

WOMEN

HEALTH CARE HAS CHANGED radically in the last century, both in quantity and in kind. Seventy years ago, 80 percent of all health workers were doctors, in contrast with 12 percent today. Seventy years ago, roles were limited; today, there are over 375 different occupations in the health field. The number of health workers has also increased dramatically.

But some aspects haven't changed; doctors are still the stars of the show. Their wages, their skills and their prestige are high; 90 percent of them are men. Yet 75 percent of all health workers are women, for much health work reflects traditionally "feminine" functions: nurturing, caring, cooking, educating, cleaning.

The supporting cast of registered and practical nurses, dieticians, technicians, social workers, housekeepers

The work of the Women's News Collective has grown out of a weekly radio program of women's news at KPFA in Berkeley. We welcome contributions.

LA RAZA UNIDA COMES TOGETHER

by rodrigo reyes

AMONG THOSE WHO WERE PLANNING to attend the first convention of La Raza Unida Party (LARUP) was a certain Ricardo Falcon from Colorado, a member of that state's dele-

Rodrigo Reyes, a free-lance journalist, has been working on "Reflecciones de la Raza," a news program on KPFA-FM, in Berkeley.



and clerks find that most jobs are dead-end. Such low-paying, semi- and unskilled work has traditionally gone to women, especially Third World women.

There is wage discrimination as well as job discrimination. For example, female practical nurses make an average of \$10 per week less than their male colleagues. In only one field are men's and women's salaries equal: medical technology. Throughout the medical system, women can expect less advancement than men. Yet with their numerical supremacy, women health workers are a powerful potential for change. (condensed from *Health/Pac Bulletin*, April 1972.) ●

OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOW that the divorce rate in the United States is increasing to an incredible degree. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare reports that the rate of divorce is now nearing half of the new marriages in a given year.

Ms. Diana Dubroff, a New York lawyer, has proposed divorce insurance. She suggests that people take out

gation. On August 3, Falcon, his friend Florenzio Granados, and three others were en route to El Paso—the convention site—when their car's radiator became overheated. They pulled into a small service station in Oro Grande, New Mexico, to let the engine cool. The owner of the station, a man named Perry Brunson, was outraged that they would use his facilities and not make a purchase. He began to shout and Falcon argued back. Moments later Brunson drew a revolver and fired four shots into the unarmed Falcon, who died shortly thereafter. Arrested and charged with manslaughter, Brunson walked away on his own recognizance an hour-and-a-half later. When Falcon's wife, Priscilla, arrived and approached local authorities about the details of her husband's death, she was told she had no right to the information. More than once, officials simply slammed their doors in her face.

Such was the prelude to La Raza Unida's national meeting in El Paso, over Labor Day weekend. The convention, which drew four thousand dele-

divorce insurance when getting their marriage license. Then, "if a divorce occurs, payments from the policy would support the wife and children." And if the marriage survives, the policy could be converted into an educational fund for the children, or even into a regular life insurance policy. (ZNS) ●

JOB BREAKTHROUGHS for women occur in every field. According to a British security expert, a revolution in organized crime is producing a new variety of women gang leaders and urban guerrillas. "We can no longer assume that women are the gentler sex," private detective Peter Hamilton told the annual conference of the Council of International Investigators.

Women have taken leading positions as operators and planners in the underworld organizations of Britain, the United States and Germany. Mr. Hamilton was impressed that women gang bosses do not shrink from violence and added, "Women are among the strongest and most daring members of the Irish Republican Army." ●

gates from seventeen states, established LARUP as an independent political party that will not support or compromise with either the Democratic or Republican parties.

In his key note address, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, founder of Colorado's Crusade for Justice, called on the people to stop voting for candidates who grab a taco and mariachi band every time election year rolls around and then forget the needs of



PHOTOS BY STEVE RAMIREZ

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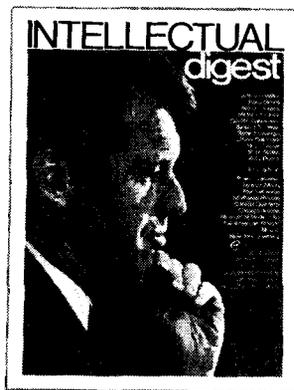
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