

LUBBOCK NOW TIMES

The Newsletter of the National Organization for Women

In Lubbock

October, 1981

Caulk Sees Bad Times Ahead

Mary Caulk, recently-elected president of Texas NOW, didn't bring cheerful news to the October business meeting.

"This is an awfully rough time to be state NOW president," she said, and went on to tell of difficulties the national ERA faces in the few months remaining be-

fore the ratification deadline expires.

"If we don't win that," she told the dozen NOW members present, "that's when we're going to lose everything. But even so, we can't afford to give everything to the ERA and have nothing left for other issues."

Caulk said that since being elected president last summer, she has worked to get national to set up an ERA-ratification campaign in Oklahoma. Even though Oklahoma is not one of the five states targeted nationally for maximum effort, Texas NOW had pledged to give \$5,000 to the sister state effort.

However, with only four or five active chapters in the state, prospects for winning ratification are slight. But at Caulk's prodding, national has organized Oklahoma, and has agreed to contribute \$90,000 to the effort there.

Texas was prohibited by national guidelines from donating its \$5,000 directly to Oklahoma, but Caulk said she had worked out an agreement whereby part of the \$27,000 Texas NOW raised in its ERA Walk-a-thon would be earmarked for its northern neighbor.

Caulk said Texas was one of the most active state organiza-

Calendar

October 31, 8:00 p.m.

Halloween costume party and fund-raiser, at 3406 88th St. Services will be awarded as prizes for the best costume.

November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Business meeting at Sunny Ryerson's, 3406 88th St.

November 12, 8:00 p.m.

Program meeting, second floor, Texas Tech University Center (look for signs). Shelley Douglass, of Ground Zero for Non-Violent Action, will speak on feminism, non-violence and disarmament.

November 20, 5:30 p.m.

Pre-Thanksgiving Happy Hour at Applegate's Landing (upstairs).

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Screenings: Atlantic City

B Jeffrey M. Gamsó

Film is an essentially voyeuristic medium. We sit in a darkened room, often accompanied by someone, usually surrounded by strangers, and watch an intensely lighted, boldly magnified set of activities designed to keep our eyes focused on the screen. While theater and television are similar, the screen allows the audience a clarity of vision, an intimacy that other media lack.

In the hands of a clever or manipulative director, the control of audience the form demands can become ruthlessly exploitative. I'm not speaking here just of porno films. The triple-x audience gets exactly what it expects. Others may be distressed (that's another column), but they are not unwillingly exploited.

There's a difference, however, when the audience has come to see art and is directly insulted for witnessing what it does. That's what happened a couple of years ago when the French filmmaker Louis Malle made his first American movie, Pretty Baby. Ostensibly about a twelve-year-old

girl growing up in a New Orleans brothel just before the first World War, Pretty Baby is, in fact, concerned with degradation and with the very voyeurism Malle insists upon and then insults his audience for embracing.

I'm belaboring this point because I want to make clear a distinction between Malle's handling of voyeurism in that film and his use of it in his most recent work, Atlantic City. As Atlantic City opens, we watch a half-dressed Susan Sarandon as she sensuously washes, then oils her arms, neck, and breasts with lemon juice.

The camera pulls back, and we discover that our vantage point is outside her window. We are not merely observing a woman at her toilet, we are watching surreptitiously from a darkened room across an alley, watching along with an aging Burt Lancaster.

It's a trick, you see, possibly a cheap one. We become Lancaster, become the silent, unseen

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Lubbock NOW Times

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Editor Lin Hughes
Editorial Staff Melinda Hoffman
Dick Jespers
Marietta Morrissey
Gail Robertson
Business Manager Briggs Twyman
Advertising Sharon Booker

Articles, poetry, etc. should be submitted to the Editor, 7802 Vernon, Lubbock 79423, typed and double-spaced on a 32-character line. Articles are subject to editing and rewriting. Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the writer and not necessarily those of NOW, or anybody else, for that matter.

Screenings

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 watcher. We may feel guilty, guiltier, perhaps, than he does, but perhaps not. For his observation is intentional and furtive. We are simply caught up in the action on screen. Still, it's enough to help us feel as he does, to share his fantasies a bit.

That's what distinguishes the manipulative Atlantic City from the manipulative Pretty Baby. In the latter we are subject, we remain voyeurs. In the former we are audience, and our voyeuristic impulses are used to engage us with the characters rather than to distance ourselves from them.

Indeed, Atlantic City is a voyeur's film, but only because it is fantasy, because Malle's goal is to suck us into his characters' fantasies. How different from porno films where our own fantasies are the subject, and the object is to satisfy our dreams rather than to help us share in another's.

* * *

Atlantic City has long since left Lubbock. It was brought here by the Mann Theaters as part of their plan to transform one screen to a repertory house for foreign and independent domestic films.



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So far this fall they have shown, besides Malle's film, The Last Metro and City of Women. The quality of films is, of course, uneven. The effort is, nevertheless, worthy, and should be supported.

Meeting

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 tions, and now has over 6,000 members.

In other business at the October meeting, the group decided to begin updating the phone bank to eliminate names of people who would rather not be called, to transfer Alert calls from Susie Sappington to the NOW phone, and to discuss setting up an Executive Committee at the November 3 meeting.

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ALFRED JUDD, MINISTER

Program Meeting Set Nov. 12

Reserve the evening of November 12 for a special monthly meeting. Lubbock NOW will co-sponsor a talk by Shelley Douglass of Ground Zero for Non-Violent Action. The South Plains Alternative Resources Coalition (SPARC) is the other sponsor.

Douglass is a member of the Ground Zero Center for Non-Violent Action in Bangor, Washington which has been organizing opposition to the Trident submarine program. She regularly conducts workshops in feminism, non-violence, disarmament and other social change topics. Her articles have been published in Fellowship, Sojourners, and the Catholic Agitator. In 1981 she was elected to a three-year term on the national board of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). She is also currently working to-

ward ordination in the United Church of Canada.

Douglass, holder of a degree in U.S. social history from the University of Wisconsin, participated in the Selma to Montgomery march, the Milwaukee housing integration marches, the Milwaukee school strike and the Hickham, Hawaii Campaign Against the Air War in Indochina during the 1960s. She has been active in communities working for social change over the last 13 years and has lived at the Milwaukee Catholic Worker.

The topics Thursday, Nov. 12 will include feminism, non-violence and disarmament. The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on the second floor of the Texas Tech University Center. For more information contact Mike or Marcy Wenzler, 762-8950 or Sunny Ryerson, 793-3670.

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Women Attorneys

By Carolyn Moore

What is it like to be a woman attorney practicing law in Lubbock, Texas? As such a woman attorney, I will attempt to answer the question.

However, I can't answer the question fully because I don't know what it is like for the more than fifty other women attorneys here. I know nothing of what it is like to be a woman attorney in a medium- or large-size law firm; in a prosecutor's office; in a federal, state, county, or city agency; in a trust department of a bank; in a university setting as a professor or legal advisor; or in any of the other number of positions held by women attorneys in our city.

My answer will be limited to my experience as an attorney practicing law with one other attorney, Wanda M. Wray, who at times tries to limit her practice to criminal and juvenile defense. My experience

will also be discussed as it relates to other attorneys, clients, and the general public.

At a meeting called Prime Time for Women II in Lubbock, Frances "Sissy" Farenthold said that, as individual women, we have not made it alone or on our own. She was and remains correct. Certainly I have not made it alone as I have often depended on other people, men and women, for help and I have often been grateful for those persons, who before I came along, paved the road for me so that my travel would be smoother than theirs.

Other attorneys have given me tremendous help since I started practicing law. The three male attorneys who started the Ticket Clinic where I worked for nine months were very helpful to me. One of the attorneys often gave me new ideas to use in the courtroom and would discuss courtroom procedure with me; one attorney taught me many of the details of actually running a law office. The other attorney instilled in me the fact that

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OF

Karen B. Hodges

Attorney-at-Law

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Attorneys

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 an attorney's office should look good and her work product on paper should not only be good but look good.

Wanda Wray has literally guided me through several felony trials. Almost hours after my name went on the Court Appointments list, I was appointed to represent a person twice before convicted of felonies. He was thus being charged as a habitual felon and a life sentence was being requested as punishment by the criminal district attorney's office. Without the help from Wanda, a law school professor, a former employer, and my past trial experience, I would have been at a total loss.

Without fail, every attorney from whom I have sought advice on various cases has been kind enough to listen to my sad tale and then offer concrete advice. Attorneys in this town, I have learned, are almost al-

ways willing to give of their time and knowledge to other attorneys who find themselves confronting new and different problems.

Clients of mine have never--with one exception--indicated they wanted a male attorney rather than me. Most clients want an attorney to represent their best interest. If an attorney gains the client's respect and if the attorney really represents the client, I do not think gender matters. At least for me it has not.

The general public has responded well to me as an attorney. Many times, people have commented on my abilities as an attorney. So far I have been pleased by their comments.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ms. Moore will be leaving Lubbock in November to practice in Amarillo following her marriage to fellow attorney Ralph Brock.

MARY V. HATFIELD
CONSULTANT

PAMELA H. BRINK
CONSULTANT

ELIZABETH OREM
CONSULTANT

ASSOCIATED AUTHORS & EDITORS
WRITING, EDITING, INDEXING, TRANSLATING

1619 University,
Suite 210

LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79401

PHONE 747-9200

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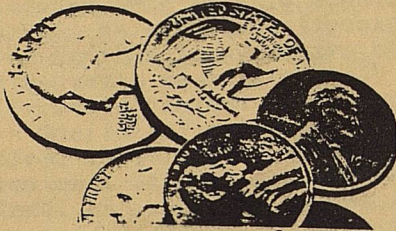
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