

# A Fortress Is Dented By Women

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WASHINGTON, April 7— Women have, still to storm the all-male fortress of the Gridiron Club, and while they did not bring it down last night, they certainly tunneled under the walls.

While the Gridiron's members were staging their traditional lampoon of the nation's political leaders, women journalists, who cannot join the club, held a party of their own. The women's effort was, one observer said, "A very un-Washington event" and one of the best informal parties here in years.

Gridiron members, dressed in the inherent dignity of white tie and tails, arrived at the second floor of the Statler-Hilton Hotel with about a dozen women guests among the 450 who attended the event.

Meanwhile, at the Mount Vernon College gymnasium and in an adjacent tent, 800 men and women in informal clothes attended a carnival with two bands and concession booths manned by many well-known government and political figures. The women sponsors called it a "counter gridiron."

## Counter Guest Lists

The gridiron club drew Vice President Ford, Judge John J. Sirica, Senators George McGovern and Henry M. Jackson, five ambassadors, four members of the Supreme Court and two cabinet members.

The counter gridiron drew Mrs. John N. Mitchell; former Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson; the Senate majority leader, Mike Mansfield, and a group of other Senators, Representatives and members of the Watergate special prosecutor's staff.

Protests against the Gridiron began five years ago with an informal picket line set up outside the Statler-Hilton.

After four years of picketing and lobbying political figures not to attend the gridiron dinner, and ad hoc group of women, calling themselves Journalists for Professional Equality, changed tactics this year.

They abandoned the picket lines and held their own party, which was expected to net them about \$2,000 for a donation to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of

the Press, a journalists' legal defense fund.

Mrs. Mitchell, the estranged wife of the former Attorney General, sat in a pink booth offering to telephone anyone, anywhere for \$5. In the booth next door, visitors were invited to pin the tale on a "male chauvinist pig."

Mr. Richardson, with his former deputy William D. Ruckelshaus acting as auctioneer, sold one of his elaborate doodles for \$1,000 to Stewart R. Mott, the millionaire who supports liberal causes.

## A Call to Arkansas

Mrs. Mitchell called the Arkansas Gazette, which she had once telephoned to complain about Senator J. W. Fulbright.

"Arkansas doesn't seem to be doing very well with its Senators and I am thinking I might run," she said, put up to the call by the newspaper's Washington correspondent, Ray Bode.

Meanwhile, Leonard Garment, assistant to the President, played the clarinet in a dance band while J. Fred Buzahrdt Jr., counsel to the President, circulated through the crowd.

Dan Rather of Columbia Broadcasting System news was auctioned off as a dancing partner for \$140, and Senator Joseph M. Montoya, New Mexico Democrat, wore a sign reading, "hello big spending—\$1 a dance."

Representative Robert F. Drinan, the Massachusetts Democrat who is a Roman Catholic priest, bought a yellow T-shirt and held it up grinning for Representative John B. Anderson, Republican of Illinois.

It read, "Trust in God—she will provide."

The regular gridiron featured a series of skits, with a chorus dressed as cards from "Nixon's Wonderland."

"'s wonderful, 's marvelous.

"We're the G.O.P.," the cards sang to the tune of "'S Wonderful."

"Nixon's great, Watergate. 's ancient history."

The President's secretary, Rose Mary Woods, was called the "tweenkletones of the tape recorder" while Presidential hopefuls were teased for courting Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama:

*They're Alabamy bound:  
See Ted and Scoop and Dick  
come hangin' round;  
They know who's got the most  
persuasive mix,  
Pop list tricks,  
Who's got the winning deal for  
seventy-six.*

Gerald F. Terhorst of The Detroit News, chairman of the music committee for the Gridiron, said that this year a majority of the membership, 26 of the 50 active members, voted to admit women but a two-thirds vote was required.