

LUBBOCK **NOW** TIMES

The Newsletter of the
National Organization for Women

In Lubbock 763-4441
February 1979

Texas State NOW Convention

March 23-25, 1979

Texas Women's University

Denton, Texas

The 1979 Texas State NOW Convention promises to be one of the most exciting and memorable events of the year--but it can't happen without YOU! Please plan to join us in March for a week-end of work and fun:

- Feminist Film Festival
- Readers; Theatre
- Plenary Sessions
- By-laws Adoption
- Banquet (Saturday night)
- Live Entertainment
- ERA Update and Action
- Strategy Planning

Motel reservations may be made through Jim Horn, Holiday Inn, P.O. Box 1429, Denton, Texas 79201, or by calling (817)387-3511. Rates start at \$21.00 plus tax.

(continued on page 2)

MARCH CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 2: | "Family Violence Workshop"
Lubbock Junior League |
| 2-10: | "Women's Emphasis Week"
for the City of Lubbock |
| 6: | "Filing and Prosecuting
a Sex Discrimination Suit"
NOW Program Meeting (p.1) |
| 8: | NOW Action/Business Meeting
2203 39th Street (p.2) |
| 10: | "Women's Issue Day" (p.9)
League of Women Voters
Hodges Community Center |
| 23-25: | Texas State NOW (p.1)
Convention, Denton Texas |

World Hunger A Woman's Issue

Hunger inhabits the world of the late 1970's. And, in a monstrous way. It has been conservatively estimated that at any one time, 500 million people are malnourished. As with so many other "social problems," one examines international hunger and finds, quintessentially, a women's issue.

Like so many other problems, the inadequate nutrition that prevails in much of the world today effects women in more profound and numerous ways than it does other groups. This fact has not been acknowledged in the political bodies where solutions for world hunger are sought and implemented. The relationship between gender and starvation must be understood by policy-makers if the hunger experienced by hundreds of millions of the world's women and men is to be satisfied.

(continued on page 4)

For March: How to Court the Establishment

The NOW Program Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation, 2420 15th.

Carol Kingsbery, Texas Tech law student, will speak on "Filing and Prosecuting a Sex Discrimination Suit." The talk will highlight the procedural requirements of a sex discrimination charge as well as bring out the practical problems involved in this type action.

If you have ever wondered what
(continued on page 2)

World Hunger A Women's Issue

(continued from page 1)

The "hunger problem" is not new. Famine caused by periodic failures in production occurred historically throughout the world; however, chronic food shortage is a relatively recent phenomenon, spreading in the twentieth century throughout areas of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Third World hunger has been long explained in terms of overpopulation; families have children at a faster rate than they produce food. This explanation has led to the adoption of two policies by Third World governments. Both are particularly damaging to women.

Contraceptive Dissemination

One, the widespread dissemination of contraceptive devices, designed and manufactured by Western corporations, has often clashed with indigenous traditions of mate selection and sexual expression. But, more dangerously, some contraceptive devices given to Third World women have been inadequately tested. Birth control pills and i.u.d.'s are considered safe for Western women, in part, because of modifications made after years of use by Third World women. Throughout the 1960's, critics of the overpopulation thesis charged that contraceptive devices and sterilization were forced on Third World women, sometimes in programs financed by American public and private agencies. Contraceptive technology, deemed unsafe or inadequately tested by the F.D.A., is

still distributed to the Third World women; coercion of women undoubtedly prevails in some birth control programs in the Third World, now wholly under the auspices of national governments.

Modernization

The second policy formed by Third World governments from the causal link between hunger and overpopulation has been educational. "Traditional" attitudes, which encourage large families and discourage "entrepreneurship," are "modernized" through education programs. Modernization programs assault the integrity of Third World cultures, but are especially oppressive to women.

The Third World woman's economic security depends on her ability to bear and care for children to a greater extent than does the Western woman's. "Modernization" undermines the legitimacy of the traditional female role, thus jeopardizing women's claim to support from their mates.

(continued on page 8)

Trudie Edwards' Message To Texas Feminists

Trudie Edwards is a thirty year old college student and the mother of two children. In February 1976, she applied for a position with Hale County Sheriff's Office and was refused employment.

A complaint was subsequently filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on September 16, 1976. After a two and one-half year investigation, on October 13, 1978, the EEOC returned an affirmative ruling in her case.

The EEOC Commission ruled that the Hale County Sheriff's Office had discriminated against Ms. Edwards and others. A federal lawsuit was filed in United States District Court on January 9, 1979, and is pending in that court at this time. What follows is Ms. Edwards message to us Texas feminists.

State Senator Short Finds Times Useful

On January 11, 1979, the Lubbock NOW Times received this letter from our State Senator, E.L. Short:

I have been receiving the NOW Times, and I appreciate very much your sending it to me.

Ever since I have been receiving the Times, I have picked up several little issues and statistics, and I will be looking forward to receiving this informative publication.

Thanking all of you for your cooperation and assistance, and I hope that you will inform your membership of their Senate office address.

I remain

Very truly yours,
E.L. Short

Please keep Senator Short informed of human rights in West Texas by writing him care of:
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

ONCE IN EVERY LIFE

Once in every life a time comes when we have to stand up and be counted. Now is that time! Texas ERA is about to be rescinded.

We must fight for our rights as women. We made Austin hear us once with a unified stand and a loud voice that couldn't be ignored. Call write, or visit your representative and count for ERA.

Time is running out for countless women and minorities. Three long years, seemingly interminable years, (continued on p. 6)



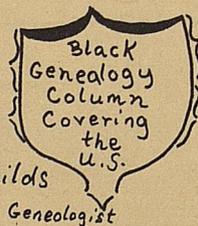
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World Hunger A Women's Issue

(continued from page 4)
Much of the research literature on Third World male's failure to develop entrepreneurial spirit blames women, portraying them as repositories of "irrational" values. Everything from breast feeding to toilet training, all practices associated (sometimes incorrectly) with women's dominance in the socialization of children, has been scrutinized in the search for the causes of male reticence in entrepreneurship.

Overpopulation

Scholars no longer consider overpopulation to be the cause of international hunger. In recent years, food production in the Third World has, on the average, kept pace with population growth. Still hunger increases. Moreover, it is now understood that large families are valued by Third World people, who often require the labor of their children in production. It is also recognized that birth rates for Third World countries are inflated, given the high infant mortality rates, high maternal mortality rates, and high death rates of children due to hunger and disease.

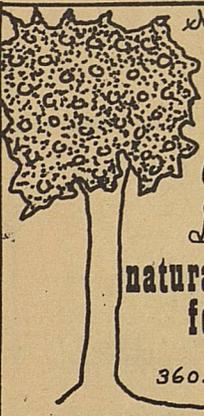
Many Third World governments and some international agencies continue to argue that overpopulation is the root of international hunger, instituting programs of birth control or

modernization that have negative consequences for women. Overpopulation is probably the most favored explanation for world hunger by the American public, which offers little support for policies deriving from other, more sophisticated hypotheses.

Recent Research

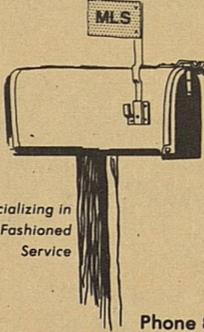
Much recent research suggests that world hunger is related to the historic movement away from food production in the Third World. Since the 1700's, countries of Asia, Latin America, and Africa have turned to the production of commodity exports (e.g., cotton, tea, coffee, oil), which they produce efficiently and in large quantities. These products are traded for food and other goods made in the industrial countries. Third World nations' workers have recently begun to assemble light manufactured goods (e.g., clothing, electronic goods,), attracting investors by their numbers and willingness to work for low wages. Assembled products, too, are traded for food.

However, the Third World movement
(continued on page 9)



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Women's Issue Day

What: "Women Supporting Women"
When: March 10, 1979
Where: Hodges Community Center
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Registration and coffee

Morning Session: Women: A Personal Perspective
10:00-12:00

Lunch: With special interest groups
Afternoon Session: Women: A Community Perspective
1:00-3:00

The immediate goals of the Women's Issue Day Conference are to explore the personal aspects of contemporary women, such as her psychology and her emotional and physical well-being. Then to determine how these characteristics affect her relationships with herself, her family, and the community. The conference will encourage the expression of ideas and reactions in an effort to enhance personal and community awareness and commitment.

---Kathy Dietz, Chair
Women's Issue Day
League of Women Voters

Twyman Out, Pharr In

Barbara Pharr is Lubbock NOW's new Policy Head. Because of the hectic nature of law school, Jane Twyman has had to resign. We wish Jane good luck with her studies and Barbara good luck with her new duties.

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MARLETA CHILDF

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World Hunger

(continued from page 8)
away from food production has had unanticipated, disastrous consequences. Commodity exports have progressively declined in value on the world market; most commodity export production in the Third World is owned by Western corporations, which repatriate profits to their home countries. The assembly of goods has also proven to be unprofitable for Third World nations, as assembly adds little to the market value of products, and, again, most plants are owned by Western corporations. Third World countries cannot make enough money to buy the food they once produced themselves; hunger increases as more land and labor are turned away from food production, and the population grows.

Third World Families

Some Third World families have kept a small plot of land for food production, while participating in the cash sector. Males commonly work in commodity export production or assembly, as women till the land. Women's role in production has steadily expanded, yet bearing of and caring for children remain important. Children contribute in food production, and during the periods of high labor demand, many women and children work in the cash sector.

Tens of thousands of Third World women work full-time in commodity export production or assembly, generally at lower wages than men are paid. Legal protection and social services for working women, including child care, are meagre.

Women in America

Women in America are directly influenced by Western investment in the assembly of goods by Third World workers. This work was once done in the United States, primarily by American women and minorities, at low pay, often part-time, and with few benefits. American corporations have moved assembly plants to Third World countries, where wages for
(continued on page 11)

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World Hunger

(continued from page 9)
assembly are often less than \$1.00 an hour. Some firms have relocated plants as their American women and minority workers consider unionization, a cruel irony for those denied entry into higher paying jobs in heavy manufacturing by white, male unions.

As Third World people are forced to purchase their food, Western styles of consumption are adopted. A recent, highly publicized example involves Third World women and children; mothers increasingly forego nursing newborns in favor of infant formulas. Properly used, formula offers more nutrients than malnourished mothers can provide. But, mixed with water, often impure, infant formula is deadly to babies, as scores of mothers have found. European and American religious and other groups are boycotting Nestle's, the leading seller of infant formula in the Third World, demanding changes in the company's promotion practices.

And what of other solutions? There (continued on page 12)

Bloomington's Pays Up

The Federal Trade Commission won agreement on a \$50,000 penalty in its first case under a 1975 law banning sex discrimination in granting credit. Bloomington's, a fashionable New York-based department store chain, agreed to pay the penalty without admitting any violation of law in papers filed in federal court in Cincinnati, the FTC announced. It was alleged that Bloomington's failed to consider alimony child support, and separate maintenance payments in deciding who was credit-worthy.

From the National NOW Times

WOMEN PAY

Senate budget watchers say greater use of women in the military can save taxpayers 100 million dollars a year. The pay's the same but women train easier so costs are lower; they stay in the service longer, and bring fewer dependents with them.

From the National NOW Times

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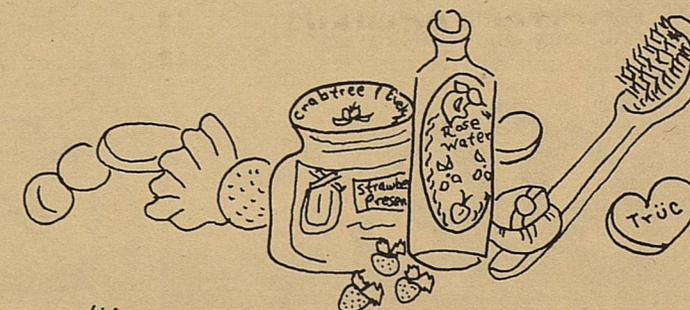
The Soap Bar

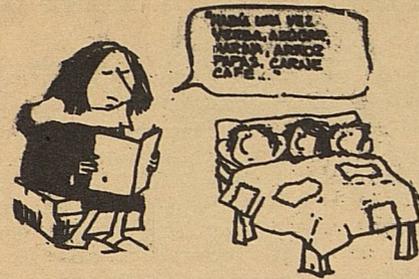
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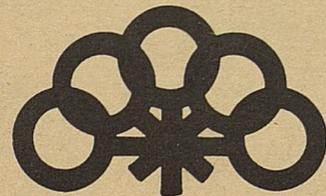




ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS
TEA, SUGAR, FLOUR, RICE,
BREADS, MEAT, COFFEE...

Injuries Asexual

Dr. James G. Varricks and Ralph K. Requa of the division of sports medicine of the University of Washington in Seattle covered four athletic programs for high school girls over a two-year period and found that injury rates for girls don't appear to be any higher than for boys. In badminton, basketball, cross-country, track and field, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, and volleyball, 22% of the girls were injured each season--slightly less than the figure for boys in the same sports, 24%. Most injuries were minor--nearly two-thirds were sprains or strains. Softball led the injury list, with more than 40% of the players getting hurt at some point or other. Gymnastics was second. For those concerned about women's "invasion" of sports, no injuries involving breasts or other sexual areas were reported. Dr. Garrick says that injuries, compared to benefits, are not a problem. They occur at the rate of 1 for every 650 hours of individual participation--about as safe as any other activity you can think of.



World Hunger

(continued from page 11)
are more political avenues than ever before to struggle against world hunger, especially for feminists. Several organizations, including Oxfam and the Interfaith Council for Corporate Responsibility, include progressive women among their active members; they welcome help and financial support. Several churches in Lubbock are active in the politics of international hunger and need informed feminist advice. Urge your political representative to:

- *Support the stockpiling of surplus grain to be given to starving people.
- *Support American aid to the Third World, which is now less than that of many European and oil producing Arab nations. Foreign aid should be in the form of food, not guns.
- *Support congressional scrutiny of American corporations that invest in assembly abroad.
- *Make hunger a special focus of American foreign policy. To gain U.S. support, Third World governments must have a program to feed their people.

--Marietta Morrissey

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Membership Packet

MEMBERSHIP PACKETS are available from Cindy Castle. All members, new and old, need to have the vital information included in this packet. Look for them at the sign-up table at the next program meeting. (A donation of \$1.00 is appreciated but not necessary.)

Dues Breakdown

The dues for joining NOW include \$20.00 for National NOW and the National NOW Times, \$5.00 for Lubbock NOW and the Lubbock NOW Times, and \$2.00 for Texas NOW dues which does not include the state newsletter. In order to receive the Texas NOW Times, an additional \$3.00 must be sent to the state treasurer: Phyllis Tucker, 243 Empress, Houston, Texas 77034. For those people who wish to join NOW and cannot afford to pay full dues, there is a reduced rate. Concerned feminists will not be denied access to full participation in NOW because they lack money.

New Members

Lubbock NOW welcomes the new members listed below. Please add them to your call list.

Cindy Castle 2203 39th Lubbock 79412 744-0794	Donna Precure 1602 Avenue X Lubbock 79401 747-7780
B. Hope Faulkner 2013 5th Lubbock 79401 797-9165	Betsy Tenenbaum 9102 Belton Dr. Lubbock 79423 745-6808



Address and Telephone Changes

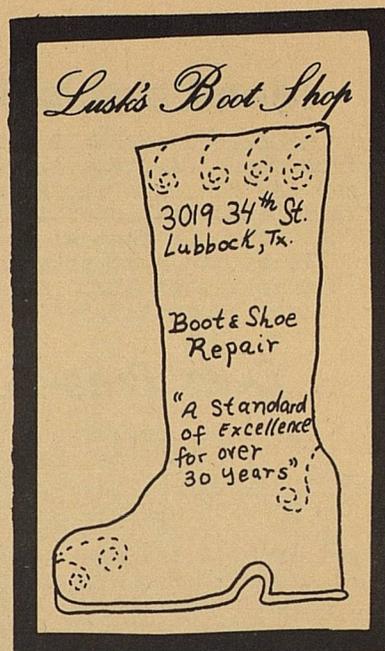
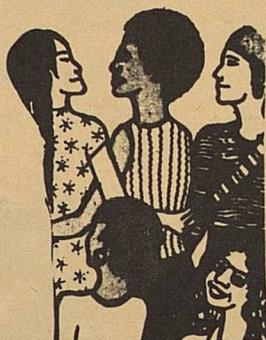
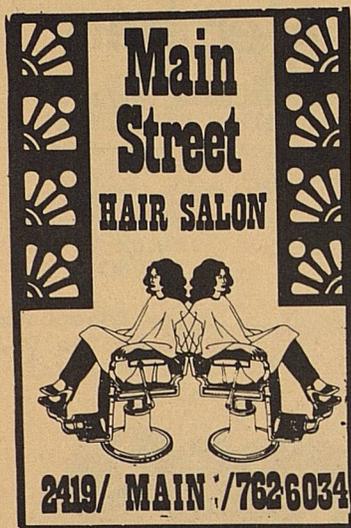
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- I would like to become a member of Lubbock and Nation NOW (\$27).
- I am already a member of National NOW and wish to pay local dues (\$7).
- I want to join but can only afford \$_____.
- I am not a member but would like to receive Lubbock NOW Times (\$4/year).
- I would like to join Friends of NOW (\$5 and up) (call 763-4441)

NAME _____ HOME PHONE _____ OTHER PHONE _____

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INTERESTS/SKILLS THAT I CAN CONTRIBUTE TO LUBBOCK NOW PROJECTS _____



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