

Party politics good road for feminist reform

By Mary Lou Callaway
special writer

The women's movement won't lose momentum if state Rep. Mary Brown (R-Kalamazoo) can help it.

She chairs the house committee on constitutional revision and women's rights and is author of the newsletter "Capitol: Women."

Brown addressed more than 50 West Bloomfield-Farmington area League of Women Voters (LWV) at their annual meeting last Saturday at Freddie's restaurant in West Bloomfield.

"Get behind those closed doors, into the smoke filled rooms. Get involved with your party," said the woman, who gave up her Western Michigan University professorship to run for the state house in 1976. "There's no special training to run for the legislature. There are more teachers than anything else, even lawyers."

"Get the dirt under your fingernails. Pay more attention to your courts. Women must take risks. We can pass good laws, but the judiciary must interpret them," said Brown, a former Kalamazoo LWV president.

BROWN ALSO SPOKE on the problems with current Michigan laws.

"The laws of Michigan make it a more serious crime to steal property than to assault a woman. More than one of every four convicted rapists was placed back in the community," Brown said.

Her "rape bill" (which makes rape no longer a legal term) classifies that crime as sexual assault. It went into effect April 1. Sexual assault increased 32.7 percent from 1976 to 1981 and 26 percent of those convicted were put on probation, Brown said.

"Rape convictions are up," she noted, but there is an increase in "date rape" where the victim knows the rapist.

Another woman who she said, is sexual harassment on the job.

"My experience with EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) is that of 130 cases, 118 demands for sex," said Brown. "It comes down to misuse of power."

She cites figures showing 20 to 35 percent of families have incidents of incest. "We're putting together a task force on incest. Almost all the victims are girls. Often the wife and mother deny it."

LWV MEMBERS gasped when she told of one member admitting knowledge of the incest, saying, "At least he's not cheating on me."

Women vote differently than men on issues of war and peace and equal rights, Brown said.

"Some of us are not going to let up on the pressure. Women don't like to use power, but we're going to have to get into the political process," she said.

Brown attacked the inequality of wages.

"Pink ghetto jobs pay only 50 cents

for every dollar men earn. You pay your baby-sitter \$1.50 an hour and the man who takes care of your lawn \$5 to \$15 an hour. Do you value your lawn more than your children?"

The 1980s issue is of comparable worth, she said. "Look at the job, not the gender. It took us 73 years to get the vote."

Now she is joining others in pushing for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to pass in the U.S. Congress

quickly and hopes Michigan can be the first state to ratify it.

She sneers at women like Phyllis Shafley who imply women "ask for it" in cases of sexual harassment.

Blaming the victim is like asking in World War II, "what was Pearl Harbor doing there anyway?" she said.

Brown's newsletter will be sent to interested men or women. Send requests to Rep. Mary C. Brown, State Capitol, Lansing, 48909.

Pageant show seeks talent

Auditions will be on Sunday, May 1 for volunteer entertainers interested in performing between the competitive phases of the 10th annual Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant.

The Pageant Committee is seeking men and women 16 and older who are interested in showcasing their talent during the Scholarship Pageant. These performers will make up the Miss Farmington Pageant Revue and are not those who will be vying for the title of Miss Farmington 1983.

Auditions will be in the coach house of the Botsford Inn on Grand River between Middlebelt and Eight Mile. Dancers will audition beginning at 10:30 a.m. and should bring along a cassette tape of their music. Auditions for singers are scheduled for 1 p.m. Singers should bring along a cassette tape

or sheet music. Piano accompaniment will be available.

Dancers and singers, while not receiving payment, will gain valuable exposure as well as have an opportunity to display their talents before a traditional sell-out crowd of 700-plus attending the Pageant.

The Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant will be on Wednesday, July 27, at Vladimir's in Farmington. The Miss Farmington Pageant Revue will rehearse during June and July.

The Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant is a franchise of the Miss America and Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageants and is sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. The pageant is one of the highlights of the annual Farmington Founders Festival.

Scholarship is awarded

Gregory Lemanski, son of Leonard Lemanski, 34800 Bridgeman, Farmington Hills, is among 11 Albion College students who have been granted \$1,500 Bernard T. Loma Project 250 Awards.

The Project 250 Awards are made on the basis of a selection committee's review of an applicant's scholarship abilities, leadership contributions, quality of involvement with community and campus activities and faculty and administration recommendations.

A junior majoring in economics and speech communication, Lemanski is a

1980 graduate of Farmington High School.

He has been active as president of Sigma Nu fraternity, football co-captain, State Commonwealth school coordinator, Albion Recreational Youth basketball director and an Albion Manor Convalescent Home director.

He has been involved with helping senior citizens, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and works in the College Student Volunteer Bureau for the college office of public information as a photographer.

Concert offers Ellington music

Duke Ellington's birthday will be celebrated with a concert of his music at 8 tonight in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

J.C. Heard and his orchestra will perform transcriptions of Ellington's original big-band arrangements.

Tickets at \$4 are now available through the art institute ticket office.

For ticket information and a detailed listing of "Music at the Art Institute," call 832-2720.

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has burned to the ground. We have located our temporary offices next door and have the same phone number, 421-2550. We are rebuilding as soon as possible but will relocate at another site, temporarily, to serve our valued customers. Please watch for our ads.

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"Aghhh!" That was our accountant's reaction when he heard we were taking 31% off the price of everything in the store this weekend. But we're going it anyway. You'll save 31% on some of the best named in furniture: Thomasville, Serata, Flexsteel, Lane and Rittier to mention a few. Furniture you've seen and admired. Only now it's all 31% off. The sale isn't limited to selected items. It's on EVERYTHING. But it is limited in time. It's all over Saturday. Come in today for the best furniture sale ever!

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