

LUBBOCK **NOW** TIMES

The Newsletter of the
National Organization for Women

In Lubbock
September 1979

Be "Swept Away"

On September 10, a celebration is planned for Lubbock NOW. Food at Orlando's and provocative cinema by Italian filmmaker Lina Wertmuller will highlight our annual recognition of outgoing and incoming officers.

All NOW members, Friends of NOW and friends in general are invited to dinner and to the showing of "Swept Away," Wertmüller's controversial film (see the review of "Swept Away" in this Newsletter).

A \$6.00 ticket will cover both dinner and the film. Come at 6 p.m. for drinks (which cost extra) and conversation. Dinner is at 7, and the movie starts at 8:30.



Tickets will be sold by NOW members, and can be reserved by calling Naomi Elliott (762-0626) or Cathy Allen (742-2412 or 797-8814). Tickets will go fast, so make your reservations now.

NOW Garage Sale

PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE NOW GARAGE SALE. It will be held at 2512 45th St., September 8. Donations should be delivered to the site on either the 5th or the 6th (or call Tina Strouble: 797-3931). Help is still urgently needed. Contact Alison Seidel (797-6593 or 762-5442) to volunteer.

New Self-help Helps Health

The women's self-help health movement is generating interest in the Lubbock region. A women's health study group is planned for this fall, with an eye toward forming a collective for more self-sufficient health care and services.



Movement Goals

Because 70% of health-care consumers are women, and since, further, women have long felt helpless in this area, it is no surprise that alternative systems are emerging. The women's health collective movement aims to provide such alternative systems. The goals of the movement are many: 1) to instill a heightened consciousness about our bodies, our sexuality and our medical care; 2) to inform us about proper health care and treatment, especially in regard to gynecology; 3) to promote self-sufficiency in health care and 4) to provide a woman-centered, health structure for delivering basic gynecological services.

Preliminary Plans

The preliminary plans for a West Texas Women's Health Collective include a consciousness raising and self-examination session, which also will be devoted to studying common crises (e.g.,

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Self-help Health

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hysterectomy, home delivery of infants, fitting an IUD), and reviewing Lubbock women's experiences with local gynecological care. As well, discussion will focus on the possibility of lining up with other health collectives in order to increase support for women in crisis.

All interested women are invited to join in this effort. Weekly or bi-weekly meetings are planned for this fall. If you are interested please contact Cathy Allen (742-2412 or 797-8814); Cathie McWhorter (795-6898) or Lynn Clark (741-2724) for more information. The first meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24, at 2518 63rd St., at 7:30 p.m.
Cathy Allen

To the Editor

Letters to the editor are invited from all readers on any matter relevant to feminism or human rights in general. Responses to articles published in the Newsletter or suggestions on what should be published are particularly welcome. Limitations on space make it difficult, except in extraordinary circumstances, to publish letters longer than 125 words. Send letters to: The Editor, P.O. Box 83, Lubbock, 79408.

Editor, NOW TIMES:

It's a shame that Larry Crowley's article (see May Newsletter) was not more clearly labeled "Hogwash."

1) To measure a woman's independence by her promiscuity is absurd.

2) Where is his "control" study: the same questions asked of Tech males? Does he think men do not want children? That's a sophomoric view, indeed.

3) If ag science and engineering are Crowley's idea of "career training," what is he doing in sociology?

4) Considering that for each Tech woman who marries a classmate, there must be a Tech man marrying a classmate, how did Crowley decide who is the pursuer and whom the pursued?

That NOW Times would give space to such an obviously biased non-study is a more demeaning statement about women than a man could ever make. Let's get off this negative kick and give our younger sisters some example worth emulating.

Mary Nell Mathis

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, P.O. Box 83, Lubbock 79408, typed, double-spaced on a 35 character line.

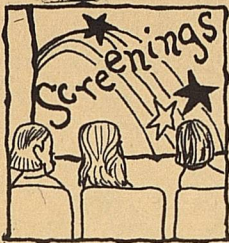
Articles are subject to rewrite.

Deadline for Next Month's

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

Sept. 11

Screenings



Its full title is "Swept Away . . . by an Unusual Destiny in the Blue Sea of August," and it's largely responsible for the raging contro-

versy which swarmed about writer-director Lina Wertmüller in the mid-1970s.

The plot is familiar. A rich, haughty, beautiful Milanese woman (Mariangela Melato) is stranded on a deserted island with a pugnaciously Marxist, macho deckhand (Giancarlo Giannini) who works on the yacht her husband has chartered. On the ship she was domineering and boorish, carping at Giannini with hatred and contempt for both his class (lower) and his origins (Sicilian). He was sullen and bitter, fuming and glowering while obeying her every order.

Marooned Switch

Once marooned, they trade places. Suddenly he has the power, for in this primitive setting money does not matter. What counts is the ability to survive, and only he has that. But Giannini doesn't use his skills for their common good. He wants revenge, wants to dominate. They fall in love, of course, and that's where the controversy begins.

Giannini's method of seduction is to beat Melato into submission. Her expression of love is passive acceptance of slavery. It's all done with grand humor and in a context of political diatribe, for sex and politics are Wertmüller's two constant concerns. Moreover, their romance is manifestly a fantasy.

The problem is that many viewers find no irony in any of this. Is Wertmüller suggesting that in a natural world this is what will happen, that the female is naturally

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Aggie Boot Fetish No Longer Sexist

They say in Aggieland that if you do something twice it's a tra- ↓
dition.

So women wearing senior boots in the Corps of Cadets is not tradition, but it is the rule.

Until last month only male senior cadets were allowed to wear the custom-made cavalry boots, which sell for about \$300 a pair.

Then U.S. Army Col. James R. Woodall, commandant of the Corps, decided it was time women received equal senior privileges.

One impetus to change was a lawsuit still pending against the university, filed by a female cadet because she was excluded from joining some honor organizations in the Corps.

"I think the girls anticipated it," Woodall said. "I know they wanted it."

He said the women have already purchased the senior status symbols, non-custom made riding boots,

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Aggie Boot Fetish

(continued from Page 3)
and will order gaucho skirts and riding pants to go with them.

Reaction is mixed.

Older graduates said the change was just another sign of women's influence on campus. About 60 women are in the 1,850 member Corps, and a third of A&M's 30,000 students are female.

"I don't think they'll look good in boots," said Shane Hennum of Houston, a more recent graduate of A&M. "The boots will create a bigger rift between males and females in the Corps." Hennum, Class of '78 and a former cadet, said the change will destroy the Corps.

Cadets Disagreed

But some current cadets disagreed.

"It's not creating more hatred," said Dillard Stone, assistant cadet commander of the Corps.

"It's creating more amusement."

The boots are odd-looking, he said, but thinks cadets can cope with change.

Student commander of the Corps, Bill Degat, compared it to similar changes in the military academies.

"They took change with grunts and groans, but learned it was good," he said.

"We'll be optimistic about it."

"The women are awful proud of them and the men will have to adjust."

From the San Antonio

Submitted by Pam Lawson and Lynn Btechele



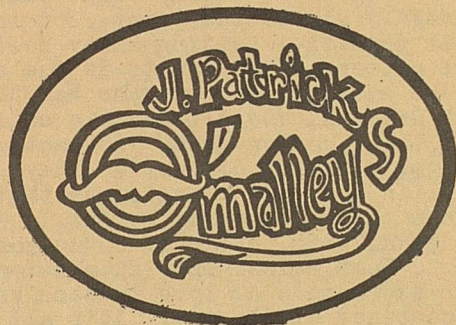
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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 5 Weds. Garage Sale Set-Up, 7-9 p.m., 2512 45th.
- 6 Thurs. Garage Sale Set-Up, 7-9
- 8 Sat. GARAGE SALE, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 2512 45th
NOW State Council Meeting, Corpus Christi
- 10 Mon. NOW Banquet, 6 p.m., Orlando's, 245h and Q
- 12 Weds. Lunch, 12-1 p.m., O'Malley's, University Ave.
- 20 Thur. Action/Business Meeting 2713 94th, 7-9 p.m.
- 24 Mon. West Texas Women's Health Collective, 7:30 p.m., 2518 63rd
- 26 Weds. Happy Hour, 5-7 p.m., Orlando's
- 27 Thur. Feminist Study Group 7:30 p.m., 1523 24th Place
- 30 Sun. Rape Prevention Seminar, 2-5 p.m. (Sponsored by City of Lubbock and the Rape Crisis Center)



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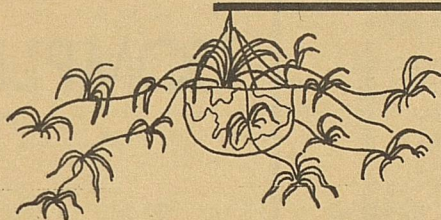
The recent increase in the numbers of women in medical schools in the United States has been hailed by many women as an historic breakthrough. Yet, in her study of women in the nineteenth-century medical profession, Mary Roth Walsh demonstrates that the current optimism may be premature. Her well-documented study reveals a similar rise of women in the medical profession during the latter half of the nineteenth century that failed to develop into permanent advances in the twentieth century. Instead, the penetration of the medical field by female physicians reached its peak at the turn of the century and was followed by a rapid decline in the numbers of women in medical schools. This decline continued throughout the twentieth century, extending to the 1960s. Walsh explores this rise and fall as an historical analogy to the current situation, proposing that an understanding of the deter-

mining factors in the past may prevent history from repeating itself in the present.

To support her study, Walsh employs personal papers of female doctors, records of medical schools, societies and hospitals, and medical journals of the period. Particularly important is data from governmental bureaus, the U.S. Census, and from city and medical directories.

To explore the role of women in medicine in the nineteenth century, Walsh focuses upon Boston because as a "hotbed of feminist medical activity," Boston was the scene of the earliest challenges to the American medical establishment. Although not "a microcosm of the American medical world," Walsh maintains that the female medical activity in Boston "presaged" the struggles and advances that women across the nation would subsequently undertake. Many of women physicians'

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(Continued from page 5)

early advances, such as the establishment of the nation's first women's medical college in 1848 and the first female-staffed hospital in 1862, occurred in Boston. These advances inspired the growth of female medical schools across the country. Similarly, the successful entrance of women into formerly all-male medical schools in Boston was reflected by a nationwide trend. By 1893, 37% of Boston University's students were women, while 19% at the University of Michigan Medical School, 20% at the University of Oregon Medical School, and 31% at Kansas Medical College were females. Although Walsh admits that medical schools in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia remained sex-segregated, she employs figures from the U.S. Census and The Records of the Commissioner of Education to convincingly demonstrate that the gains made by women physicians in Boston were reflected by similar advances by women throughout the nation.

Growth and Decline

Walsh's examination of the tremendous increase of women in nineteenth-century medicine, and its subsequent decline in the presence of seemingly expanding opportunities for women physicians discloses that the greatest obstacle to female doctors was the male-dominated medical establishment itself, and that those in control of the medical schools, societies and hospitals

(Continued on page 7)

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SCREENINGS

(Continued from page 3)

subservient to the male? Is the film, in other words, an attack on feminism, indeed, an attack on women? Is Wertmüller a misogynist? The votes seem to be about evenly divided.

Wertmüller says she's not a misogynist. "In this film...she (Melato) represents men and he (Giannini) represents women." That much subtlety in a film played so broadly is impossible to accept. More plausible is her claim that, "'Swept Away' was not a comment on the relations of the sexes but on the power relations between social classes." But that's not quite convincing either.

Forms of Oppression

My sense of the film is that it explores oppression in many forms: social, political, economic, racial and sexual. That it is, in other words, about power and, implicitly, about the need to revolt against its abuses. That doesn't mean simply turning those abuses about when the opportunity presents itself, as

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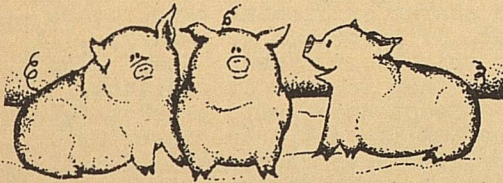
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HOGWASH

A Lubbock resident told police officers that he was talking to some friends at the Lubbock speedway when a middle-aged white male drove up, began talking to him and then pointed a 12-gauge shotgun at him. A Lubbock County Sheriff's deputy, also present, told the victim that because a pregnant woman and a child were with the suspect, he would not arrest the man.

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, July 23, 1979. Submitted by Jane Seaver and Karen Hodges.



The code for Tech Dads reads, in part, as follows: "We can strengthen the educational program of our sons and daughters through our familiarity with it, and through constructive suggestion and criticism....Through our knowledge of the affairs of the University we aspire to an understanding of the impact of higher education on the lives of our sons and daughters. Through this shared understanding we aspire to build a background for a strengthened relationship with them."

"Fathers provide dreams...their children provide realities."

Submitted by Jeffrey M. Gamso

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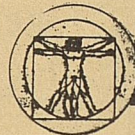
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"made a conscious effort to minimize the number of women physicians." Despite gains by nineteenth-century women physicians, they never successfully surmounted the barriers of sex discrimination in institutional medicine. With no institutional power, women could exert little influence in the profession, and thus their penetration of medical schools and societies was not substantive, and did not result in permanent advances. Women's involvement devolved into merely token participation via the quota system that still exists today.

To support her thesis, Walsh traces the early advances of female doctors in Boston and demonstrates that the establishment of the Boston Female Medical College and the female-staffed New England Hospital for Women and Children were products of male sex discrimination within the Boston medical community. Walsh documents repeated instances of rejections of female applicants by the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Medical Society, which

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By my body's action teach my mind.
Wm. Shakespeare



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(continued from Page 7)

forced women to found their own medical institutions outside of the mainstream medical establishment. Although Victorian modesty had created legitimate demand for women physicians to treat women's "intimate" diseases and pregnancy, male physicians rejected female physicians' argument of the necessity for adequate medical training and certification. The Massachusetts Medical Society, for example, refused to admit women doctors who sought licensing to prove their professional competence, even though the society's by-laws made no provision for an exclusively male organization. Similarly, Harvard Medical School consistently rejected women applicants, usually citing such vague reasons as "inexpediency."

The opposition of male medical figures was usually based upon popular nineteenth-century fallacies about women's biological inferiority which affected their

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SCREENINGS

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Giannini does (he plays a Stalinist), but rejecting the use of power altogether except as a means of doing away with power. Ultimately, that's what begins to happen on this fantasy island. Alas, the idyll must come to an ambiguous end.

Don't be mistaken, however. "Swept Away" is not somber, not heavy, not pedantic. On the contrary, it is genuinely funny, mostly cheerful, always energetic, and thoroughly entertaining. It's also beautifully photographed and marvelously acted. Wertmüller wants her films to be popular: "I hope I can do that without resorting to sharks or flaming skyscrapers -- but, if it proves necessary, I'll do this too." "Swept Away" didn't need them to draw an audience.

"Swept Away" will be shown at the NOW banquet, September 10. Whatever your response to the film, it will be worth your time.

Jeffrey M. Gamso

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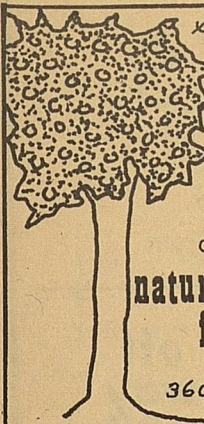
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Bookshelf

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 intellectual capabilities, Walsh uses Dr. Horatio Storer as an example of a nineteenth-century physician who promulgated this myth. Storer was outspoken in his support for the theory that women's biology precluded them from performing effectively as doctors because during their menstrual cycles they suffered from "periodical infirmity...and temporary insanity." Analyzing this controversial issue, Walsh argues that such opposition actually went beyond a biological argument to economic fears. As the number of women's medical colleges increased and the market for women physicians grew, male physicians felt increasingly threatened by the competition. Quoting from several medical journals which cautioned that women were overcrowding the already depressed profession, Walsh reveals that male medical opposition grew stronger during the period in which women were seemingly making their greatest progress.

Because of the mounting hostility, women doctors' advances were superficial, Walsh contends, because the concessions that were made were not based on the medical establishment's recognition of women's right to practice

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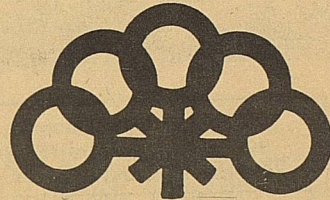
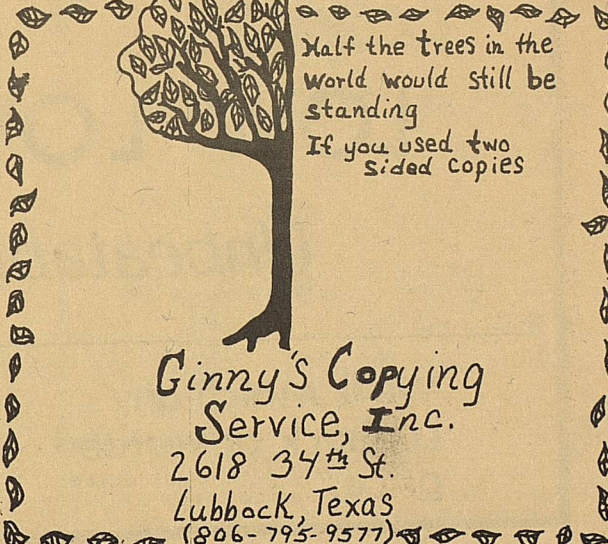

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Textbook Committee

Does a Fine Job

Elizabeth Glenn, Coordinator of Texas NOW Education Taskforce, invited Edna Gott and Karen Hodges to testify at the Texas Education Agency textbook hearing, which was held in Austin, August 14. Although neither Edna nor Karen were able to attend the hearing, the Texas Education Taskforce of NOW represented Lubbock NOW Education Committee by using the bills of particulars we had prepared. Ms. Glenn commended our committee for doing a fine job in preparing bills of particulars, and also informed us that 12 of the 43 public school textbooks reviewed by NOW members in Texas were found to be nonsexist. This represents a definite improvement over the situation in earlier years.

--Edna Gott

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(Continued from page 9)

medicine, but rather upon external factors of necessity and economic self-interest. Massachusetts Medical Society, for example, admitted women only because it could no longer defend its illogical anti-female stance against the pressing need to certify the burgeoning numbers of women doctors. Similarly, Walsh traces female enrollment at Boston University, the first co-educational medical college in Massachusetts, as another example of sex discrimination. Initially, a homeopathic college that admitted a large percentage of women, it disproportionately limited the number of female students when it became a "regular" medical college in 1918. It thus drew from a larger pool of applicants and no longer needed to admit women. Employing the school's records, Walsh notes that while women constituted nearly 30% of the senior class during the 20 years that preceded the 1918 shift, they constituted merely 10% in the next 20 years, and in 1939, there were no women graduates.

(Concluded next month)

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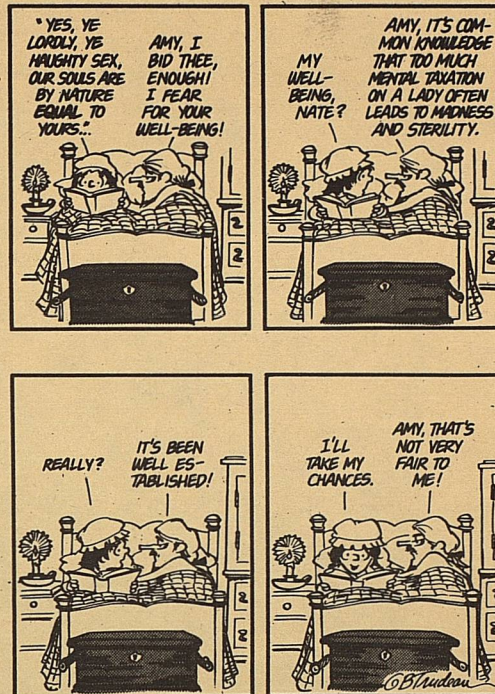
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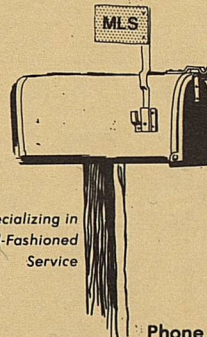
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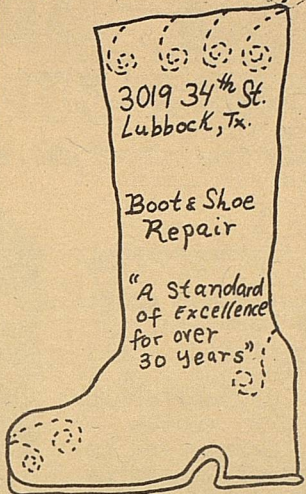
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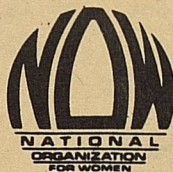
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- I want to join but can only afford \$_____.
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