

# LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

The Newsletter of the  
National Organization for Women

In Lubbock  
December 1980

This is Mary . . .  
She's underpaid,  
sexually harassed,  
passed over for  
promotion and  
stuck in a stereo-  
typed role . . .

She's also  
against the  
ERA . . . why?



## What ERA?

Mary is going to have her way. Associated Press reported on November 6:

"Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, all but pronounced last rites for the ERA, saying a conservative 'tidal wave' in the national elections made passage extremely more difficult."

## Neither Moral, Nor a Majority

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity, consider.

Ecclesiastes 7:14

It came to pass that on November 4, 1980 Ronald Reagan was elected to the presidency of the United States. What will the election of Reagan mean for women, and for feminists? The Republican platform, as we know, disavows support for the ERA. While Reagan may not want to alienate feminists further by vociferously denouncing ERA and openly calling for its defeat in the remaining states needed for ratification, no doubt, at the

least he will remain silent on the issue. (But, then, President Carter has remained silent for four years).

There is, as well, the important issue of appointments. Can we expect qualified women -- even feminists -- to be appointed to Federal government positions? Carla Hills, former Housing and Urban Development secretary has been mentioned as a possibility for the Cabinet; and Anne Armstrong has become part of the Reagan transition team. But, beware of tokenism. It certainly would look good for the Reagan administration to have at least a few women in high-ranking

(Continued on Page 5)

# To the Editor

Ladies and Gentlemen:  
A Request!

There is evidently a subscription for NOW in your files to be sent to Jesse W. Couch, Box 472, Matador, Tex., 79244. I do not know who had the subscription sent to me but I am demanding that it be cancelled immediately. It is my belief that some local mischievously is behind the matter knowing how I feel about any "effort" to make "queers" and Homosexuals dignified and popular.

The other "good things" that NOW supports I agree with and support them through other sources far more effective than "Lubbock NOW Times."

Again I say, send no more to my address.

Thank you

Sincerely, Jesse W. Couch

## LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

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

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Editorial Staff	Pam Brink Melinda Hoffman Dick Jespers Marietta Morrissey Elizabeth Orem 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.

## December Calendar

- 2 Tues. Program Meeting.  
7:30 PM, Rm. 127,  
TTU University Center-Music Building
- 11 Thurs. Action Meeting, 7 PM  
2709 55th St.
- 18 Thurs. Dinner. Santa Fe Station,  
401 Ave. Q,  
6:30 PM.

## Non-Sexist Rearing

Please join us at 7:30 PM on December 2 in Room 127 of the Texas Tech University Center-Music Building for December's program meeting. The topic of the meeting will be "Non-Sexist Child-Rearing." Panelists will include both mothers of young children and professionals in the field of family care.

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**LUBBOCK NOW TIMES**

**December 10**

# Reign of Antichrist at Hand?

The voice of the people has been heard throughout the land, and unfortunately, the language being spoken is that familiar, primordial grunt: "nogubmunt," "nogubmunt," "nogubmunt"! Alas, the rough beast has come round again and seems to be slouching ". . . toward Bethlehem to be born." How shall we then proceed? Indeed, how shall we simply maintain our health, stability, and all too few strides toward universal equality during these inevitably plague years?

When my patterns for action are disrupted by alien forces, I always turn to the wisdom of the ancients for sustenance. Of course, it is not the most heartening of activities since wise women or old rarely had the time of the opportunity to spend reading or writing down their thoughts in polished form for posterity. Nevertheless, I take

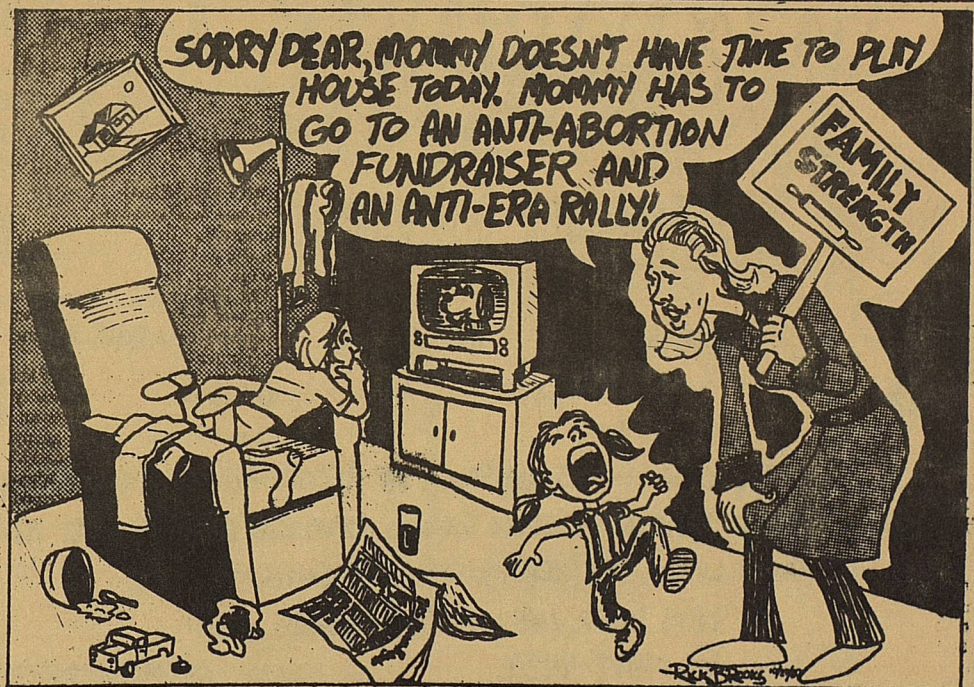
some consolation in observing that, although these maxims have been contributed by men, Philosophy itself is after all a woman, and the wise men of the past are only her attendant lords. There is also some solace in believing, as I certainly do, that no matter what happens to the "gubmunt", this is Woman's century, and we will remain upright, standing on the shoulders of giants.

With all of this in mind, and since tradition seems to be the cry of the hour, I offer as a counterpoint to the old grunt, an old eloquence:

## Consolations from Philosophy

- \*\*The wise may learn many things from their foes. Aristophanes
- \*\*Even when laws have been written down, they ought not always to remain unaltered. Aristotle  
(Continued on Page 4)

DES MOINES SUNDAY REGISTER ■ NOVEMBER 2, 1980



— Richard P. Brooks Jr., 2209 Person House, Iowa State University, Ames.

# Reign of Antichrist at Hand?

(Continued from Page 3)

\*\*There's no cause for Despair.

Horace

\*\*What cannot be removed, becomes lighter through patience. Horace

\*\*Even a single hair casts its shadow. Publilius Syrus

\*\*It takes a long time to bring excellence to maturity.

Publilius Syrus

\*\*Whoever strives for great objects must suffer something.

Plutarch

\*\*He pardons the ravens and visits censure on the doves. Juvenal

\*\*A great pilot can sail even when the canvas is rent. Seneca

\*\*Avoid, as you would the plague, a clergyman who is also a man of business. St. Jerome

\*\*Stand like a firm tower that never shakes its top for blowing of the winds. Dante

\*\*Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom; and wit all thy getting get understanding. Proverbs, IV:7.

\*\*Answer a fool according to his folly. Proverbs, XXVI:5.

\*\*Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein. Proverbs, XXVI: 27.

\*\*They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. Matthew, XIII: 14.

\*\*Fortune leaves always some door open to come at a remedy.

Cervantes

\*\*Keep up your bright swords, for the dew will rust them. Othello, Shakespeare

\*\*What is past is prologue. The Tempest, Shakespeare.

\*\* But man, proud man  
Drest in a little brief authority,  
Most ignorant of what he's most assured,

His glassy essence, like an angry ape,

Plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven

As make the angels weep.

Isabella, Measure for Measure, Shakespeare

Pam Brink

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# SCREENINGS



Judy Benjamin is twenty-eight. All She's ever wanted is a comfortable, suburban life. Just as it seems she might get it, her husband dies. She has no job skills, no employment experience

of note. She has never been alone, never been without a man to take charge of her life, can't believe that anyone would choose to be. She wonders aloud why Jill Clayburgh didn't marry Alan Bates in An Unmarried Woman. "I'd have married him in a minute," she says. Instead, she joins the army.

For Judy Benjamin the army seems an absurd choice. She's tricked into enlisting by a recruiter who dazzles her with photographs of yachts and with stories of gourmet foods and condominiums. She's not prepared for the hours, the work, or the khaki.

Now, Judy Benjamin may sound unbelievably naive. She is, but I believe it. Partially, that's a tribute to Goldie Hawn's acting. It's also a recognition of the degree to which many women's lives are sheltered from the world.

In any case, Private Benjamin learns that she can be a good  
(Continued on Page 7)

# Moral? Majority?

(Continued from Page 1)  
offices. On the lower levels, though, I think we can expect little. The voice of feminism in the government will be reduced to a whimper.

But perhaps Reagan himself, and the issues of ERA and appointments really are secondary. Feminists primarily should be concerned with two phenomena. First, the conservative sweep of the Senate bodes ill for feminists. Gone from the Senate are such liberals as Birch Bayh of Indiana, John Culver of Iowa, Warren Magnuson of Washington, George McGovern of South Dakota, Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, and Frank Church of Idaho.

Second, feminists have to be concerned with the political-moral-ideological approach of organizations like Moral Majority (MM) and the Committee for the Survival of a Free Congress (CSFC). These two groups, and others like them contributed significantly to the election of conservative candidates, and can be expected to exert some

(Continued on page 7)

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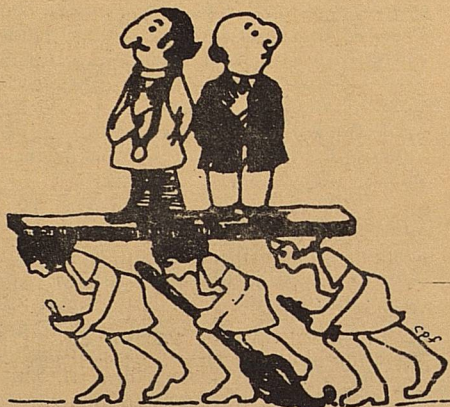
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## Screenings

(Continued from page 5)

soldier, that she can be more than a Jewish American Princess. And she discovers that there's more to life than being victimized by men.

She fights off the advances of a lecherous colonel who makes her the only woman in his elite team of paratroopers in order to lure her into bed. This unmarried woman also meets her version of Alan Bates and is forced to choose between him and the army. The army loses.

But the wedding is a fiasco, and disgusted with the treatment she has and will receive from this stereotypical Frenchman, she leaves him at the altar. Presumably, Judy Benjamin will return to the army, but not certainly. The film ends ambiguously.

There's much of value here. We watch a mollycoddled, man-dominated creature of Total Womanhood come to understand why Jill Clayburgh's character elected to remain single. We see her discover a career. We note her learning the self-satisfaction of asserting her rights and independence. We watch, in short, the transformation of object into person. That's powerful stuff.

Yet, there are things that disturb me about Private Benjamin. I want to discuss only one of them.

Many people claim that the armed forces are the only real haven for women and minorities in this society. They argue that in

(Continued on page 9)

**JEFFREY M. GAMSO**  
WORD WRIGHT

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EVENINGS

## In, moral Minority?

(Continued from page 5)

political influence in the next few years. (Indeed, the day after the election CSFC head Wyrick informed Vice-President-elect Bush that he had better "tow the moral line," or else.)

Why be concerned with MM, CSFS, and allied right-wing crack-pot organizations? I think the danger of these groups lay in their morality which zeroes in on matters like abortion, sexual preference, and family strength. Choice in abortion is immoral, as is homosexuality. Both threaten the traditional family. Scripture is cited as "proof" that abortion and homosexuality violate God's laws. But, evidently, given the conservative focus on strong defense, and the conservative tendency to saber-rattling, war is all right, and killing adult human beings is moral. And, importantly, the morality of human justice, equality and tolerance is seldom heard of.

This conservative morality is, I think, perverted, and furthermore,  
(Continued on page 9)

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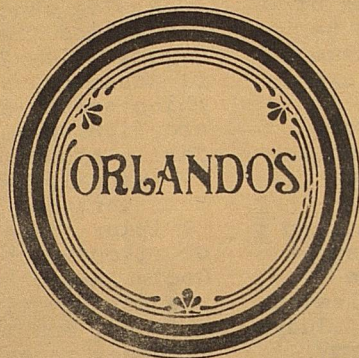


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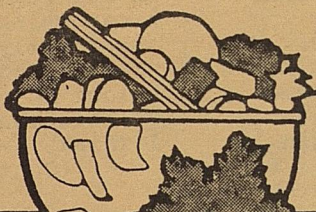
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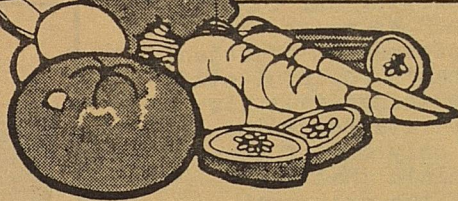


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## Screenings

(Continued from Page 7)

the military equality of treatment and of opportunity is largely free of sexual, ethnic, or class bias. Grudgingly, I admit that they are probably right. It's also probably true that, more successfully than any other organization, the military teaches women the macho skills and attitudes common among male Americans. I'm not convinced that's desirable, but many women believe it is.

Judy Benjamin gains from the Army's openness, and she benefits from its training. But there's a price, and the film doesn't show that very clearly. For the military offers equality only at the expense of freedom and individuality.

For the military is our most paternalistic institution. And as Judy Benjamin learns that she is a whole person, that she can take care of herself, that she doesn't need to be pushed around, then why does she relish the army so much? Whether her C. O. is a man or a woman, if she's in the army, she's still taking orders. And the top order givers are all men.

Private Benjamin often seems like army propoganda. The truth, however, is that the more Judy Benjamin grows, the less she needs the army. We need, that is, to learn what happens after the film ends if we are to understand how far she's come. We never do.

Jeffrey M. Gamso


## Depraved Bibliolators?

(Continued from Page 7)

I suspect that Scripture serves merely as a facade for what really bothers MM and CSFC adherents -- and that is, sex, or more precisely, sexual activity. Sexual freedom and diversity threatens these people. Why? Sexual intercourse of the standard variety (missionary position only, please) emblemizes power relationships evident in society at large -- indeed, missionary sex is a metaphor of power. Anything which deviates from this standard sex is to be feared, because it breaks down that power relationship which puts the male on the top and the female on the bottom. Homosexual activity certainly is a threat, as is sexual freedom for women. Women cannot be allowed abortion, not because abortion kills fetuses, but because it allows women to escape the consequences of sexual intercourse.


MM and the like are dominated by WASP males, who champion propositions which reflect the paranoia of the (supposedly) persecuted  
(Continued on Page 10)

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# Perverted Conservative Minority?

(Continued from page 9)  
WASP male. The traditional family bolsters and props up the white male ego, as does the fundamentalist religion which these men endorse.

Unfortunately, though, there are plenty of women who support MM, and denounce the ERA and feminism. What need be said of them? They have been convinced to accept the ideology of the oppressor, and are too insecure to assert their own independence as human beings. Some of these women are not content (family or not) to stay at home: they are determined to convince other women of the "immorality" of being "liberated."

The perverted morality of these conservatives threatens much of what liberalism stands for. Feminism emerged from the liberal tradition, and as such, feminists need to keep alive -- in fact, to revitalize -- that tradition. We cannot allow the conservatives to silence us, nor can we afford to sit back complacently in the anticipation that the fetid conservative wind will die down soon enough.

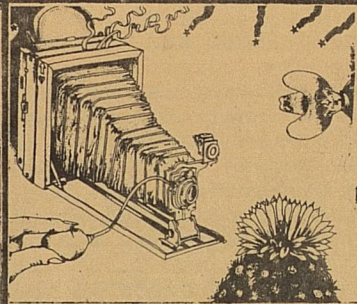
But, how can feminists retaliate effectively? Should we increase our stridency, and thus risk alienation within, or from, the political system? Alternatively, should we attempt to

maintain a "low profile," and rely on reason and logic to win over our opponents?

It is particularly important that we ask these questions in light of the possibility that ERA will not be ratified. We cannot abandon feminism if ERA does fail. Feminism, after all, is more than just ERA.

Perhaps feminists should examine their moral stances and use the morality of humanism and toleration to combat the parochial morality of the conservatives. The 1960's emphasis on politics and justice seems to have worn thin. Maybe we need to push morality. And ultimately, we do have morality on our side.

Marie Tedesco



Photography  
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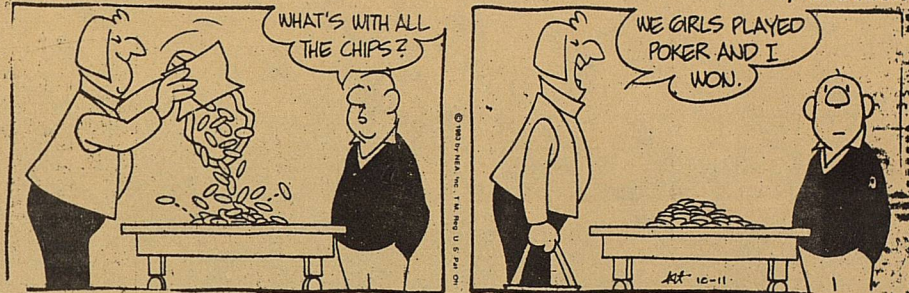
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The comic strips above, submitted by Richmond Flowers, appeared in a single issue of the Avalanche-Journal, October 11, 1980.

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

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