

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Now Swano contends that Mrs. Chua managed to fake the trances and the voice to frame Showery and that one possible motive was to get revenge for being fired from her job at the hospital. "The trances started about the same time she was dismissed," Swano said. "She wasn't getting along with Showery or her supervisor, who was a good friend of Showery's. It's possible she blames Showery for losing her job."

A number of other explanations have been given for the strange accusing voice. According to one detective, Mrs. Chua said she overheard a doctor ask Showery whether

he wasn't supposed to repair the Basa woman's TV set on the night of the murder—and this may have led to her conscious or unconscious suspicion of the man. But Dr. Chua, for one, is convinced that what he heard from his wife's mouth was really Chita Basa's voice. "I believe in life after death," he said. "I accomplished my mission—helping the dead. But I hope she doesn't contact me again."

—DON HOLT with PAMELA ELLIS SIMONS in Chicago

### THE FBI:

### A G-Woman's Gripe

She was tall, blond and smart as a whip—just the sort of woman the FBI was looking for. As one of the bureau's first female agents, Christine Hansen worked in Los Angeles on the Patty Hearst kidnapping case and in Washington on an investigation of Scientologists. Her bosses liked to point her out as a sign of progress in the formerly men-only world of the FBI. But around the gym, firing range and other bureau bailiwicks, Hansen decided that the FBI's ethos was as male-oriented as it had been in J. Edgar Hoover's day. After five years, she resigned, and now she is the first G-woman to sue the FBI—for sex discrimination.

In an 80-page class-action complaint filed with the Civil Service Commission, Hansen maintained that many of the FBI's entrance requirements and physical exams favored men. Female recruits must perform twelve partial pullups; men need do only three full pullups. Both men and women must run 2 miles in 16.5 minutes, though anatomical evidence suggests the male pelvis is better adapted to running and practical experience shows that agents seldom run anyway. Until-

recently, women agents were required to pass their marksmanship tests with a snub-nosed .38 revolver (which fits in a purse), while males could use a longer, more accurate 4-inch barrel. And in the end, she complained, the plum assignments in the field offices generally went to men.

**'A Little Joan of Arc':** Many of the bureau's current women agents were wary of publicly associating themselves with the complaint. But some told NEWSWEEK privately that Hansen had a point: the FBI brass, they said, still resist assigning them to important bank robberies or security investigations. "There is just a widespread belief that women should 'stay in their place'," griped one G-woman. Others recalled that Hansen—a feminist, lawyer and former journalist—refused to suffer in silence. She held encounter groups with other women agents to talk over her grievances; she boldly registered her complaints with superiors. She had been ignored and eventually transferred to Phoenix before her resignation last year. "She was one of the brightest people I've ever known, but she has a little Joan of Arc in her," said one woman agent. "People felt threatened—especially male agents not of her caliber."

In the bureau's defense, director William H. Webster last week pointed to an increase in female agents during his six-month tenure—from 94 to 139 out of a total of nearly 8,000 agents—and the introduction of several programs to recruit even more. "Substantial representation of females in our special-agent ranks is indeed right and just [and] sound from an operational standpoint," he said. But the Civil Service Commission has assigned an examiner to hear the issues Hansen has raised. She herself, meanwhile, is still working in the field of law enforcement—as an assistant county attorney in Scott County, Iowa.

—TOM MATHEWS with JOHN WALCOTT in Washington

Harry E. Boll



Hansen, agent in training: Are men favored?

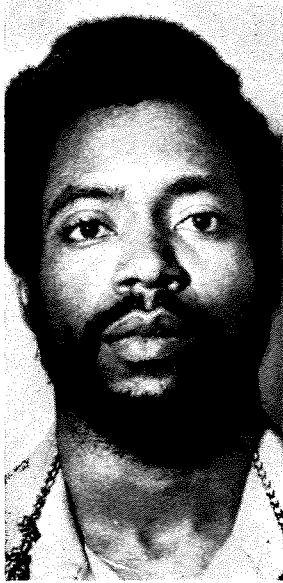
Arthur Rothstein—Parade



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Chicago Tribune



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### Basa, Showery: Case of the telltale trance

of the missing jewelry and Showery eventually confessed, police said. Next month he goes on trial for the murder of Teresita Basa in what the Chicago newspapers can't help but call "The Voice From the Grave" murder case.

Police had no leads until the voice came along. "Chita" Basa, 48, the daughter of a wealthy judge in the central Philippines, worked as a respiratory therapist at Chicago's Edgewater Hospital. On the afternoon of Feb. 21, 1977, she went home from work to her high-rise apartment and twice talked with friends on the telephone, once interrupting herself to answer the doorbell. But she gave no hint of trouble. At 8:40 p.m., firemen entered the apartment after neighbors smelled smoke, and found Basa's nude body under a smoldering mattress, a butcher knife in her chest. There were no fingerprints or other clues, and police at that time did not even know Showery had been there.

**Scared:** By July 1977, with the murder still unsolved, hospital staffers noticed that Remebios Chua, another technician, was acting strangely. Though she had hardly known Basa, she began to affect the dead woman's speech and movements, even sitting in Basa's chair in the cafeteria. The same month, according to her husband, Dr. Jose Chua, the first of the trances came over her. "I was scared when I asked her name and she answered Teresita Basa," he said. "But she told me I had nothing to be scared of. She was pleading with me to help solve her murder." On the advice of a lawyer, he spoke to police, who arrested Showery after questioning him and finding the jewelry. Despite his confession, Showery intends to plead not guilty and explain that he bought the jewelry on the street.

William Swano, a public defender assigned to Showery, initially sought to have the case thrown out of court on the ground that police had no reasonable cause to suspect—or arrest—his client in the first place. But a judge ruled last week that Showery should stand trial.