

# LUBBOCK **NOW** TIMES

The Newsletter of the  
National Organization for Women

In Lubbock  
February 1981

## "In the Hands of an Angry God"

The Moral Majority, Christian Voice, and other fundamentalist groups have lately erupted into politics with a dogmatic and bizarre program that might be viewed with amusement, were it not for their evident successes. Their basic proposition is that their religion, which they believe to be true Christianity, provides a clear and infallible guide for political decisions and thus a standard against which any politician must be judged.

Peculiarly this guide corresponds almost exactly to the positions usually taken by leaders of



the extreme right wing of the Republican Party, positions purportedly inspired by political principles euphemistically termed "conservative." We are told that support  
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## Women's Music

Come listen to women's music by Chris Williamson, Holly Near, Margie Adam, Alive, and more. On Sunday, February 8, from 2:00 until 6:00 Lubbock NOW presents a Women's Music Fair at 2808 33rd Street. You can order your favorite records through the chapter. For a good time, good music, and a chance to support women artists don't miss the party. Also we get to keep a commission on sales.

The Fair takes the place of the February Program meeting.

## Victims of Tech Discrimination?

Department of Labor representatives will be in Lubbock, February 2 through 6 to interview past and present employees of Texas Tech who think they have been discriminated against because of race or sex. The investigation is a result of a complaint filed against the University by NOW and other groups. Interviews will be confidential, and may be arranged by calling 799-3789, 795-2105, 793-0387, or the Office of the Department of Labor in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2-6		
Mon-Fri.		Dept. of Labor Interviews
4	Wed.	National Women's Rights Lobby Day
8	Sun.	Women's Music Fair 2-6 PM. 2808 33rd St.
12	Thur.	Action Meeting 5015 45th St., 7 PM.
14	Sat.	Susan B. Anthony, Pam Herd Brink Birthday and St. Valentine's Day Massacre Party 2405 27th St., 8:30 PM.
26	Thur.	Dinner/Happy Hour Julie's, 1919 50th St. 6:30 PM.



# HOGWASH

A recent headline in the Avalanche-Journal read: "Senator's Wife Gets Reagan Appointment."

Avalanche-Journal, January 6, 1981. Submitted by Jeffrey M. Gamso.

Contributions to HOGWASH should be sent to the Editor, 2405 27th Street 79411.

MARY V. HATFIELD CONSULTANT	PAMELA H. BRINK CONSULTANT
ELIZABETH OREM CONSULTANT	
ASSOCIATED AUTHORS & EDITORS WRITING, EDITING, INDEXING, TRANSLATING	
P. O. BOX 524 LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408	PHONE 747-7283

## LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

is published monthly by the Lubbock chapter of the National Organization for Women.

Editor	Marie Tedesco
Editorial Staff	Pam Brink Melinda Hoffmann Dick Jespers Marietta Morrissey Elizabeth Orem Briggs Twyman
Art Staff	
Business Manager	Briggs Twyman
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Articles, poetry, etc., should be submitted to the editor, 2405 27th, Lubbock 79411, typed, double-spaced on a 35 character line. Articles are subject to rewrite.

# Angry God

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for the most extravagant defense spending or brutal dictatorships in a number of countries is Christian -- presumably because these sorts of policies are likely to hasten Armageddon and the second coming of Christ. The Panama Canal treaty was the work of infidels, if not the Devil himself. No Christian in Congress, it appears, could support more than minimal government spending, if that, for social programs to help the poor and afflicted. No Christian could favor the ERA. And so on and so on.

The fundamentalist right is no doubt much less directly influential than it would like to believe, or as many of us who face the Bible Belt daily fear. Yet it has a demonstrated capacity to influence close elections decisively, and that alone will intimidate many politicians. It constitutes a menace that must be countered.

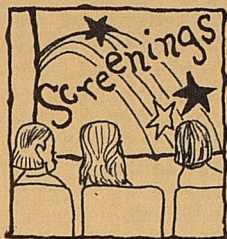
Most of us are used to arguments with "secular conservatives." The terms of the debate have not changed between those of us whose political concerns center on human rights and social justice and our old foes, the old guard, who believe government should be primarily concerned with promoting the interests of big business, particularly the defense industry, and maintaining "law and order." The fundamentalist right, however, adds an element to the debate that cannot be dealt with in terms of rational political discourse.

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<p><b>Deadline for Next Month's</b> <b>LUBBOCK NOW TIMES</b> <i>February 10</i></p>
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# SCREENINGS



The executives at Twentieth Century Fox must have slavered at the prospect of making Nine to Five. Clearly this would be the comedy package of the year, maybe of the decade.

Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Dolly Parton in a feminist, screwball comedy about secretaries.

"No messing around with this one, boys," I can hear the studio bosses saying. "We give it national; get the girls on Donahue. Do you think we could get away with offering a Dolly Parton paperweight to the first boss who brings his secretary? No, huh. Well, okay. But let's play it big."

I wanted dearly to like Nine to Five, and I did. I was also, however, severely disappointed by it. First the positive.

Dabney Coleman plays Franklin  
(Continued on page 5)

# Never Another Season of Silence

Nearly 600 copies of the Lubbock NOW Times are printed and distributed monthly at a cost of nearly \$180 -- or over \$2,100 a year. In personal terms, it costs something more than \$3.50 a year to put the newsletter you are reading in your hands every month.

During the last year, our newsletter was financially self-sufficient, drawing no funds out of the chapter treasury. We need to keep it so. Lubbock NOW is, of course, dependent on fundraising to meet nearly all its expenses.

But maintaining self-sufficiency is no easy task. Judging from last year, advertising revenues for the coming year should be around \$1300. We may be able to do slightly better, but then costs may also increase. Paid subscriptions in the past year amounted to \$150, and we hope most subscribers will

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Women's suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony (standing) and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.



## Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

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President Reagan's contention that he favors full equality for women, but believes it should be obtained through legislation in the individual fifty states, rather than through the ERA, is either a sham or silly. But it is possible that a rational adherent of this view could be persuaded that the President's proposed approach will at best long delay equality in many states, and is, therefore, self-contradictory. It is an entirely different matter when we are told the Bible is against the ERA, or that the only "Christian" role in life for a woman is that of a submissive wife.

### Their Own Ground

Now few, if any, of the proponents of the religion that produces such absurdities can ever be convinced that their interpretations of the Bible or of what they call Christianity are anything other than absolute truth. Yet the influence of the fundamentalists can be weakened, if we meet them on their own ground.

Many Americans, including many adherents of the sects or cults in question, hold a vague and incoherent set of beliefs they identify as Christianity. Knowing little of the origin or basis of those beliefs -- in the long and complex history of the Church and the multifarious sects it has spawned -- they attribute an excessive authority to ministers

and suppose that the Bible provides an unambiguous statement of religious truth. Surprisingly many of us who reject the political doctrines of the fundamentalists concede to them much of their interpretation of Christianity, because like many Americans we know no better. In our ignorance we suppose that the doctrines of the fundamentalists derive from a literal reading of the Bible. Their claim to belief in the literal truth of scripture is well known. We concede to them their claim that the Bible provides authority for all their beliefs. Their phenomenal ability to quote biblical texts is equally well known.

In fact, they do not take scripture literally at all. Rather, fundamentalist interpreters of the Bible, with any training, espouse the doctrine of the clearest text. Such exegetes are well aware of the many contradictions of scripture. They choose the text they prefer and explain away the others. Similarly, they ignore or even deny the complex history of the Bible's

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## Screenings


(Continued from Page 3)

Hart, a "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical, bastard." Hart is a vice president (get the pun) at Consolidated; on the side, he's an embezzler. Fonda, Tomlin, and Parton work in his division of the corporation. Fonda's Judy Bernly is a naive, newly-divorced secretary working at her first job ever; Tomlin is Violet Newstead, the office supervisor who trained Hart when he first came to Consolidated. Parton plays Doralee Rhodes, a simple country girl who is Hart's personal secretary.

Sick of being--respectively--berated, defrauded, and panted after, the women join forces in fantasies of rebellion. Mostly by accident, their fantasies come true as, through the most improbable of plot devices, they find themselves kidnapping the villainous Hart. For six weeks they keep him trapped in his bedroom, while they gather the evidence to convict him of embezzling.

In his absence, they run his division of the business--run it with innovation and flair. The result is a twenty percent increase in productivity and a promotion of sorts

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## Season of Silence

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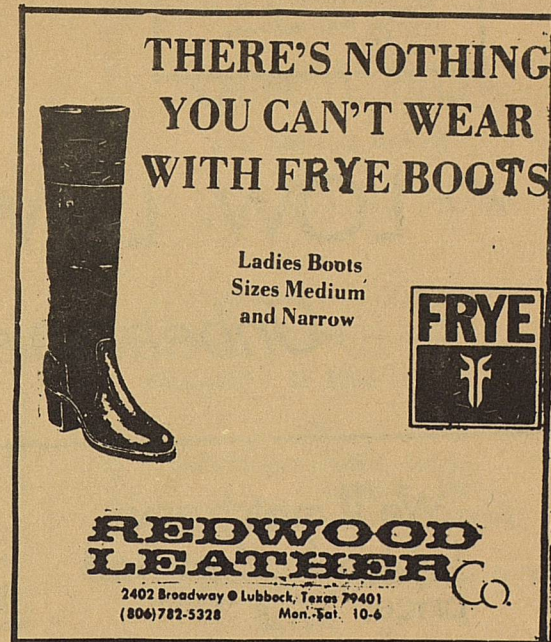
renew. In sum, we face an operating deficit of at least \$650 which must be met mainly by contributions and new paid subscriptions.

Obviously we need your help. The only alternative is a sharp reduction in both circulation and the size of the newsletter--a curtailing if not silencing of the only voice of feminism in Lubbock. Helping is inexpensive and can be pleasant.

### Party! Party!

First, come to the Second Annual Susan B. Anthony, Pam Herd Brink Birthday and St. Valentine's Day Massacre Party on February 14 and bring your friends. A minimum donation of \$4 a person (tax-deductible) admits you to a costume extravaganza replete with prizes, ample refreshments, and the music of the great Yellowhouse String Band. For a fuller description see our January issue. The place is 2405 27th Street; the time 8:30.

If you have not already done so,  
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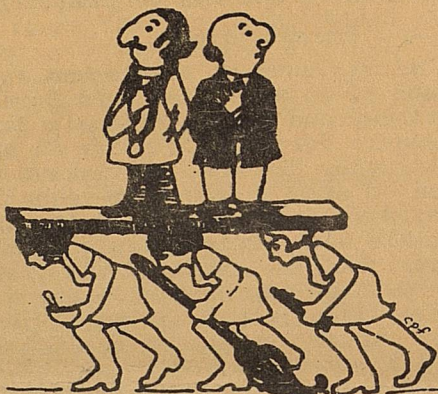
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## In the Hands

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development. They do not try to interpret the individual books as wholes. The texts quoted are frequently ripped out of a context that gives them a quite different meaning. The historical experience that produced much of scripture is discounted.

### Bibliolatry

And so they treat the Bible as if it were a collection of the oracles of some pagan deity, and not the sacred record of the long struggle of Jews and belatedly Christians to understand the nature and purposes of a living God. The fundamentalists have turned Christianity into bibliolatry, the worship of a book -- something very much like a graven image.

### Two Examples

We do not have space here to examine even a representative sample of the numerous instances of misinterpretation of scripture by the fundamentalists to which we might turn. Two examples must suffice as an introduction to the problem.

#### St Paul

St. Paul's clearest comment on the status of women is justly famous: There is no such thing as Jew and Greek, slave and freeman, male and female; for you are all one person in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 (New English)

Against this the fundamentalists would set the interpolated and  
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## Screenings

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for Hart who escapes in time to avert his own arrest and take credit for the division's boom.

In all this silliness, there are messages about sexism and exploitation on the job, about the need for women to stick together and fight for their rights, about who really runs offices, and about corporate pig-headedness. There are wildly hysterical scenes of slapstick comedy, and fine performances by Coleman and Tomlin. Fonda, who's received virtually no notice for her role, is brilliant in a very low-key role.

Yet, Nine to Five should have been better. The effort to blend satire, farce, and feminism doesn't work nearly as well as it ought.

The problem is structural. In order for us to support the rebellion, it's necessary for Hart to be made so evil, so lacking in any redeeming qualities, that he becomes atypical. In particular, the need to make him a criminal -- vital to explain why a six week kidnapping makes sense --

(Continued on page 8)

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## Screenings

(Continued from page 7)

effectively removes him from the ranks of merely sexist, exploitative, obnoxious bosses. The result is that your standard offensive office lout can see this film and say, rightly, "Aw, I'm not that bad."

Worse still, by presenting the office as a raging success when run without Hart, the film implicitly tells us that the only problems with office work are a few demented scoundrels. There's an effort to get around this problem. In the final moments of the film, Sterling Hayden, as the Chairman of the Board, praises all of the innovations the women have brought to Consolidated, but adds that "equal pay has to go." Alas, only the most attentive viewer is likely to hear the line. Even she is likely to pay little attention to it.

--Jeffrey M. Gamsco

## In the Hands

(Continued from page 7)

contradictory text of 1 Corinthians 11:8-12 which at first seems to enjoin the subordination of women, but in the end comes to the opposite conclusion.

Our second example is a text the fundamentalists ignore perhaps because it contains a warning to them. Our Lord said:

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## Never Another

(Continued from page 5)

please mail your check for reservations, payable to the Lubbock NOW Times, to the Business Manager, Briggs Twyman, 2405 27th Street 79411. You can pay at the door but advance reservations will be very helpful. If you can't attend, send a contribution anyway. We'll have fun for you.

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Secondly, if you own or manage a business, or know someone who does, place an ad or help us sell one. We currently have space for new advertising. Our low rates (for example, \$43.20 for a quarter page ad for six months) and estimated readership of over 1,000, make our paper the best advertising bargain in town. And feminists patronize our advertisers. To place an ad or for more information call the Business Manager, 797-8868, day or night.

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(Continued from page 8)

the people who receive this newsletter have supported the cause of feminism financially at some time or other. The newsletter is sent to them without charge, partly in appreciation. We do not remove old friends or past subscribers from our mailing list, if we can help it. But we are sure many of you will want to continue or resume your financial support of feminism. A subscription-only costs \$5.00 a year. Please use the form on the back page.

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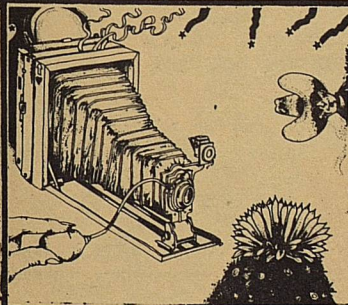
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Be careful not to make a show of your religion before men; if you do no reward awaits you in your Father's house in heaven.  
 Matthew 6:1 (New English)

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