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## Female philanthropy

### Non-profit group works to end poverty among women, children

HOUSTON (AP) — Businesswoman Bonnie Foxworth could not accept a growing cycle of impoverished women and children. So 18 months ago, she and some friends founded the Greater Houston Women's Foundation and hoped for a new trend: women helping women.

"It was the kind of thing where we found out that Dallas had started a fund five years ago, and we said, 'If Dallas can do it, why can't Houston?'" said Foxworth, president of Speakers Unlimited and of the non-profit foundation. "The group has come very far, very fast, but that is true around the country."

The organization has 250 members who have paid between \$45 and \$1,000 to support the foundation.

Ms. Foundation for Women, set up in 1973 with profits from Ms. magazine, is credited with beginning the women's charity trend. Over the years, the Ms. Foundation has donated about \$3 million and has built a \$4 million endowment fund. But it wasn't until the 1980s, when statistics regarding poverty and women worsened, that similar foundations began and now number about 60 nationwide.

Foxworth, Deborah Rose and Thelma Marlowe said some startling statistics prompted them to found their organization:

- Many Houston neighborhoods have a higher infant mortality rate

- Women and children comprise up to 80 percent of all poor Americans.
- Twenty-five percent of all women working full-time earn less than \$10,000 a year.
- After divorce, the average woman's standard of living drops 73 percent while the ex-husband's improves by 42 percent.
- Only 4 to 5 percent of charitable money nationally is donated to groups that specifically help women and children. The United Way gives 18 percent of its budget to such programs nationally.

"That is still not enough," Foxworth said. "We weren't angry so much as offended by the lack of funds going to help women and children — particularly girls, as that is our focus. For instance, why do the Boy Scouts always get more money than the Girl Scouts?"

The fund also aims to encourage professional and wealthy women to increase their charitable giving. Even women who have money are often reluctant to take control of it.

The Houston foundation has given \$7,500 to two local groups — \$5,000 to Advance Family Support and Education Programs, which develops parenting skills in low-income Hispanic families, and \$2,500 to Wellspring, which assists temporarily homeless women.

## Appeal seeks to spare client from Texas death penalty

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Attorneys for a death row inmate who was 17 when he allegedly gunned down an Arizona man during a Houston robbery hope to convince a federal appeals court to spare their client from execution in yet another attempt to chip away at the Texas capital punishment law.

Arguments were set for Tuesday before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans in the case of Gary Graham, convicted of the 1981 robbery and shooting death of Bobby Lambert of Tucson, Ariz.

The appeal is the latest effort by capital punishment opponents to undo a law that has put 337 men and women on Texas death row while sending 37 convicted killers to the death chamber. Both figures are tops in the nation among states with the death penalty.

The appeal also is linked to similar cases which complain that jurors should have been allowed to consider mitigating evidence in this case — Graham's age — before condemning a convicted killer.

"It's going to take years for it to be decided," Graham, now 27, says. "It's going to be quite some time, just because of the complicated nature of the criminal justice system."

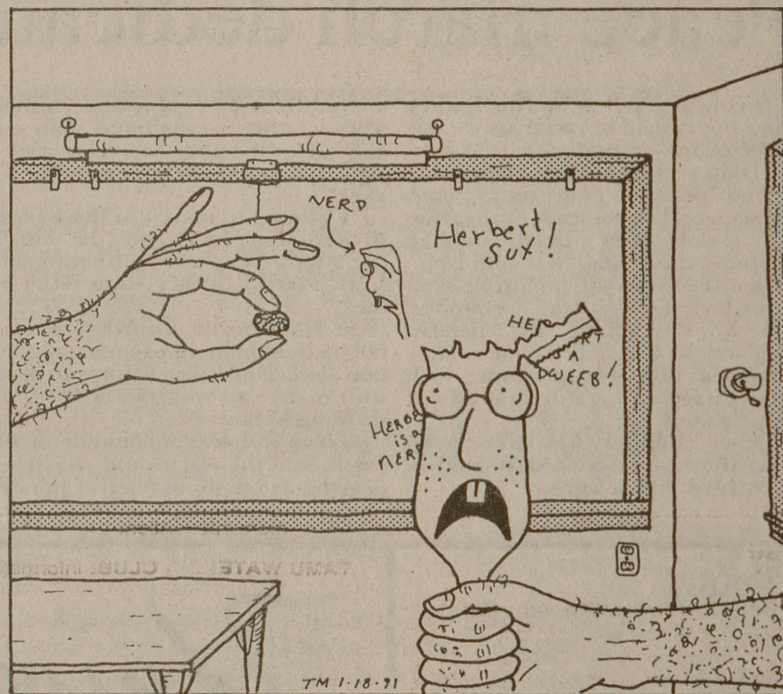
"The main question deals with the mitigating evidence, the charges to the jury, the jury instructions. We had a lot of evidence that was not brought into trial that we felt should have been brought in ... definitely, my being 17 at the time."

Already, the federal appeals courts have ruled that jurors should be given special instructions to accused killers considered mentally retarded.

The victory in that case, however, may have been short lived. Johnny Penry, whose conviction and death sentence was the basis for the appeal, was retried last year for the 1979 slaying of a Livingston housewife.

A similar case is pending now before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the state's highest criminal court. In that matter, attorneys for condemned prisoner John Henry Salvage contend jurors in his 1979 murder case in Houston should have been allowed to consider mitigating evidence that could have resulted in life sentences even though his trial attorneys did not ask the judge to allow introduction of such evidence.

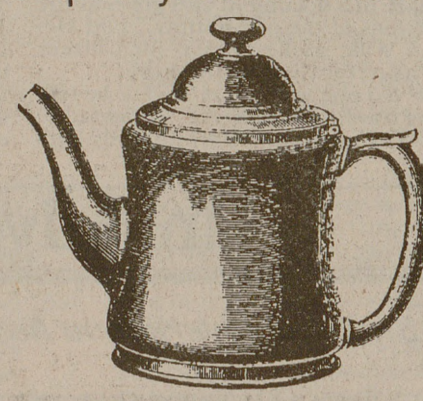
## Nerd House by Tom A. Madison



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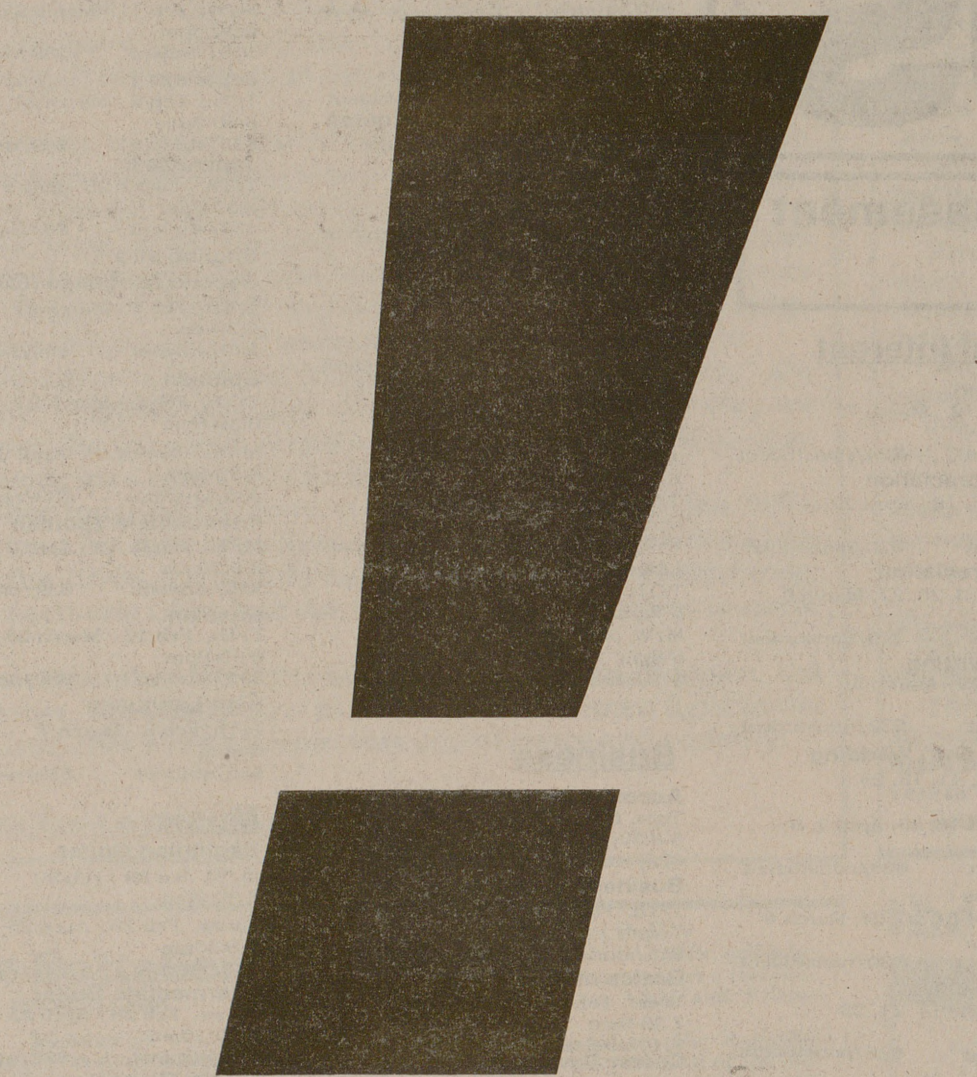
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## Denton, Sibley vie for open Senate seat

WACO (AP) — Democrat Betty Denton and Republican David Sibley will face off in a runoff election to decide who will fill the 9th District Senate seat left vacant by Chet Edwards.

Sibley, 43, a Waco lawyer, led all five candidates in Saturday's election with 16,281 votes, or 45.3 percent, in unofficial returns. Denton, a state representative and Waco attorney, finished with 14,118 votes, or 39.3 percent.

Besides Denton, 47, the Democrats running were Frank B. McGregor, 68, a Hillsboro attorney and former state representative, and Clay Jenkins, 26, a Waxahachie attorney.

The other Republican on the ballot was Jim Hollingsworth, a DeSoto businessman and longtime Democrat turned Republican who served on the State Board of Education between 1976 and 1982.

Jenkins finished with 4,116 votes;

McGregor had 749 votes and Hollingsworth had 495 votes.

"This is a major victory for us," said Jeff Norwood, a spokesman for Sibley's campaign.

"We're tickled to be where we are now," Sibley said. "I'm very delighted with what we've been able to do, since the Denton name has been on the ballot in McLennan County for 20 years now."

Denton's husband, Lane, held her state representative seat before she was first elected in 1976.

Denton said she will argue during the runoff campaign that she would be the more effective senator in Austin.

"The Democratic senator is going to be the one who can work with the governor, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House — all three of them from this 9th District, and all three Democrats," Denton said. "A Republican senator cannot help this district."

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