

'Get lost!'



For 3rd time Libertarian Senate hopeful shut out

By Gary M. Cates
staff writer

Bette Erwin, Libertarian candidate for the U.S. Senate, is yelling foul after being excluded from last week's League of Women Voters discussion in Plymouth.

The topic was "American Women in the '80s: Perspectives and Prospects." Although it wasn't a candidate's night, the speakers included Mari Egbert, campaign manager for Republican gubernatorial candidate Richard Headlee; Olivia (Libby) Maynard, chairwoman of the state Democratic Party, representing James Blanchard; Laura Callow, ERA-Michigan co-chair; and Glenna Davis, former state chair of homemaker rights for the National Organization for Women.

"I WAS SHOCKED that they would have women who work for men (candidates) speak, rather than having a woman actually on the ballot speak," said Erwin, a resident of Oak Park.

"I offered to speak, but they told me they were having women who work on campaigns speak. I then offered to have a woman working on my campaign speak. They said no third parties," said Erwin, a practicing psychotherapist.

The league didn't intend for the discussion to be political, says Michele Howard, chairwoman of the event.

"When we first started it, we only had two speakers, which were both league members. Then we got the bright idea to get someone representing the two major parties," said Howard.

"If we would have invited Bette Erwin, we would have to invite all minor parties. You have to be very careful to invite everyone or no one. We decided to stick with the two major parties."

ERWIN SAID she was hurt that, as a woman candidate, her problems were coming from women.

"My gut guess is that at some level, they are accepting the myth that men are really superior," said Erwin, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology from Wayne State University.

Howard disagrees with Erwin's guess. "Obviously that can't be true. The league is made up of women who work very hard to elect women. We are happy to see Martha Griffiths running for office. That's just not true."

THAT WASN'T the first time Erwin and minor party candidates have been excluded from discussions.

In the Headlee-Blanchard debate before Oakland chambers of commerce in Troy, supporters of independent candidate Robert Tisch picketed in protest of the Shiawassee County drain commissioner's exclusion.

"It's a battle we're fighting this year that we haven't been experiencing in the past. I have to believe it's because we are growing in strength and offering a fresh alternative," she said.

"We will protest and raise hell whenever we are excluded."

In the spring of 1981, Erwin ran for the 4th Congressional District seat vacated by federal budget director David Stockman.

Campaigning as a Libertarian in the southwest corner of Michigan, Erwin was excluded only once — from a high school debate.

"I think something new is happening, a deliberate exclusion of Libertarians. Someone is really getting threatened by the Libertarian Party," says Erwin.

"Because of the fact that we are winning, there's a real shutdown going on."

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THE SHUTOUT in Plymouth was the third exclusion in Erwin's current campaign for the U.S. Senate.

"The first big exclusion came at the National Assembly of Women's Conference in Detroit," she said.

The June 25-26 conference featured speakers from women's groups in the Republican and Democratic parties.

"We told them we would like to speak on behalf of the Association of Libertarian Feminists — a legitimate women's group within our party," she says.

Erwin said that because the Libertarian Party campaigns for less government involvement, and the women's groups are seeking government intervention, they excluded her.

Village sale nets \$1 million

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village grossed more than a \$1 million for collection acquisitions and conservation in last weekend's auction of surplus items.

The highest bid was \$90,000 for a 1922 Hudson Town Car.

Conducted by the auction firm of Hudson and Marshall, Inc. of Macon, Ga., the sale included telephones, radios, phonographs, pianos and organs

and train models, as well as engines, machine tools, boats, motorcycles and horse-drawn vehicles.

Proceeds from the sale are restricted to the acquisition of new collection objects and the conservation of existing collections.

A souvenir auction catalog with a list of the price each item brought is available to the general public from Henry Ford Museum for \$6.



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