

# Don't Obstruct Lib, Beebe Asks

By BETTY MASSON

If you're not for us, at least don't get in our way. That was the tenor of Lorraine Beebe's keynote address on "The Changing Roles of Women" at a day-long conference Saturday at Schoolcraft College. Mrs. Beebe, a former state senator, is now chairperson of the Michigan Women's Commission and director of the Michigan Consumer Council.

"It's essential that each one of us begins to have a sound understanding of what we mean by feminism and the women's liberation movement," she said.

"It is a cultural, social and psychological phenomenon and its goals cover a wide range, including equal educational opportunities, equal rights and equal wages. But, she warned, "Opposition is coming and coming on strong."

Included in the opposition is the "hostility of women themselves," she said.

"Those who feel secure and happy reject any change in their traditional roles.

"To them, the women's movement says 'Don't stand in our way. Don't let your guilt and anxieties spill over. We're talking about

the right of choice as individuals," she said.

"How do you look at yourself?" she asked her audience. "Do you say one thing, and do something else? Are you willing to stick your neck out and put your brain on the line?"

In the Legislature, she stated, "we have only one woman out of six, who is truly supportive of the women's movement," said Mrs. Beebe. She did not identify that member.

One well-known opponent of the women's liberation movement she identified as Phyllis Schlafly, who heads a group opposing the Equal Rights Amendment.

"We have to meet her," Mrs. Beebe said. "I'd ask her, 'What do you know about the woman who has to work?' Mrs. Schlafly doesn't have to work and she can sit back on her apathy if she wants to."

About 60 per cent of women who work outside their homes must work, she said.

One family in eight is headed by a woman, and yet women are paid three-fifths of what a man gets, she said.

Other opponents are "our own extremists," she said, who are taken up and used by the media.

Also, she said, "too many leaders in the church hierarchy are continuing to foster the Adam and Eve concepts, and references to the law of creation, the law of what is natural" are still heard in our legislative halls.

"Too many people still be-



PART-TIME STUDENTS Joan Patch (left) and Mary Toporecan; both of Livonia, heard a talk by Lorraine Beebe (right) at a conference on "The Emerging Roles of Women" at Schoolcraft College. Mrs. Patch is studying EKG at Marygrove College, and Mrs. Toporecan is majoring in occupational therapy at Schoolcraft. Between 80 and 100 women attended the day-long conference. (Photo by Jim Gilmore)

lieve that "women equal sex, and sex is evil, and therefore women are evil and must be kept down," she said.

Girls are told, "in this country, you can be anything you want to be," said Mrs. Beebe. Then she told of her work as a high school counselor, when she had "beat-nut" girls into pre-med and pre-law courses.

"They did well their first year in college," she said. "But almost without exception, I found that the second year they had given up. Their conditioning had caught up with them, and they began to believe that women had only one role, that of wife and mother.

"Oh yes," she said, "you can be anything you want to be ... if some good Samaritan doesn't get to you for your own good."

"Women are uniquely qualified to do housework," they tell you. Boy, you should see my house!" she exclaimed.

Women are different, just as men are different, and women are working for a right. "Rights cannot be given," she said, "and you can reverse discrimination against women by becoming an activist."

"Ask yourself, 'Am I contributing to the dehumanization of women?'"

She closed with an obituary for "Mrs. Ima Martyr," the perfect housewife.

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## It's A Boy For Waffens

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Waffens, now of Franklin, announce the birth of a baby boy, Douglas Jerome, in Sinai Hospital on Friday, March 30. He is their first child.

Waffens formerly was Plymouth's city engineer. He resigned last year to accept a post as operations director of the Southeastern Oakland County Water and In-cinerator Authority.

## 1973 Summer Applications Still Accepted by YFU

High school students interested in spending the 1973 summer or a year in a foreign country under the Youth For Understanding program still may make applications.

Mrs. Wesley Orr Jr., 26508 Farmington Road, Farmington, is the YFU area representative and the person to call.

Mrs. Orr said 10 Observer area students so far have been accepted for summer abroad stays, one will be away for a full year and two will travel this summer with YFU musical groups.

Students from 15 to 17 years of age are considered for the summer program, which involves visits of two months in the home of a foreign family.

Those electing the full year program do so after graduation from high school and spend the 13th year in high school abroad.

In addition, international teen-agers come to this country and stay with American families for either a full year or six months' high school study.

Mrs. Orr also is accepting applications from families interested in hosting a visiting student.

Judy Craig, a student at Clarenceville High School, is planning to go to the Netherlands this summer to begin the 13th year program.

Those accepted for the summer program include: Franklin High School — Christine Allen, Denmark; Susan Dorbeck, Norway; Redford Union High School

## Carnival Is May 5

Clarenceville High School's chapter of the National Honor Society will hold its annual carnival on Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the high school. Community organizations wishing to rent rooms are asked to contact Mrs. Dorothy Bennett in the counseling office at Clarenceville High School.

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## CEW Sets 4 Classes

Four evening credit courses are being scheduled by the University of Michigan's Center for Continuing Education of Women for the spring term, beginning May 8.

They are designed for women who have jobs or families, and find it difficult to be daytime students.

The courses are English 123, Freshman English; History 55, Modern Southeast Asian History; Psychology 267, Parent-Child Relationships; and Sociology 400, Sociological Principles and Problems.

Since the courses are for credit, admission to the university is required. Interested women should contact the CEW, 330 Thompson, Ann Arbor.

Ten courses will be available at night during the fall term.

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