

# Hail and assail defeat of ERA

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tion for Women) and an ERAmerica fund-raiser, gave a prediction.

"When we start out all over again, with another plan, another strategy, it wouldn't be surprising to me if we picked up Martha Griffiths' suggestion," she said, speaking of the retired U.S. congresswoman from Michigan who introduced the ERA.

"We may find ourselves working to amend the 14th Amendment," Monson said. "The 14th Amendment gives equality without discrimination based on race. But it only mentions men now."

Whatever plan decided on nationwide, closer to home, Jan Dolan, Farmington Hills councilwoman, believes that enough inroads have been made so "we'll never see the return to the pre-ERA days again," she said.

Dolan lists apathy, inuendoes and scare tactics propounded by the opposition as most damaging to the passage of the amendment.

"The simple, straightforward statement that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex was distorted," she said flatly.

"As young men and women mature today I believe, you will see both more liberated. Attitudes are changing. But there is much that has not been accomplished."

"It's unfortunate that without the passage of a constitutional amendment, women's rights will depend on which state you happen to reside in. And these rights are controlled by male dominated legislatures," Dolan said.

Monson concurs by saying she has noticed people's attitudes changing "Little by little, not so happening as steadily as it should, though, when it should be a priority."

Peterson believes attitudes of apathy were created by "Either a lack of information or by misinformation. I just won't believe that any woman would be against the ERA if she understood it," she said.

CHERYLLE GRINN, president of Farmington Business and Professional Women (BPW), asks, "Why are so many people afraid of so few words?"

The few words Grinn speaks of are: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

"Though the language sounds fine, what counts is how the amendment is interpreted and who is going to do the interpreting," said Marlene Elwell, a Farmington Hills resident who attend-

ed Stop ERA's Prelude to Victory Party.

Elwell, in the forefront of Michigan Right to Life both on the state and national level, is called by Donnelly, "someone I can always count on for support."

"That baby that was allowed to starve to death because he was imperfect was a good example of how a federal law can be interpreted by one man," Elwell said, speaking of the judge in the Indiana court case that was reported nationwide in April.

"His decision was a direct result of tampering with the U.S. Constitution, which shows how we can lose our values," she said of the law which allows legal abortion.

Of the Michigan Stop ERA membership, Elwell said, "All of us have strong feelings about family and we are all against abortion. I'd say that is the one thing that ties us all together."

She continued, "We are not equal with men. We are different in our hearts and our emotions and our sensitivities. The different gifts we have make a beautiful mix and we want to keep it that way. I don't think any of us believe man is equal to woman. We're different."

THE EQUAL RIGHTS Amendment has its roots in the long struggle to win suffrage for women by U.S. constitutional right.

Its history is an outgrowth of the success of the 19th Amendment, which was introduced to Congress in 1923.

It was reintroduced periodically until it was approved and sent to the 50 states for ratification in 1972.

"Is equality not a basic human right? Why have we had to fight so hard and endure so much pain and conflict for the principle of equality?" Grinn asks.

"We don't ask to take the lead or walk ahead. We only ask that we be equal citizens in all facets of life. Equal under the law."

The National Federation of BPW has been a long-time leader in the fight for women's rights. The Michigan federation of BPW was formed in 1919.

"That was a long time before it was fashionable. The struggle is not over. If the ERA does not get the three states necessary for ratification by the end of June, we will start all over in July," Grinn said.

As the BPW is going to carry on in the struggle, so will AAUW.

"No formal statement has been issued either at the state or national level concerning the deadline because we are just not admitting defeat," Peterson said of the organization that was founded in 1891.



## Prize winner

Watercolor still life painted by Margaret Halava of Farmington took best-of-show honors at an exhibit "Celebrate Life" in Congregational Church of Birmingham. Halava has been painting for about three years.

## Is vote void?

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HARTSOCK JOKED that the two candidates for appointment could decide the issue with a tug-of-war match.

Councilman William Mitchell convinced his colleagues to try to come up with a 3-1 or 4-0 consensus in the third secret ballot. If they failed, council members intended to table the appointment until the next scheduled meeting on July 6.

On the third ballot Bushey read aloud the names "Bayard Tupper, Bayard Tupper, John Washburn, Bayard Tupper." By a 3-1 vote Tupper was appointed city councilman, a post that pays \$900 per year.

"I was honored to be considered," said Washburn, seated in the audience.

News of the appointment reached the elder Tupper at home following a phone call to his son from Yoder.

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