

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

The Newsletter of the
National Organization of Women

In Lubbock
September 1978

NOW Nostalgia, ERA Realities?

Fifty members and guests attended the annual Lubbock NOW Banquet September 9 at the Pelican. Outgoing officers were recognized and rewarded. New officers were introduced and installed, with the exception of Action Coordinator Cathie McWhorter, who was at a "Yoga farm", according to outgoing Vice-President, Cecelia Owens-Beckham. Long-time President, Elaine Bagley, greeted by a long, standing ovation, delivered her farewell address. A brief history of Lubbock NOW, presented by Owens-Beckham enthralled her audience, including Judy Giffin, the last of the April 1974 founders still in Lubbock. Finally, guest speakers Gail Spivey of the Lubbock chapter of Business and Professional Women and Professor (continued on page 3)



Sarah and Elaine Sarah Weddington was in town September 3, shortly after the announcement of her appointment to replace Midge Costanza as senior advisor to President Carter on women's issues, and met friends and the public at St. John's Methodist.

Feminist Facets, Phallic Phallacies

An overview of the psychological development of the female, including the role of motherhood in a program contrasting traditional psychology with feminist psychology.

WHO

Margaret Elbow: M.S.S.W., Executive Director at Family Services, teacher of a course on psychology of women at Texas Tech Medical School, and published expert on battered women.

Cecelia Owens-Beckham: M.S.S.W., Counselor at Family Services, experienced specialist in counsel-

ing women, and supervisor of two graduate students in social work.

WHY

To increase self-awareness and train us to know what to look for in counseling. "Don't cast your pearls before swine."

WHERE AND WHEN

Tuesday, October 3, at 7:30 pm,
The Wesley Foundation, 2420 15th.

IN ADDITION

The first Feminist Update brought to you by Cathie McWhorter of KFEM!

House and Garden Lures Single Women

According to the National Association of Realtors, the singles housing market, long overlooked by shelter experts and builders, is now coming into its own, accounting for more than 25% of all homes sales in some parts of the nation. It is estimated that singles buy 25% of all homes sold in Phoenix and 8% in Atlanta. A Washington, D.C., realtor said that nearly half of the cooperative and condominium units sold there are purchased by singles. Philadelphia realtors estimate that one-fourth of the area's resale housing sales are to single females. NAR director Ken Kerin foresees increased demand for one-bedroom and one-bedroom-plus-den condos and townhouses as singles continue to be an increasingly important segment of the housing market.

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

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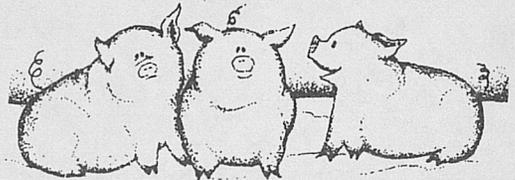
Editor	Pam Brink
Editorial Staff	Nancy Barr Dick Jespers Briggs Twyman John Wunder
Art Staff	Elaine Bagley Lynn Buechele Bob Sappington
Circulation	Marge Blackburn Bob Sappington Susie Sappington

Articles, poetry, etc., should be submitted to the editor, P.O. Box 83, Lubbock 79408, typed, double-spaced on a 35 character line. Articles may be subject to re-write.

HOGWASH

In a recent letter to the A-J a local man complained about women newscasters:
"I cannot understand those Sweet Things they have doing it. I am sorry I cannot understand them and that God didn't give them the voice for it, but maybe He never heard of or anticipated ERA."

Avalanche-Journal, August 27, 1978, submitted by Cathie McWhorter.



There's just something degrading about being towed. Only those who have been towed--and rape victims--will know what I'm talking about.

from Directions "College Survival" by Larry Elliott, 9/5/78. Submitted by Vicki Foster.

"What this world needs is a road map that a woman can follow."

The Optimist Magazine, September 1978, submitted by JST.

Send contributions to the Editor, Lubbock NOW Times, P.O. Box 83, Lubbock, Texas 79408.

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NOW Nostalgia, ERA Realities?

(continued from page 1)
Rod Schoen of the Texas Tech Law School completed the program with a problematic discussion of the ERA.

New Officers

New officers for the coming year are Action Co-ordinator McWhorter, yoga enthusiast; Policy Co-ordinator Jane Twyman, law student and revolutionary; Operations Co-ordinator Carole George, politician and technician; Recorder Darlene Jones, carpenter; and Treasurer JoAnne Grubbs, teacher. (The characterizations are based on Owens-Beckham's introductions.) They replace Bagley, Owens-Beckham, long-term treasurer Susie Sappington, and Recording Secretary Edna Gott, who has served NOW in various offices, all of whom were presented mementos of their service, and Corresponding Secretary Briggs Twyman, Twyman's husband, whose quiet work somehow passed unnoticed.

Spivey Spoke

Spivey spoke on "Some Outstanding American Professional Women," including (interestingly) Poker Alice

and Calamity Jane. She exhorted NOW members to redouble their efforts to secure ratification of the ERA.

Schoen's featured address on the ERA, or rather both the Twenty-seventh Amendment and the Texas ERA, was peculiarly both pessimistic and inspirational.

Schoen Sees Difficulty

As a lawyer Schoen sees grave difficulties impeding ratification, even if the Senate follows the House in voting extension of the deadline. Schoen thinks the "rules-of-the-game" argument will be persuasive for some senators to the extent that they will vote to include a provision to allow rescission, and, in some cases, not allowing extension without it. (Editors note: As Senator Lloyd Bentsen now says, he will do, at least in regard to including provision for rescission.) In that case, and should the House then agree, Schoen fears that the precedent of Coleman v. Miller--307 U.S. 433 (1939)--will be applied. The Supreme Court would then probably decide that matters concerning ratification are political
(continued on page 4)



Outgoing and Incoming Officers

Left to right: Elaine Bagley, Jane Twyman, Cecilia Owens-Beckham, Carole George, Darlene Jones, Joanne Grubbs.



ERA Realities? Schoen's Views

(continued from page 3)
questions better left to Congress, although precedents including this same case seem to confirm the view that states exhaust their powers under Article V of the Constitution once they ratify, and thus cannot then rescind. The unprecedented circumstances arising from the extension resolution, Schoen believes, will raise any number of difficult legal questions not previously litigated, and both the difficulty of the matter and the present conservative composition of the Supreme Court will probably incline it to leave the problems to Congress.

Less Persuasive

Less persuasive was Schoen's historical argument that ERA ratification is unlikely because it has never taken more than four years after submission to the states to ratify an amendment to the Constitution. The notion that this constitutes some sort of precedent that weighs heavily against eventual ratification of the Twenty-seventh Amendment may seem natural to a lawyer, but will leave historians bemused. The past, conditions but never determines, the course of events. Or, as a student of human experience, once popular with British suffragists, put it:

Many fates does Olympian Zeus dispense,

Many chances unhop'd do Gods ordain,

And events mortals look'd for are not fulfilled,

But to things undream'd Heaven finds a way.

Euripides, *Medea* (trans. R. C. Trevelyan, adopted)

Schoen's Pessimism

Schoen's pessimism might have been expected to depress the gathering. Yet the force and passion of his own commitment to equality gave to his scholarly exposition of the



Exhorting the Faithful

Professor Rod Schoen responding to a question after his address.

difficulties the ERA faces the quality of a sermon on the sins of man. Few heard it unmoved.

Much of Schoen's talk was devoted to Texas judicial response to the Texas ERA, based on a long study he has just published in the *Houston Law Review* (1978). That response in thirteen appellate decisions has been most discouraging. Texas courts seem unable or unwilling to recognize (concluded on page 6)



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DC Amendment Bears on ERA

On August 22, the United States Senate approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would give residents of Washington, D.C. voting representation in Congress and near-statehood status. The D.C. Amendment, if approved, would allow the capital city's citizens to choose two senators and most assuredly two representatives (based upon population.) Washington D.C. with 700,000 residents is more populous than Wyoming, Nevada, North and South Dakota, Vermont, Alaska and Delaware, and it would give the District a vote in the ratification of constitutional amendments under Article V of the Constitution.

Sent to States

The Amendment, already approved by the House, was sent to the state legislatures where it needs the ratification of some thirty-eight before becoming law. Since late August, one state--New Jersey--has ratified the measure. One state--Delaware--has voted no, and four states--Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California--will take up the issue in their coming legislative sessions.

Whether the D.C. Amendment should pass or fail is not within the scope of this article. What is of concern, however, are the effects the ratification process and possible adoption of the D.C. Amendment might have on the struggle for approval of the ERA. The political magnitude of the D.C. Amendment on the ERA may, indeed, be profound.

Government Bureaucrats

Thus far, the arguments have already begun to be trumpeted. Those who oppose the D.C. Amendment note that the city is filled with "government bureaucrats" and that it in no way resembles a state because it has no diverse economic interests. Some, like the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, prefer to practice

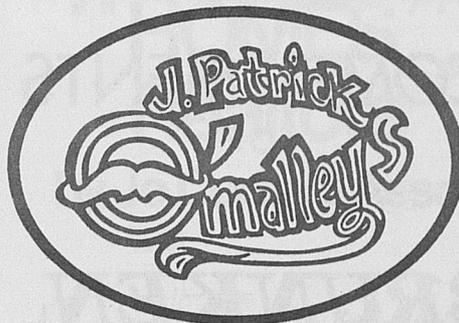
gutter politics.

The A-J, in its editorial opposing ratification, stressed that "any members of Congress named from the City-State most certainly would be Democrats, Liberal and probably black." Senator John Tower, also in opposition, claimed the issue should be decided by examining "the intent and purpose of the Founding Fathers" who did not conceive of Washington, D.C. with full constitutional rights. Of course, such logic would prevent any amendments from consideration, and would even deny Texas representation in Congress as well.

Not Fair

Montana Governor Thomas Judge asked, "Why should the West give more votes to the East?" when his position was solicited James Hurley, minority leader of the New Jersey Assembly, felt that it was not fair to give a city re-

(continued on page 8)



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Newsletter Deadlines

Please Clip

The Newsletter staff welcomes your generous contributions to the Lubbock NOW Times. The more information we receive from our varied membership the better, but for organizational purposes, please submit articles and Hogwash no later than the following dates each month.

- Monday, October 16
- Monday, November 13
- Monday, December 11
- Monday, January 15
- Monday, February 12
- Monday, March 12

ERA Realities

(continued from page 4)

that the Texas Constitution insures greater equality than the federal constitution, and no decision has developed a legal philosophy on the proper application of the state ERA. The Texas Supreme Court, evidently playing it safe, has yet to hand down an opinion dealing with this issue.

-Richmond Flowers

Action Meeting

The October Action Meeting will be held on Thursday, October, 5, from 7:00 to 9:00 at Joanne Grubbs' house, 3305 55th Street.

The monthly Action Meeting makes most of the decisions on the conduct of Lubbock NOW's business. The meeting is open to all members.

Please make the effort to be there. Your participation is very important.

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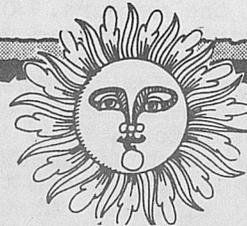
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The Bookshelf

French, Marilyn. *The Women's Room*. New York, Summit Books, 1977. (\$10.95). As a phrase from the book jacket states, this is a book for women whose lives are brewing with discontent.

The book chronicles the life of Mira; one woman who struggles with this discontent to emerge truly victorious.

Fantasy

As a child, Mira envisions for herself "a life of her own." Yet she relinquishes her fantasy when she realizes who holds trumps in this world. She quits college after two years, marries, and begins to support her husband who is in medical school. During this period, she gives birth to two sons, her husband becomes a doctor, and the family moves into a small house in a neighborhood of small houses. She likes it here. The women on the block have a good support system.

Isolated

One day, after a few years, her husband insists on buying a larger home in a "nob hill" neighborhood, light years away from her present life. She moves, but she doesn't like it. She's isolated, and her housekeeping duties increase with the size of the house. She coasts

along in this suburban nothingness for ten years. Then one night, hubby comes home late and announces that he wants a divorce.

The real crux of the book is how Mira deals with the new life she must assume, how she throws off old values and tries on new ones. Values of motherhood, age, professionalism, and love all must be tested, but the value that is tested most is that of fidelity, and finally, fidelity to herself.

Wit and Irony

This book is an important statement for women, and men, who have grown weary of having their lives defined by others, i.e., men. The reader will delight in the style of Marilyn French's writing. Her sense of wit and irony breathes new life into her characters. You may see someone you know, perhaps even yourself!

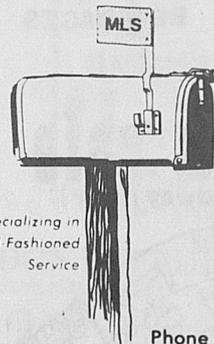
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DC AMENDMENT BEARS ON ERA

for ratification. Now the D.C. Amendment will come forward. Will backers of the ERA vote against the D.C. Amendment, thereby polarizing the legislature? Can a "deal" be made for the crucial black votes? Will conservative, rural, white legislators from southern Illinois parlay this complex political situation into the defeat of both amendments? Illinois is a pivotal state, and the backers of the ERA must be cognizant of these new political factors.

Negative Factors

While the D.C. Amendment might be a negative factor for ERA approval in Illinois, it could conceivably help the ERA in southern states. Some politicians are already predicting that the D.C. Amendment is in worse shape in the Deep South than the ERA. Fence-sitting legislators might make a tradeoff, thereby allowing the ERA to pass. But do proponents of the ERA want to lobby on these terms? Would not such approval based upon racial inequality go against the spirit and the letter of the ERA? And yet ERA proponents in the South must be prepared to face their issue in a racially-tense atmosphere that could conceivably smear the image of the "New South".

Clouded

There can be no doubt that the ratification process for the ERA has been clouded by the D.C. Amendment. And an even greater problem emerges if the D.C. Amendment were to be approved before the ERA is ratified.

If the District becomes a full constitutional member of the Union, it gains the right to pass on proposed constitutional amendments. However, the D.C. Amendment does not state how that right can be exercised. One might presume that the city council would constitute the "state legislature," but such an

assumption is most certainly subject to legal challenge. With the District added to the fifty states, three-fourths approval would mean not thirty-eight but thirty-nine legislative bodies acting affirmatively. What looks like three states for the ERA would become four states with the D.C. council ratification procedure mired in considerable legal delay.

Ramifications

Thus, the D.C. Amendment most assuredly will influence the outcome of the ERA. All of those persons actively working for equal rights for all members of American society will have to be carefully informed, and they must be aware of the political ramifications raised by two, not one, proposed amendments to the United States Constitution.

John Wunder
Assistant Professor of
History
Texas Tech University

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NOW Work for NOW

October marks the beginning of the new year for NOW. We welcome our new officers with great anticipation and hope that the membership will contact coordinators to sign up for committee work.

There is much to be done. Most of our lives are full to overflowing with economic, professional, and domestic cares and finding time to participate in community organizations is extremely difficult and sometimes absolutely harrowing. We have tried to organize our chapter with this fact uppermost in our minds and are convinced that just one or two hours' work a month from each of us will accomplish our goals!!

The Program Meeting will be held the first Tuesday of every month at the Wesley Foundation, 2420 15th, beginning at 7:30 pm. Please come October 3 and meet the people, participate in our discussions, and commit a minutia of your time to work on human rights through our committees. We are convinced that one of our areas of emphasis will suit your own particular interests, abilities, and concerns.

--The Editor

New Members

Lubbock NOW welcomes the new members listed below. Please add them to your call list.



Belle Weninger
4514 20th
Lubbock 79407

Deborah Barnes
401 Hulan TTU
Lubbock 79409
742-6263

Barbara Clark-Pharr
4803 72nd
Lubbock 79424
797-8208

Charles Conatser
2305 B 18th
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Ruth Robertson
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- _____ \$13 special membership may be elected by those who cannot pay more (such as some retirees, and some students, etc.)
- _____ \$7 to join Lubbock chapter; already a member of National NOW
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