

## Women's news and views

by Susie V. Rydquist

### Woman of the Year Award

Dr. Nancy G. Roman, Chief, Astronomy/Relativity Branch, Astrophysics Programs, Office of Space Science, NASA, was one of the outstanding leaders in science nominated for the prestigious awards made by the Ladies Home Journal.

### Hispanic Woman of Note

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz (secular name — Juana Ines de Asbaje, born 1651, San Miguel Nepantla, Mexico; died 1695, Mexico City) was an outstanding lyric poet of Mexico's colonial period. An intellectual prodigy, she begged her parents to disguise her as a boy in order to be able to attend the University of Mexico, but had to be content with reading her grandfather's books. At age 9, she went to live in Mexico City where she studied Latin, mastering the language in 20 lessons. The fame of her learning reached the Viceroy, who invited her to court where her wit and magnetic personality won her great popularity. In an oral examination arranged by the Viceroy, Juana Ines (then 17) astonished 40 professors with her knowledge. The three volumes of her work were printed in Spain. She died the victim of an epidemic, while nursing her sister nuns. (From La Mesa Redonda, Civil Service Commission.)

### Credit Information

"Borrowing Basics for Women" is a free booklet from the First National City Bank, Public Affairs Dept., 339 Park Ave., New York, New York 10022. This booklet serves as a guide for women in building credit history, getting loans, obtaining credit rating, and answering typical questions that confront women such as: Can a divorced woman list alimony as income when applying for a loan; is a married woman liable for her husband's debts; or can a pregnant woman or homemaker get credit. . . ?

Sociologist Elwood Carlson in a recent study at the University of California, commented that "while it may not always have been so, it seems today that work for women is coming to be associated with stable rather than unstable marriages" despite cliches that working wives tend to have trouble keeping job and family intact.

### Mothers to Blame

The American Psychiatric Association has not listed male chauvinism as a certifiable psychiatric illness. In an article "Some Dynamics of Male Chauvinism", Sherwyn M. Woods writes "Male chauvinism refers to a blind allegiance and simpleminded devotion to one's maleness that is mixed with open or disguised belligerence toward women." However, Woods blames mothers as responsible for the male chauvinism of their sons and that a number of wives had "chosen male chauvinists in order to meet their own emotional needs."

### Equality — Costly

In the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1976, \$4,500,000 was paid for violations of the Equal Pay Act, an increase of 31% over the same period in 1975. Most of the payments went to women.

## The Viking search for life

*Author of this story is Wally Ravven, a journalism graduate student at San Jose State University, working at NASA Ames under a Science Writing Fellowship.*

Eight days after the Viking Lander touches down on Mars, the miniature biology laboratory onboard will begin searching for signs of life. A jaw-like scoop on the end of a 10-foot boom will dig soil out of the Martian land and dump it into a funnel above the Biology Instrument.

Inside this one-cubic-foot package, three separate life detection experiments will offer different environments to Martian soil samples by varying the light, water and nutrients they receive. All three experiments will measure metabolism of any organisms living in the Martian soil. Dr. Harold P. Klein, Director of Ames' Life Sciences organization, heads up the three life detection experiments package.

## Security tip

Recently, several Ames employees have been denied entry to the Center by the Marine sentries at various gates. Entry was denied because the vehicles being driven did not comply with safety or equipment provisions of the California Vehicle Code.

All employees are reminded that, according to Naval Air Station Moffett Field Instruction 5560.15E, vehicles must comply with provisions of the California Vehicle Code.

Marine sentries are alert for vehicles not properly equipped or ones which present a safety hazard, and the sentry is empowered to deny the vehicle entry to the Center.

In instances where the driver disagrees with the improper equipment or safety determination by the Marine sentry, he should contact the Moffett Field Police at 966-5141 for a final decision.

Items most often cited as improper or unsafe are no license plate, no bumper, unsafe fenders due to an accident and broken or no headlamps. In addition, decals not permanently affixed to the vehicle may be confiscated.

## RVing enthusiasts

Dick Fish of the Chemical Research Projects Office is an avid participant in "RVing" (RV refers to Recreational Vehicle). The following article caught the eye of another Ames employee who felt it would be fun to share it with others at the Center: "Chapters are really family extensions," commented Dick Fish, Northern California state director, who with his wife Kay lives in San Jose and is a member of the Camino Cavaliers.

At one meeting, Dick added, a representative of the California Department of Parks and Recreation commented that people are not doing enough with their families. Dick sees the club as playing a role in precisely this area — giving a person a sense of belonging to a larger group.

One of the reasons the Fishes traded their camper for an Establishment mini motorhome last September was that the mini would give them seating room to entertain eight to 10 people and conduct Good Sam business. (Kay acts as state secretary.)

Dick and Kay travel about 11,000 miles a year, some of that mileage being accumulated when Dick uses the rig in his work as a NASA research scientist. Among the hobbies he pursues while RVing are hunting, fishing and backpacking.

The compact Biology Instrument weighs only 35 pounds and houses all of the electrical and mechanical parts needed to control the biology experiments 200 million miles from Earth.

The instrument contains 43 heaters, four thermoelectric coolers, 39 miniature latching solenoid valves and over 40,000 other electronic parts.

The search for life on Mars is a search for signs that minute organisms are growing and reproducing in the Martian soil. On Earth, these life processes require energy, and the Viking biology experiments assume that Martian organisms share this basic requirement.

Plants and other photosynthesizers on Earth tap the sun's energy and convert it to chemical energy to power all the biochemical reactions necessary to grow and reproduce. Animals and other non-photosynthesizers must take in energy-rich food and break it down (metabolize it) to obtain the energy they need for growth and reproduction.

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## Mendenhall (Continued from Page 1)

She has been a participant in GSA's executive development program, a participant at the Commission's Executive Seminar Center at Kings Point, a nominee for the National Civil Service League Award, and a candidate for a Congressional Fellowship.

While serving as Women's Program Coordinator in GSA from 1970 to 1973, she developed and put into operation a women's program of national scope. In that job, she persuaded her agency to open building guard jobs to women, 6 months before the Commission ordered other agencies to take similar action.

Ms. Mendenhall will be in the Bay Area July 7-11, where she will be an active participant in the annual convention of Federally Employed Women, and in particular, the conference, call South Bay Chapter President, Ms. Anita Enander, at 323-8111, ext. 2328.

## Office notice

Copies of Ames' FY76 Affirmative Action Plans are available to any interested employee. Call the EOP office at ext. 6510 to have one sent to you.

## Communications

WANTED by Communication Branch: Current phone extensions of all resident personnel. Contractors and all others use ARC 45. Directory Change Notice.

## Joggernauts

George Lenehan, President of the Ames Joggers, became the third Ames jogger to crack the 5,000 mile barrier. Paul Sebesta and Art Mandell were the first and second joggers to register 5,000 miles. Other joggers crossing milestones are Bob McCracken — 2,500 miles; Bruce Ganzler, Ron Mancini, Jim Connolly, and Gerald Malcolm — 1,000 miles; Betty Berkstresser and Herb Finger — 500 miles.