

# LUBBOCK **NOW** TIMES

The Newsletter of the  
National Organization for Women

In Lubbock  
June 1980

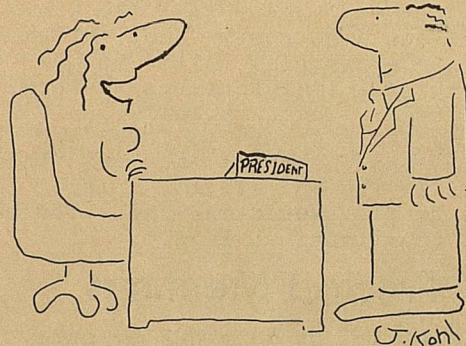
## Are All NOW Members Feminists?

A woman with a traditionally "male" job is a favorite subject for a press interview. Inevitably the question comes up: "Are you a feminist?" "What do you think of women's lib?" Often the answer -- from a woman sheriff, a telephone repairperson, a railroad brakeperson, or a coal miner -- is "No, I'm not a feminist. I'm just doing my job."

But isn't this what feminism is all about -- a person, regardless of sex being able to do whatever job he or she wants, to be whatever he or she wishes without the restrictions of preconceived stereotypes? Are not women who break job barriers helping to destroy stereotypes, though they belong to no organization, accept no label, make no public demands? Are they not the true feminists?

The way a woman conducts her own life, what she actually does in daily living, is perhaps more important than whether or not she belongs to a feminist organization. Her life is a statement of what a woman can do and be, an example

that can help alter society's conceptions. Her actions are a constant reminder of the potential of all women. They should also signal acceptance of the responsibilities and costs of independence.



"You're straightforward, honest, practical and ambitious.  
That's what I like about you, Bradford . . .  
you THINK like a woman!!"

Sometimes such actions may be hard. One may be all alone, acting differently from most people. A person who acts other than in  
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**DARLINE BUCKBERRY**

**NOTA McCULLOUGH**

NOW members have been saddened by the recent deaths of Darline Buckberry, former President of the Lubbock League of Women Voters, and Nota McCullough, who made such a positive contribution to feminism in Lubbock.

We will sorely miss our good friends and wish to extend our sympathy to both of their families.

## Text Program

The NOW June program meeting, presented by Edna Gott, will consist of a membership participation workshop to review proposed textbooks for Texas public schools. Textbooks will be reviewed for sexist content and complaints filed where necessary. This will be a good opportunity for our members to provide input into our state educational system, and all members are urged to attend this important meeting.

## NOW Feminists

(continued from Page 1)  
 accepted ways risks ridicule and rejection. It may be awkward, for example, to refuse to let a male friend pay for one's dinner or drink. Is the principle of financial independence worth offending an acquaintance or hurting a friend's feelings? The individual must decide.


In the past, women have not been expected to play baseball, run trains, be soldiers, or study physics. The individual woman who does these things (and a thousand others) and does them well shows that the traditionalists are wrong. Now, for example, girls can play Little League ball because individual youngsters, supported by their parents, wanted to play badly enough to force the issue. Had there not been this individual desire and effort, a legal right to play would make no difference.

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## Precinct Meetings

Thanks to the many NOW members and friends of NOW who attended their precinct meetings after the primary elections on May 3. Many of those who attended were elected to their party county conventions, and in most cases, were able to defeat reactionary resolutions presented by Eagle Forum representatives. Reports of the county conventions will appear in the July Newsletter.

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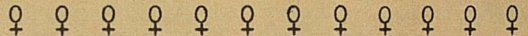
## GARAGE SUCCESS

The April 26 NOW garage sale netted \$82.47. Thanks go to those who donated goods (especially Naomi Carter) and the many who pitched in to set up. Because of a good setup, we sold a higher proportion of our donations than we did at the last sale. Special thanks go to those who worked on the day of the sale: Melinda Hoffmann, Cathie McWhorter, Rachel Williams, Carollee Mullen, and Marge Blackburn.

Alison Seidel

## JUNE CALENDAR

- 3 Tues. PROGRAM MEETING. 7:30 PM, Presbyterian Campus Ministry, 2412 13th St.
- 12 Thur. Business/Action Meeting, 7:30 PM, 2902 3rd. Pl., # B 27.
- 19 Thur. NOW Dinner, 6:30 PM, Orlando's, 2402 Ave. Q
- 27 Fri. Happy Hour, 5-7:00 PM, O'Malley's, 1211 Univ.



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# Screenings



James Reston recently claimed in the New York Times that "the Ayatollah Cronkite" was responsible for the abortive rescue attempt in Iran. Reston contended that Walter's addition of "the

hundred and whateverth day of captivity for fifty-three Americans in Iran" to the traditional "And that's the way it is" was simply more than the President could handle.

Of course, Cronkite isn't the only one who's forced our attention upon Iran. Indeed, a fair case could be made that the people most responsible for the American preoccupation with Tehran are Jimmy Carter and Roone Arledge: the President for self-evident and self-serving reasons; Arledge for his decision to provide nightly reports on the state of what should properly be called the "androlepsy."

## Iran Coverage

I offer these observations as preface to some thoughts about television's coverage of Iran. Specifically, I'm disturbed that all our news comes from men and that virtually all the personally aggrieved in this country are presented as stereotypical women.

Consider Barbara Walters. She's ABC's big gun, worth five million dollars for her interviews with such newsmakers as Henry Kissinger,

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**Deadline for Next Month's  
LUBBOCK NOW TIMES  
June 9**

# McHaney Gains Matrix Award

Jeannine McHaney, NOW member and Director, Texas Tech University Women's Athletics, was presented one of five Matrix Awards for Outstanding Professional Women at the Lubbock Professional Chapter of Women in Communications, Inc., Matrix Luncheon on April 17 at the Women's Club.

NOW nominated Ms. McHaney for the award because of her outstanding achievements in the field of Health and Education. Ms. McHaney is especially active in intercollegiate athletics, and has been elected President of the Southwest Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, 1980-81.

Also honored were Wanda Walser, Director, Community Relations, West Texas Hospital; Burnis Henderson, Guidance Counselor, Monterey High School; Joy Lambert, Vice-President, Lubbock National Bank; and Debbie Huggins, Promotion Director, KSEL Radio.

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## NOW



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\* Includes bread and salad.

## NOW FEMINISTS

(continued from page 2)

Women can and should do whatever they choose. It is important that other women (and young girls especially) as well as men see this and believe this. The individual who acts her principles is the ultimate proof.

This is not to disparage organization. It is essential. Only through organization and public pressure can old laws be changed, new ones enacted, and rights secured. Organizations can reach a wider audience than a single person can. Still, each individual must create her own change, realize her own opportunities, and make new rights meaningful. All the new laws and amendments will mean nothing until and unless individual women themselves adopt new outlooks and life patterns. Once-a-month attendance at meetings alone will not do it, if one plays the stereotypes and feminine games the rest of the time.

### Stereotypes Many'

These stereotypes are many, and they reinforce (and deserve) society's basic contempt for women. There is the "helpless female syndrome," for example. The poor girl just can't negotiate a steep trail without hanging on to her male companion. No doubt this feeds his ego, but it must also help convince him of the essential helplessness of all women.

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## SCREENINGS

(continued from page 3)


Anwar Sadat and Bo Derek. Yet her activities have consisted almost exclusively of bi-monthly interviews with the Shah. "How do you feel?" she asks. "Do you feel cheated by the United States? Would you like to return to Iran?"

Has she had an audience with Khomeini? With Bani-Sadr? With Ghotbzadeh? With the militants who hold the hostages?

There are reasons, of course. Women never have been accepted as war correspondents. They are thought to be too frail, too timid. And Iran currently is perceived as a warring nation. Moreover, Iran is not hospitable to professional women.

All of that may be understandable. But why not give those interminable "America Held Hostage: Day What Have You" reports to a woman? And why not, now that it's supposed to be simply another news broadcast, allow a woman to take over the anchor spot from Ted Koppel? I'm attacking ABC, but the other networks perform no better. Iran is simply not a "woman's story."

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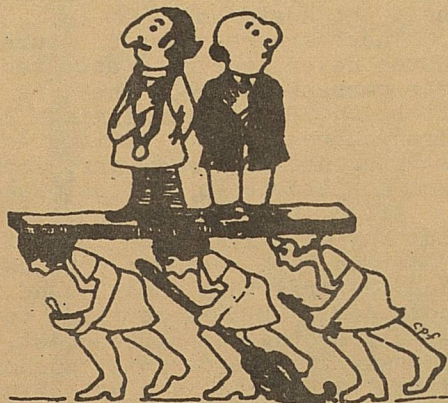


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## NOW FEMINISTS

(continued from page 5)

Then there is the "maiden in distress" routine. This writer overheard a young woman explaining to her male instructor why she had done badly on her exam. Her words were: "I'm not a male." She just could not get into the material, she said, the way her male peers did. These examples may seem trivial, but the everyday lives of most people are made up of a series of trivial occurrences. Their responses mold their lives. Surely their actions determine how other people see them.

## AS LONG AS

As long as women behave in these ways, society can justify discrimination on the basis of female inability, weakness, etc. Only individuals can end these images. So change your own tire. Never use physical weakness as an excuse. Develop your abilities as much as possible. Men will never really respect women as equals as long as they can see so many examples of female helplessness and incapacity.

What children see daily around them form their values and concepts. They have already absorbed stereotypes by age three or four (this is a "girl's toy," this is a "man's job," women aren't doctors, and so on). If the ideas of the young do not change, neither will the position of women in society in the future. So we return again to the importance of the individual. What she is and does will in the end make a new way for women or perpetuate the past.

Edwina Smith



## Screenings

(continued from page 5)

Still, women do have a role in our televising of Iran. I'm speaking, of course, of the hostages' families.

There's a point to all of this, and it's one I find particularly unsettling. If our perceptions of what happens in Iran are all developed from news presented from a male perspective; if our only female contact with events in Iran is manifested in stereotypical tears or (as occasionally happens) in holding-the-family-together, home-and-hearth-and-stiff-upper-lip; then perhaps we're missing something vital and making choices based on partial or misleading evidence.

It seems absurd to suggest that we could find ourselves in a war because Jessica Savitch anchors the news only on weekends. But that just might be what happens.

Jeffrey M. Gamso

## No Hogwash

No Hogwash this month! Has sexism died in Lubbock? Send Hogwash contributions to the Editor, 2405 27th Street, Lubbock, 79411.

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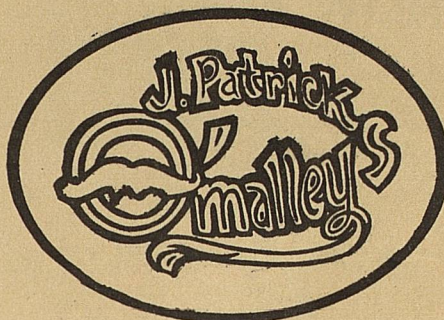
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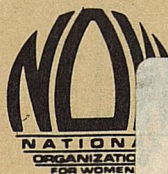
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