

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

The Newsletter of the
National Organization for Women

In Lubbock
September, 1981

MOVING ON



As of September 1, Lynn Hughes will take over the editorial reins of the Lubbock NOW Times. We welcome Lynn to our venture but are also very sorry to see Marie Tedesco leave. We wish her the best of luck in her new position as Assistant Professor of American History at North Dakota State University and want to thank her for all of her fine work these past two years keeping feminism alive in West Texas.



ACTION / BUSINESS



All NOW members are urged to attend the Action/Business meeting, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. A new structure is planned for Lubbock NOW. Barbara Ogan has agreed to serve as Treasurer and Schedule Coordinator, and she will be the only chapter officer for the year. To help accommodate the complexity of members' lives, the chapter will have monthly rather than yearly coordinators staffing the NOW telephone and organizing the monthly meetings, but the year's schedule is not yet filled. Active participation is a must!

Please mark your calendar for this important meeting:

September Meeting

- * 8 Tues. Action/Business *
- * 7:30 p.m. *
- * 5712-C Brownfield *
- * Drive *
- * To reach Brownfield Drive, *
- * turn left off the Brownfield *
- * Highway just east of the Loop *
- * onto Inglewood Lane, which *
- * intersects Brownfield Drive. *
- * *

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All of us who have served as officers of Lubbock NOW for the 1980-81 year want to thank members and friends for supporting our common goals throughout the year. Time has been in short supply for almost all of us as career and family commitments increase, but you have helped with moral and financial support. Because of your generous contributions, our chapter has been able to give financial support for the aid of alcoholic women, for the ratification of the ERA, for the apprehension of criminals who commit acts of violence against women, and for the funding of abortions for disadvantaged women.

We hope that all of you will find time to participate in our chapter activities in the coming year. We face very critical feminist issues in a hostile political climate.

-- Marge Blackburn

* * * * *

MARIE TEDESCO: A RETROSPECTIVE

Reflecting on my tenure as Editor of the Lubbock NOW Times, I think its main function in Lubbock has been to keep the spirit of feminism alive and to serve as a forum for feminist writing in a decidedly unsympathetic time. In that regard, it has succeeded admirably.

It may appear that in 1981 feminism is in decline. To be sure, the Lubbock NOW Times itself has printed a number of mournful articles which have decried the rise of the moral majority, the election of Reagan, and the imminent defeat of the ERA.

On the surface, then, it indeed seems that feminism is waning. But perhaps not. Perhaps feminism in Lubbock and elsewhere simply is no longer of the noisy 1960s variety. It is quieter, and in some respects, stronger.

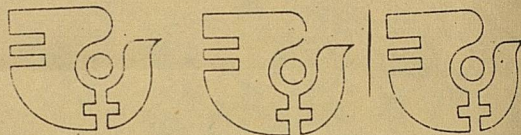
Any reform movement goes through stages, and to remain viable must

change. This is true of the feminist movement. The initial stage necessarily was raucous and attention-grabbing. People had to be jolted out of their lethargy in order to understand what feminists were screaming about. Maybe we no longer have to scream, but rather need to quietly and calmly insist on reform. By now sufficient numbers of people have internalized feminist ideas and ideals so that quiet perseverance is possible.

The Times, I know, will continue to insist -- and sometimes to scream!

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of those who have written for the Times and to thank especially the newsletter staff. Staff members have contributed much time, effort, and enthusiasm to this publication and have made my job as Editor a pleasurable one.

-- Marie Tedesco



Lubbock NOW Times

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

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Articles, poetry, etc., should be submitted to the Editor, 5414 43rd, Lubbock 79413, typed, double-spaced on a 35 character line. Articles are subject to rewrite.

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LYNN HUGHES: AN INTRODUCTION

One of the few gratifications of being an editor is writing your own column. You get to muse about whatever draws your attention, edit your own copy, and see your name in print. Providing you can come up with a topic once a month, what could be more fun?

Well, sometimes being boiled in oil could be more fun! Consider the present instance: I am the new editor of the Lubbock NOW Times without having been a member of NOW before and without really knowing very many Lubbock NOW members. So I suppose the appropriate thing to do is introduce myself, and, as Sergeant Friday would say, here are the facts, not necessarily in any kind of priority: *I am a single mother -- Mom to an eight-year-old boy. I am also an ex-reporter, a relative newcomer to Lubbock (two years), and a political scientist, a profession I practice on largely unwary students at Texas Tech.*

Roles

It strikes me that I have just described myself in terms of roles, as I think most people do when asked about themselves. Role definitions are convenient stereotypes allowing us to make decisions about other people on a low-cost basis. But, like all stereotypes, they have their limitations.

This has been brought home to me forcefully since moving to Lubbock. In my role as "mom", I was a PTA officer last year. Not a very good one, as it turned out, since the meetings were held during working hours, but nevertheless a PTA Mom.

At the first PTA Board meeting, after listening to the opening prayer -- a petition that God grant us to be good mothers and wives (no, I didn't point out that not everyone there was a "wife."), I cut out paper acorns for about 90 minutes and then excused myself, saying I had to go up to Tech.

"Oh, are you taking classes?" one of the other mothers asked.

"Uh, well, no. I teach at Tech." I said.

She looked at me very oddly. Obviously, this did not compute, and hers is not such an uncommon reaction. If you are young and female, you are not expected to have a profession other than that of traditional women's work.

Affirmative Action

Sometimes students ask me about affirmative action programs like the Sandra O'Conner nomination to the Supreme Court. Essentially, I'm in favor of a solid merit system, but given the prevailing stereotypes which cause surprised reactions to women as political scientists, business executives, or airline pilots (fill in the appropriate "male" career), there are significant benefits to affirmative action. At the least, it broadens everyone's conceptions of occupational and other roles.

With any luck, maybe we will get to the point where we see past the roles to the people who play them. And then, women can be "moms" and "executives", and even "political scientists" without feeling like black sheep in an otherwise white flock.

-- Lynn Hughes

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September 15

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Under Title VII (Sec. 703) you have the right to be free from sexual harrassment on the job. If you are a victim of this form of oppression, you may file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. You must file within 180 days of the incident.



A recent Supreme Court decision, McCarty v. McCarty renders military benefits undividable on divorce. The reasoning? The State's interest in upholding its community property laws is outweighed by the Federal Government's interest in raising armies!!



Community property is that which is earned by either spouse during the marriage; purchased with community property assets; or received by either spouse as compensation for medical expenses.



Separate property is that which is acquired by you as an individual before marriage; inherited by you after marriage; given to you after marriage; or received by you as compensation for pain, suffering, or disfigurement. Anything purchased with proceeds from the sale of your separate property is also separate property.



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THE BOOKSHELF: FEMINIST HUMOR

Gloria Kaufman and Mary Kay Blakely have edited a feminist gem called Pulling Our Own Strings: Feminist Humor and Satire (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1980), pb. \$7.95. Do hurry up and buy it. It is dedicated "...to the poets and scholars, mothers and teachers, movers and shakers of the women's movement who have raised the consciousness, pressed the boundaries, and entertained their sisters with their laughter and wit." It contains one-liners, cartoons, essays, and songs, from throughout this century, about women's particular circumstances, categorized under the following headings: Periodic Hysteria; Untying the Mother Knot; Clicking, Clunking, and Clowning; We Measured 56-480-47-277-30-19, and Now We Measure More!; Rape and Other Big Jokes; Laboring Under False Assumptions; Here Comes the Bridle; For All the 'Crazy Ladies'; Once Upon a Myth; and S/He-It. Here are just a very few examples from this "palace of pleasure:"



"This whole society is like slow dancing -- the men get to lead and the women get stepped on."
-- Lily Tomlin

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"During the Washington State ERA Campaign, a team of pro-ERA women spoke to the Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce in an attempt to allay the Chamber's fear of equality under the law. The issue of so-called protective labor legislation came up, and one fellow jumped up in a chivalrous attempt to assist the fragile sex.

'Do you realize that women will be required to lift over thirty-five pounds if the ERA is passed?' he demanded.

One of the speakers, a six-foot, 250-pound woman, responded. 'Fred, have you already forgotten who carried you from your car to your house after that last party?'"

-- Joan Honican

"A woman, speaking for the passage of the ERA, was interrupted by a heckler. In a booming voice he shouted, 'Don't you wish you were a man?'"

'No,' she responded, 'How about you?'"

Why We Oppose Votes for Men:

1. Because man's place is the army.
2. Because no really manly man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it.
3. Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will no longer look up to them.
4. Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums.
5. Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them peculiarly unfit for the task of government."

-- Alice Duer Miller
(from Are Women People?, 1915)

HOGWASH



"Robert has planned for his family's future by investing a portion of his wife's income in an IRA account at First Texas Savings."

The First Texas: A Newsletter for First Texas Savings Customers, December, 1981. Submitted by Mary Nell Mathis.

"...I'd like to comment on Supreme Court nominee, Sandra O'Connor, if you will allow."

First time that I saw the lady she was posing quietly with her family for a television camera crew. Her quiet repose impressed me.

Next shot that I saw of Mrs. O'Connor was when she was speaking to newspaper reporters regarding her nomination by President Reagan to the high court.

This sequence left me chilled!

Have you noticed that most lady's (or ladies) are much prettier with their mouths shut, and Mrs. O'Connor is no exception!"

Ace Lambert, "Letters to the Editor," Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, July 19, 1981. Submitted by Elizabeth Orem.

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I recently joined the auxiliary of a civic club to which my husband belongs, and I was named to head the annual dinner and bazaar. When the newspaper wrote up the story, they referred to me first as 'Jane Jones' and thereafter as 'Jones'. They also referred to my position as 'chairperson.' When I complained to the editor, I was told that it is the policy of most newspapers these days not to distinguish between the sexes. Well, I objected firmly. I resent being called 'Jones' when I am 'Mrs. Jones.' Anybody can be a 'person', but a woman is someone special and always has been."

from Texas NOW Times. Submitted by Pam Brink.

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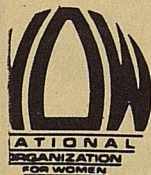
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