

ERA is most misunderstood issue — Helen Milliken

By BETH ERSKINE

The most misunderstood issue since one size fits all. She attributes that directly to the World Anti-Slavery Convention to seat Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott, simply because of their sex, despite commending them on work well done. A women and credit workshop updated women on their new rights as credit-worthy individuals, regardless of marital status. Michigan led the way in credit reform enacting its own statute in 1974 while more comprehensive federal legislation followed in 1975.

Consequently credit discrimination is becoming a relic, although the vestiges that do remain are likely to be more subtle and difficult to prove. An ERA workshop focused on the benefit to be gained by passage of this amendment. In trying to diffuse some of the misunderstandings surrounding the ERA, workshop leader Muriel Versagi stressed, "It's only the laws that will change, not traditions, customs, or morals." She pointed out that under ERA a spouse's non-economic contribution to a household would be recognized

skillful campaign of marketing myth and distortion being performed by ERA opponents. "Because various businesses, political and religious organizations feel that ERA is a threat to their interests, they support those who oppose its ratification," she stated. On record as opposing the ERA are such diverse groups as the John Birch Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Council of Catholic Women, and the Mormon Church.

"The time has arrived for women to become architects of our society as well as beneficiaries of its rewards. Personal qualities must be developed by women who wish to have an impact on society."

— Rep. Ruth McNamee

Women from all walks of life turned out to "Meet the Feminist Next Door," the theme of Oakland County's National Organization for Women (NOW) conference held Saturday in Birmingham. The half-day session featured speakers first lady Helen Milliken, and Ruth McNamee, state representative from Birmingham, Troy and Rochester.

Helen Milliken, a long-time advocate of women's rights and currently co-chair of the national "ERAmerica," opened the conference with a discussion of ERA (Equal Rights Amendment).

Mrs. Milliken said her experience in the women's movement gave her a "different lens on history." It was an experience of her daughter that triggered Mrs. Milliken's interest in the women's movement.

Her daughter, Elaine, after having completed her first year of law school, could only find summer employment as a typist. That disparity of opportunity crystallized the issue for her and the movement gained a new recruit. Agreeing with humorist Erma Bombeck, Mrs. Milliken said the "ERA is



Helen Milliken, a fighter for equal rights, considers the ERA the core of the women's movement. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

Golf lessons start

Those from 8-18 can be introduced to the sport of golf in sessions which begin June 25 at Top of The Tee Golf Range, sponsored by Farmington Community Center.

Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at the range on Orchard Lake and 14 Mile Roads, but registration and payment must be made at the center, 24705 Farmington Rd., for the advantage of group rates.

Young people from 8-12 meet from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and ages 12-18 gather from 2:30-3:30 p.m. The six sessions are \$18 plus \$2 a class for a bucket of balls.

Students will learn to develop their grip, correct stance and perfect their swing from tee to green. Lessons begin with a 10-minute lecture, followed by practical application. The final lesson will be the play on the range.

Instructor David Zielinski is a class A PGA member and is a teacher to young golf students.

Couple wed 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reagan celebrated their 50th anniversary with an open house in their Hillsdale home June 23. The couple were wed June 22, 1929.

He is retired from Chevrolet Gear and Axle, and she served for 30 years with Southern Oakland County Council of Girl Scouts.

They have two daughters, Judy, now residing in Germany, and Joe, a resident of California.

Stained glass classes begin

Carol Rowe, a stained glass enthusiast, will introduce students to the popular hobby in classes in Farmington Community Center beginning Tuesday, June 26. The six sessions will run from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Students will learn the terms, the tools, the materials and basic techniques of stained glass crafts, and create sun catchers, jewelry boxes and panels.

Fee is \$24, plus materials. Registrations will be taken by calling the center, 477-8404.

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