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"Viewer research" had indicated that, while male viewers did not have anything negative to say about her appearance or her job performance, they also did not say anything particularly positive.

Although the ratings had risen, she was told by the general manager that "the people of Kansas City don't like the fact that you're older, you're not attractive, and you don't hide your intelligence to the anchormen — you're smarter, you don't defer to men." Craft then filed a lawsuit against Metromedia.

"I did something that had really never been done in television news before," Craft said. "What happened to me was not that unusual. What is unusual is that I chose not to be a victim."

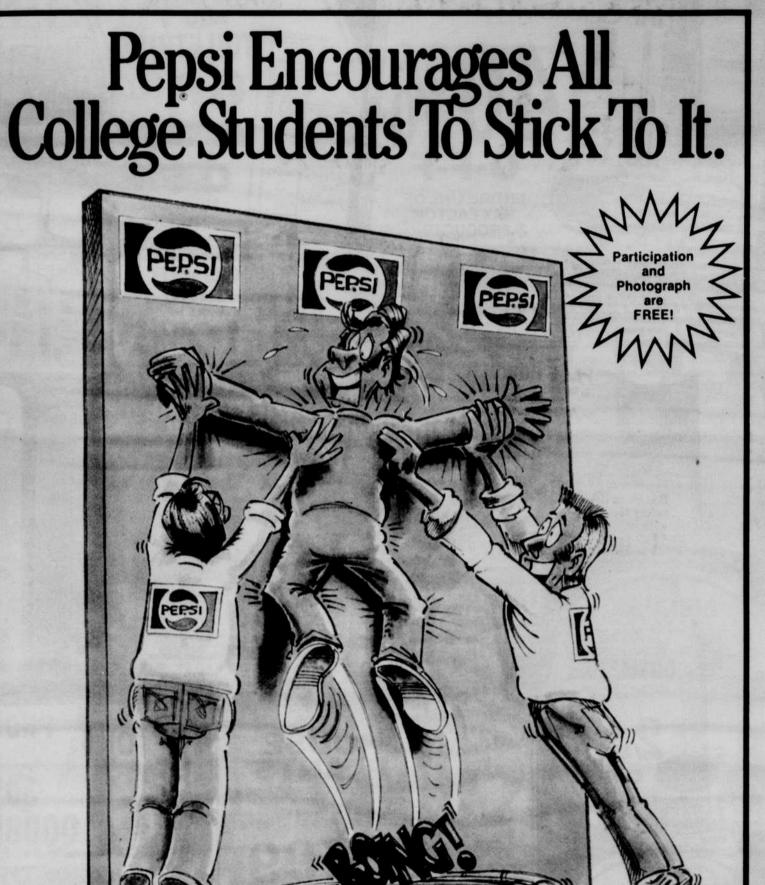
She was awarded \$500,000 in a unanimous jury verdict. That verdict was overthrown, however. The case then went to trial a second time. Again the jury ruled in her favor, but the verdict was once more overthrown. Craft said by then she was financially ruined. ("It's called 'How much justice can you afford?' " she said.) but decided to take the case to the Supreme Court.

For a case to be heard in the Supreme Court, four justices must agree to it. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the only woman on the Court, was the only one who agreed to hear it, so the case ended there and Craft never received the money she was awarded.

"I lost, but somehow I won." said Craft, now a law student and radio talk-show host in Sacramento. "The message is out there that not all of us are willing to take it.



**Christine** Craft





## Shutterbug

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