

# NAY or YEA



Jackie Wilde

## Part I

Equality between men and women needs to be set. I am all for the liberated women and all against the male-chauvinist pigs, but ERA is not the answer. ERA won't change any laws that are not going to be changed sooner or later, except maybe the few exemptions in case of war or divorce.

I'm not a feminist, but I am not an anti-feminist either. I think feminism comes from the heart. It's like an emotion. If I wanted to iron my husband's shirt, I would do it, and I wouldn't want to feel guilty about it. I would do it because I wanted to do something for him, not because I'm supposed to do it. The same applies to the man.

The woman's movement doesn't make me angry at all. I think it has proved to be of some good. But, the movement itself isn't good. The Movement seems to be hostile to any woman who is married and not working or against any man or woman who doesn't believe in ERA. There's no warmth in it. Most of the women who are strong feminists have been done an injustice by

Discussion of the Equal Rights Amendment is currently being conducted on the floor of the North Carolina State. This past week the Committee on Constitutional Amendments sent it to the floor "without prejudice," meaning neither expressing an opinion for or against the amendment.

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment is stated as follows: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

Since early in 1972, when the U.S. Senate approved the amendment by a vote of 84 to 8, large groups of people, both for and against ERA, have lobbied in state senates, from which the final approval will come.

society or by a male. The backers of ERA seem to be a group of women seeking revenge.

If ERA is passed, I really wouldn't be mad or upset. I'd be more worried. Suppose ERA is passed and the wife has a chance to be promoted to a vice presidency or a presidency and she takes it because she really worked for it. Her husband is also working. What will happen to their family? The roles in that particular family will be switched, probably causing confusion and problems. Who will be responsible for the next generation? It's not a matter of the woman returning back to the 1900's or staying home all day. It's a matter of the generation to come. The woman who holds a very strong career is not capable of bringing up a strong, capable child.

At the present date 35 states have ratified ERA. Thirty-eight states must approve the proposed constitutional amendment for it to become law.

Our editors have been asked to express their opinions on the matter and have responded as printed on this page.

## Part II

The proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution states that 'Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.' This means simply that the amendment would protect women from sexual discrimination by guaranteeing that women and men be treated equally under the law. Equality is basic to American ideals and the American system. Therefore, the Amendment should be passed as another step towards achieving that equality.

As for the doubts and fears concerning specific issues related to the

amendment they are only myths manufactured from political double talk. Of interest to many are changes which would occur in laws concerning support rights. In cases of separation or divorce, the amendment would not leave an unemployed housewife without adequate funds but assure that awards would be made according to each individual's needs and circumstances regardless of sex.

Another major concern is any changes that could occur in draft laws. Congress has always had the power to draft women and should draft be reinstated, women would be subject to it. However, the majority report of the Senate Judiciary Committee states that, "The fear that mothers will be conscripted from their children...is totally and completely unfounded." Under the present voluntary military services the amendment would enable women to volunteer on the same basis as men and



Billy Carroll

open to women military and veteran's benefits now available only to men such as education, loans, housing, health, employment, and job training.

Most ridiculous of all fears is that the amendment would force restrooms, barracks, and dormitories to open to both sexes. The constitutional right to privacy bars any such action.

Finally, if the amendment is ratified the states would have two years to come into compliance with it. This is certainly enough time for them to alter their laws in accordance with fairness and equality.

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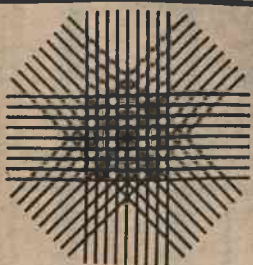
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