

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

The Newsletter of the National Organization of Women

In Lubbock

March, 1982

NOW Demise in Offing?

Whether or not to continue Lubbock NOW as an active organization will be the focus of a re-organization meeting set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 11 at 2519 38th St.

At the meeting the following topics will be discussed: the continuance of the organization, choosing a slate of officers to serve possibly until regular elections in August or possibly until next year, revision of the by-laws, and ways to increase membership activity.

"We're really in a critical time," said Sunny Ryerson. "The rotating phone system just isn't working well. Without officers, no one's in charge of anything and the same five people end up doing it all."

Attendance at meetings has been extremely low this year and turnout at the annual St. Valentine's Day Massacre fund-raiser was disappointingly low. The fund-raiser broke even, but the newsletter bank account now stands at zero.

At the February meeting, the decision was made to bring the newsletter back into NOW. It has been separate for some time, but since the organization will be funding it, a closer connection seemed required.

"We will have the annual art auction," Ryerson said, "if we can get the volunteers to organize it and get people to contribute the art." Tentatively set for

late April or early May, proceeds from the auction will go to support the newsletter. Persons interested in volunteering or making contributions can call Marge Blackburn at 795-2109.

The chapter has also been asked to participate in co-sponsoring Women's Issues Day with the League of Women Voters. The League has asked for program participation as well, but so far no one has volunteered to represent NOW.

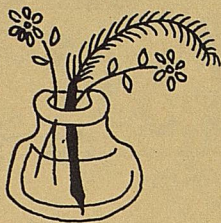
Also to be discussed at the March meeting is the possibility of another record party. The successful one last year involved getting together to listen to feminist demo records, which were then ordered by members through local record stores.

Information about the meeting can be obtained from Barbara Ogan, 792-6668.

EVENTS

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.
Business meeting at Barbara Ogan's, 2519 38th St.

Saturday, March 27. Women's Issues Day, co-sponsored by NOW and the League of Women Voters. Information can be obtained by calling 795-9718.



The Flip Side

By Lin Hughes

Gee, I hate to be writing this column again. My only solace is that it's the absolute very last time I will ever say to whoever reads this: are you interested in the continuation of NOW?

Things are in bad shape. The rotating officer system adopted last August just isn't working out. Without a known executive officer, business doesn't get taken care of, no one is available who can speak for NOW when the media want our reaction to some event, and things are just generally falling apart.

There are about five people who are currently active, that is, who will actually show up at meetings and do something. There are three very loyal workers on the newsletter staff, and about four or five others who can be counted on to help with party preparations or other special projects.

But that isn't enough. If only ten to twelve people are interested, we might as well disband

NOW in Lubbock and go individually to the League of Women Voters, the ACLU, or to other organizations where we could expend our energies on something besides trying to resurrect an organization that no-one's interested in anymore.

In fact, that may be exactly what is about to happen.

At the March 11 meeting, Lubbock NOW will hold a working session to try to regroup. A slate of temporary officers may be chosen, the by-laws may be revised, and a different date for the monthly meetings, other than Tuesdays, will be discussed.

If NOW is to continue, there needs to be participation. The newsletter needs someone to sell ads. NOW needs volunteers for officers. We also need volunteers to organize the annual art auction and solicit contributions. Without participation, Lubbock NOW will expire with a whimper.

(Continued on Page 3)

Lubbock NOW Times

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The Flip Side

(Continued from Page 2)

And maybe it should. Maybe it is time, as some of the long-time members have suggested, for all of us to join the mainstream and work through existing and better-accepted groups. It may well be that the contributions a "radical" feminist organization can make have already been made, and it's time for something different.

For myself, that seems a reasonable alternative. In the past, I think NOW provided a perspective unavailable elsewhere. But the impetus for that seems to have died, and it's just possible that that's a sign of progress.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.



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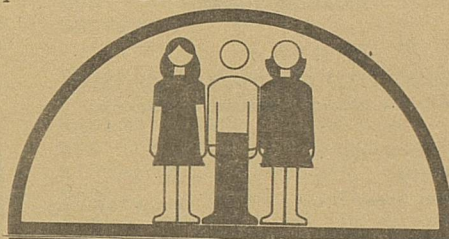
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Do a Good Deed

If you want to do a good deed for a long-time backer of Lubbock NOW, buy your booze from Crossed Keys, and when you pay for it, tell the proprietor John Broome, how much you have appreciated his support.

In the past, Crossed Keys had always donated beer to our fundraisers, but didn't for the Valentine's one. A few of our members signed up to receive refunds in the price-fixing settlement, which they were entitled to do, but as a result, Broome feels the victim of a cheap shot.

He really has supported NOW for a long time, and it would be a nice gesture to let him know we appreciate it.



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Women's Issues Spotlighted

Lubbock NOW, other women's groups, and the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Women's Issues day Saturday, March 27. The theme will be "Women's Issues in Perspective--Past, Present, and Future."

Women's Issues Day proposes to touch on many of the aspects of women's issues, beginning with a look at women's history

(including women's suffrage) and women's history in our country's work force. Rosie the Riveter, an award-winning documentary on this subject, will be shown. As much time as possible for free discussion will be provided during the day.

For more information, call Lubbock League of Women Voters at 795-9718.

All co-sponsoring organizations are encouraged to provide the organization's literature and materials to explain the organization's purposes and structure to the women who attend. One goal of the day is that women become better acquainted individually and also as a community of women's organizations.

There will be an individual registration fee, on a break-even basis, to cover the price of renting the movie and the lunch.

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Screenings

Jeffrey M. Ganso

For most of us it began with Psycho and the screen's finest uses of the carving knife as a murder weapon--first in the shower, of course, later on the stairs. Years later, John Carpenter, borrowing freely from Hitchcock, added a classy veneer of superstition to the weapon in Halloween. Then the proverbial floodgates opened: what came to be known as "slasher" films were everywhere.

Their hallmarks, of course, were particularly gruesome murders of nearly naked women--frequently in showers--filmed in much greater detail than any dramatic necessity could justify. The carving knife remained a favored weapon, but axes, arrows, and the like soon joined it.

The popularity of these blood-thirsty tales seems, blessedly, to have been short-lived. Hollywood has moved on to newer pas-

tures, though to judge from the ads, The Boogens is trying for the same effects with talons rather than blades.

I'm led to these reuminations by a glance at this week's TV Guide which tells me that with the proper pay TV channels one can see, during the same week, Motel Hell (on something known as the Movie Channel), Friday the 13th, and The Funhouse (both on Home Box Office). I've seen several of these things by now, and I think it's time for a re-assessment.

Clearly, of course, they are sadistic. Equally, clearly, most of their sadism is directed against women (though men, too, are frequent victims of their slashings, impalings, and axings). A sizable percentage of the moviegoing public obviously derives pleasure from watching folks get hacked to bits. It's a depressing and inescapable conclusion.

But there's another point to be made here, an almost equally depressing one: that same moviegoing public has no standards. I'm not speaking here of moral values; indeed, most of these films share a starkly puritanical vision. There are exceptions, but the one survivor of the killer's depredations seems almost invariably, to be the woman who does not take off her clothes, the woman who won't "sleep around."

However, I'm struck by the fact that these films are so poorly made. Of course, Hollywood has always turned out a large amount of terrible celluloid. But rarely has much money been made by so many films that are badly written, directed, acted, and edited.

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Continued on Page 6

Screenings

Continued from Page 5

Consider the simple idea of suspense. Something terrible will happen. We know it's coming, we just don't know when. It's easy enough to achieve. You won't find it in these films. Shock, you see, is so much easier. Something terrible will happen. We know when: right now. But we're not prepared for how disgusting it's going to be. My guess is that people stopped going to the films when the filmmakers ran out of new ways to impale people while

maintaining an R rating.

In time, of course, they'll think of some new way. Then those same sadistic voyeurs will shell out their deflated dollars at the box office. Can a cinematic version of 101 Uses for a Dead Cat be far behind?

Anti-Nuke Speakers

On March 25, two members of the European nuclear disarmament movement will be in Lubbock to present their views. Sponsored by Clergy and Laity Concerned, they are Volkman Deile, a West German, and Siene Strikwerda, chairman of the Netherlands' Christian Women's Organization.

More specific information can be obtained by calling Mike or Marcy Wenzler at 762-8950.



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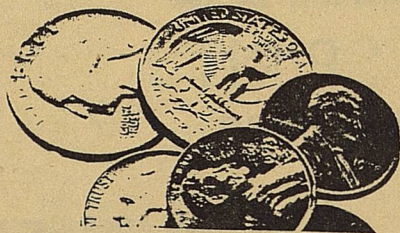
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