.

Two years later, Blackwell formed her own company, Maco Construction Corp. Her company flourished — building roads, parks and industrial facilities.

Blackwell's problems with Local 406 began in 1981. Her father's company won a contract from Parsons-Gilbane, the prime contractor on a U.S. Department of Energy construction project at the U.S. government's Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility at West Hackberry in Louisiana. When her father's general superintendent suffered a heart attack, Malinowsky asked his daughter to fill in. She agreed that her company would oversee the job.

It was on this job that Blackwell came up against union thugs who threatened to murder her superintendent, sabotage her equipment and extort thousands of dollars.

Blackwell said the man behind these threats was Willard Carlock. Carlock ran Local 406 and was known for his powerful influences over the industry. She said most people found it hard to believe he would ever go to jail because he had been



Ann Blackwell

tried and acquitted so many times before.

However, Blackwell would not give up the fight against Carlock and his men, although she seemed to be all alone at times. She had contacted executives of Parsons-Gilbane, and DOE personnel in New Orleans and Washington, hoping to trigger a full-scale investigation, but got nowhere.

In May 1983 she received a message that a powerful figure in Louisiana's labor circles wanted to talk with her. The message, Blackwell recalls, referred to the man as the "Godfather." She met him in Lake Charles.

The man told Blackwell he knew all about her and that she liked to fight. He threatened her and told her not to "snitch." Blackwell continued her battle.

She finally got help from Rep. John D. Dingell (D., Mich.), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R., Utah), chairman of the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. Blackwell was asked to testify about her ordeal. Although she had been warned against it, she testified.

"I made up my mind I was either going to have to live the rest of my life in fear of those people or stand up to them," she said.

"I was most shocked when the indictments were finally handed down in 1985 to find out that approximately a dozen contractors at the same site had all been extorted. The difference was, I was the only one that stood up and objected to it."

Now that Willard Carlock and some of the main conspirators are in prison, Blackwell says she rests somewhat easier, although she still carries her pistol with her.

"I'm not afraid anymore," Blackwell said. "In the first place I've got a great deal of faith and I'm also a realist."

Blackwell said she is aware that she'll never quite be able to live like she did before.

"I'll always have to watch my back just a little — be a little cautious," she said. "But I don't intend to live in fear."

## White's politics keep him out of meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House aide said Monday that Texas Gov. Mark White was not among the three governors invited to discuss oil prices with President Reagan because White has taken a "political approach" to the issue.

Democrats, meanwhile, accused the White House of "playing politics" by excluding White from the Tuesday meeting.

White and other governors had sought a meeting with Reagan to discuss an oil import fee to stabilize oil prices which have dropped by as much as two-thirds from last year's level due to an OPEC-induced glut on the world market.

Reagan, who opposes an import fee, agreed last week to meet, but White was not invited.

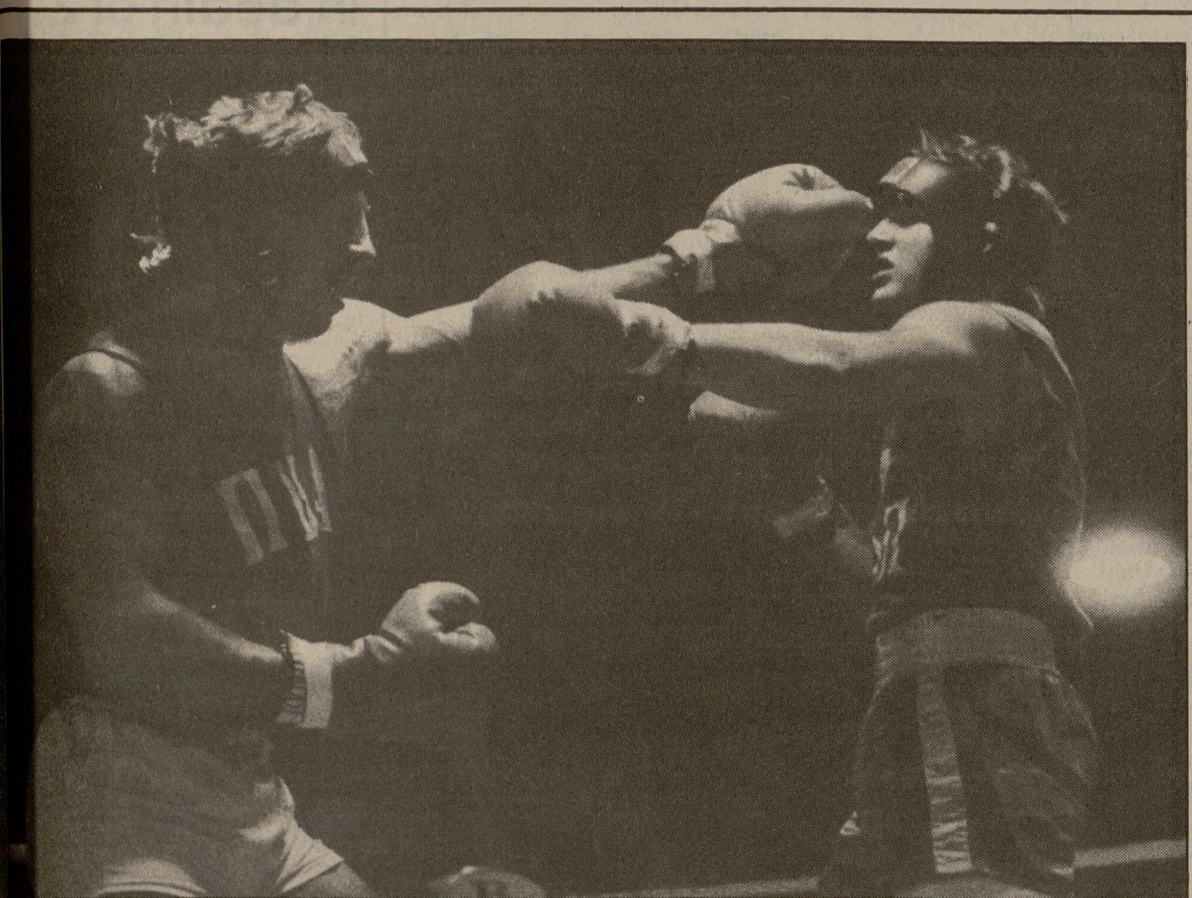


Photo by John Makely

## Fight Night

Scott Langham of Pi Kappa Alpha (left) boxes with Scott Armstrong of Beta Theta Pi at the Brazos County Pavilion. Armstrong won the light heavy-

weight division of Sigma Phi Epsilon's 10th annual Fight Night. The fraternity donated \$500 to Brazos Beautiful.

## Pooch can really pull her weight

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Ms. Pis-Pete, an 18-month-old pit bull terrier, likes to pull her own weight and more.

The 41-pound dog owns the title "Strongest Dog in the World," an honor she won after pulling 3,450 pounds of dead weight. Since February, when she won the title, she has broken her own record and pulled 4,100 pounds.

"Pete," as the terrier is called, has pulled fallen dead trees off Robin

Duerler's property, the dog's owner and trainer. She has pulled a 2,900-pound four-passenger Bonanza airplane from a hangar to a runway.

Pete began training to pull weights when she was six months old. Duerler said she started the training by having the pooch lug plastic bleach bottles filled with sand around the yard.

Duerler said she decided to get into dog pulling because she thinks

pit bull terriers have an undeserved bad reputation.

"We were all sitting around one day and thought we should utilize all the intelligence, ability, heart and courage that has been bred into these dogs... for fighting and use it to pull."

The same rationale was the basis for forming the South Central PULL-dog Association about six years ago, she said. Some 75 to 130 dogs now compete in regional competition.

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