

3.8.1977

# Consciousness-Raising Groups To Begin March 17 At YWCA

Berrien County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in conjunction with the YWCA is sponsoring consciousness-raising groups, starting Thursday, March 17, at the YWCA, St. Joseph, at 7:30 p.m.

There is no fee involved and all interested women are invited.

"In consciousness-raising groups women have an opportunity to learn to support each other, to gain new feeling of self-respect, to speak about what they are thinking and to respect other women," according to Barbara Miyata who will lead the group.

Text "Moving the kinds of programs forward upon which equality will depend is going to require not simply changed laws and upgraded salaries but changed attitudes that feminine conditioning normally precludes; a feeling of purposefulness and commitment, an ability to take ourselves seriously, the realization of self-confidence, and, above all, a determination to exercise our will," Mrs. Miyata says.

Further information may be secured by calling Mrs. Miyata or the YWCA, a participating member of Blossomland United Way.

3.14.1977

# **WOMEN!!!**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHAT  
CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING IS ALL ABOUT?**

**The Berrien County Chapter of the National Organization  
for Women (N.O.W.) in conjunction with the YWCA is  
sponsoring Consciousness-Raising Groups starting  
Thursday, March 17, 1977, at the YWCA at 7:30 p.m. Please  
note that there is no fee involved.**

**Please join us-we promise a night devoted entirely to you-solely  
for your benefit.**

**For further information, please call Barbara Miyata  
429-0345**

# NOW President Seeking SJHS Sex Bias Ruling

By JIM SHANAHAN  
City Editor

Barbara Miyata, president of the Twin City Chapter of NOW (National Organization for Women), said she is seeking a legal opinion on whether St. Joseph High School is guilty of sex discrimination. Mrs. Miyata said her inquiry was prompted by a story in Thursday's Herald-Palladium that St. Joseph intends to continue sending male students to Twin City Rotary luncheons.

Benton Harbor High School dropped out of the program because the all-male Rotary Club rejected a suggestion that female students also be invited, according to James Caudill, the district's director of communications and Title IX coordinator.

Caudill contends the all-male policy violates Title IX of the federal school-funding act that prohibits schools receiving federal aid from participating in programs that discriminate on the basis of sex.

Mrs. Miyata said a lawsuit against the St. Joseph would be filed "only as a last resort."

"We want to ask Mr. Higgs (Principal Richard Higgs) and Mr. Aldrich (Superintendent Burton Aldrich) if girls are definitely excluded, and if so why."

"We also want an attorney's opinion on whether the school is in violation of Title IX," Mrs. Miyata said.

Mrs. Miyata said she has contacted a Muskegon lawyer on behalf of the Twin City Chapter of NOW to review Title IX and its application to St. Joseph. Mrs. Miyata declined to tell The Herald-Palladium the name of the lawyer, but said she is "a feminist attorney."

Mrs. Miyata is the wife of Dr. Thomas Miyata, a St. Joseph physician.

Caudill said the Benton Harbor district could lose up to \$2 million annually if found in violation of Title IX. The St. Joseph district's budget shows it expects to receive \$119,300 in federal aid this school year.

Higgs said he views the issue with "common sense" rather than a strict interpretation of Title IX. "We don't think we're discriminating against anybody."

Michigan Lutheran and Lake Michigan Catholic high schools, which also participate in the Rotary program for top male students, said they will continue. They don't get federal aid and aren't affected by Title IX.



BARBARA MIYATA  
Questions SJ policy

## INDEX

### SECTION ONE

Editorials .....	Page 2
Area Highlights.....	Page 3
Women's Section ....	Pages 4-6
Church News .....	Page 5
Ann Landers.....	Page 6
Building News.....	Page 10
Obituaries .....	Page 14

### SECTION TWO

Sports .....	Pages 15-19
Comics, TV, Radio.....	Page 20
Markets .....	Page 21
Weather Forecast.....	Page 21
Legals,	

Classified Ads ... Pages 24-27

### SUPPLEMENT

Family Weekly .....	24 Pages
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## Lottery Game Daily Winner

DETROIT (AP) — The winning number in Friday's daily Michigan Lottery game is eight-eight-one (881).

# Women To Join ERA March

6.19.1978

Five Twin City women intend to join a march in Washington, D.C., July 9 to support extending the deadline for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Barbara Miyata, of St. Joseph, president of the Berrien County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), said the group will join thousands of women and men in the nation's capital to march.

The march is being organized by pro-ERA groups across the country to ask Congress to extend the deadline for adopting the amendment, Mrs. Miyata said. The deadline for national ratification of the ERA is March 22, 1979.

Thirty-five states have ratified ERA so far, and three more ratifications are required to make ERA part of the U.S. Constitution.

"We feel that women's rights should not be subject to arbitrary time limits," she said. "We are urging anyone who is interested in the ERA to join us in our trip to Washington."

Mrs. Miyata said she and four other Twin City women will travel to Washington D.C. by car. After the march, they will meet with Rep. Dave Stockman (R-St. Joseph) to discuss his position on the extension.

Don Moran, legislative assistant to Stockman, said in a telephone conversation from Washington Friday that Stockman supports both the ERA and the extension of the deadline for ratification, but has some reservations about how the courts might interpret it.

ERA was defeated for the second time in Illinois two weeks ago, but another attempt is being made to pass it.

Mrs. Miyata said she will be joined by Sally Howard, Jean Buzye, Lynne Bruehlman and Margi Howard. Mrs. Miyata said several other women have indicated that they may also join NOW in their trip to Washington.

## St. Joseph Employees Pick Union

Employees in the City of St. Joseph Public Works Department have voted in favor of union representation, according to Robert Machalleck, personnel director.

Unofficial returns show the vote was 42 to 13 in favor of representation by Council 25, American Federation of State,



# *St. Joe Woman*

## *NOW Lobbyist*

Barbara Miyata, president of the Berrien County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) has been appointed to serve as legislative coordinator for the Michigan chapter of NOW.



**BARBARA MIYATA**  
**NOW lobbyist**

Mrs. Miyata said that she will act as a lobbyist for the women's group, consulting with state officials at the capital in Lansing about three days a week.

"As legislative coordinator, I will be responsible for studying the proposals that directly affect women," she said. She specifically mentioned bills on spouse abuse, rape, equal opportunity employment, women in the military, abortion and health care.

Mrs. Miyata said members of the Berrien County chapter will work with her as a legislative chapter, studying various bills and consulting with state officials.

Members of the Berrien County chapter of NOW are: Margaret Howard, Diane Lang, Pat Root, all of St. Joseph, Jean Buzye, Lynne Bruehlman, Sally Howard, all of Benton Harbor, and Angie Cappola of Stevensville.

Mrs. Miyata was appointed legislative coordinator by Nan Frost-Welmers, president of the Michigan chapter of NOW.

Mrs. Miyata resides with with her husband, Dr. Thomas Miyata and three children in St. Joseph.

# Get tough, NOW told

6.22.1980

## *State convention on politics*

By **CHRIS GOLEMBIEWSKI**  
Staff Writer

Get your act together and get tough was the message for some 200 persons attending the state National Organization of Women convention in East Lansing this weekend.

The legislative process is a tough business, they were told, a "giant arena of gladiators hired to do battle," and citizen groups like NOW had better get tough and form coalitions if they want to impact on public policy.

**ACTIVISTS AND** state politicians warned them to get their own act together if they hope to succeed on a political battleground littered with money and vested interests.

The conference theme was "Politics in the '80s" and workshops on 19 topics — from political power and activism, racism, sexism, and poverty to self-defense, non-sexist parenting and public relations — were offered to participants Saturday at Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University campus.

State Rep. David Hollister, in a workshop on political power, told an audience with a sprinkling of men that 4,000 to 5,000 legislative bills are introduced annually in "a giant arena like Spartan Stadium with hired gladiators to do battle."

**THREE SETS** of "actors" are itching to jump in and join them, he said — the monied special interests, 19 departments of state government, and consumer groups, like NOW.

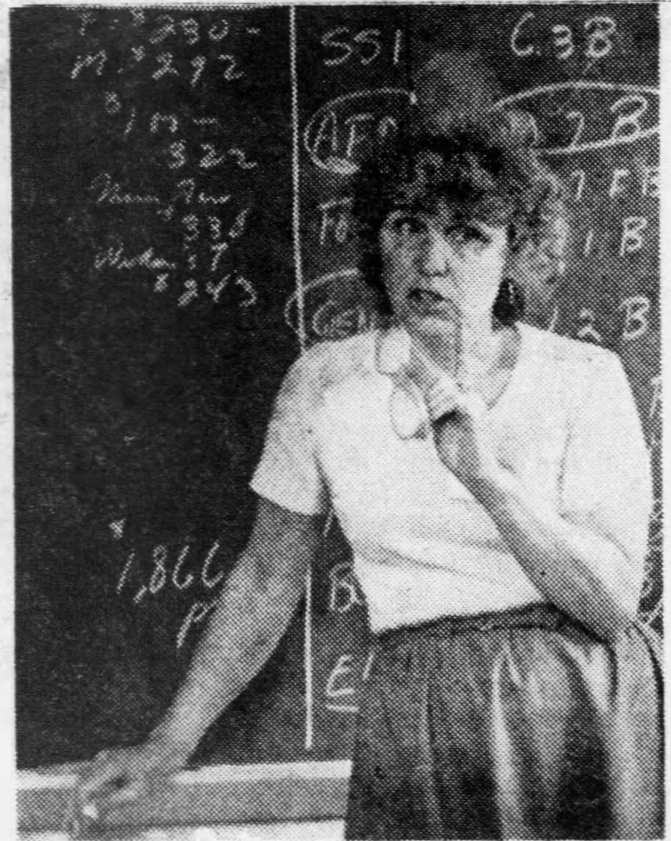
"If you can get all three groups to agree, the bill may pass," he said.

But NOW will have to expand its politicking outside the legislative arena, believes Bob O'Leary, aide to State Sen. Douglas Ross.

"Information on what's going on in the legislature is absolutely imperative," he told another group. "NOW operations in many states I've seen in my travels are very poor (politically)" in states such as Nevada, Mississippi and Florida he said.

**HE URGED** Michigan NOW to work even more closely with the political process. "It's a tough business. NOW will have to be more tough if it is going to be successful."

NOW should also reach out to other groups in society: "The United Auto Workers shouldn't be let off the hook on women's issues," for example, O'Leary added.



Staff Photo by BRIAN BURD

### **Bev McDonald discusses welfare**

**THAT'S EXACTLY** what Barbara Miyata, the new Michigan NOW president elected Saturday, has in mind. "We must coalesce with other groups, we can't keep on tapping the resources of NOW members," said the St. Joseph homemaker and president of Berrien County NOW.

"The 1980 elections will prove to be the ultimate test of NOW's political clout. It's vital that we have a well-financed political action committee to impact on the races so necessary for our political health. We have the groundwork, now we have to get moving."

**MIYATA WON** a hotly contested election against Chris Snow, Oakland County NOW president, by 19 votes out of the 216 cast. Other state officers elected are: Nancy Zebko of downriver Detroit, vice president; Sue Wagner of Lansing, legislative coordinator; Vicki Ferguson of Jackson, secretary; Lanyce Mills of Grand Rapids, treasurer; and Jacqueline Washington of Detroit, chapter developer.

Concluded on page B-2



# St. Joseph Woman Heads NOW

## Elect Officers At East Lansing Meeting

Barbara Miyata of St. Joseph, past president of the Berrien County Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), was elected president of the Michigan chapter of NOW during the group's annual meeting Friday in East Lansing.

Mrs. Miyata, a member of NOW for nine years, has

**Women  
Worth  
More  
Today**

served as legislative vice president of the state chapter for the past two years. In this capacity, she worked specifically for family and sexuality task force, developed and supervised a training program for NOW's first legislative liaison program and served as a consultant on bills concerning sexual harassment on the job, spousal rape and prohibition of polygraph tests for assault victims. Most recently, she worked on legislation concerning joint custody of children.

Mrs. Miyata earned a bachelor of science degree from Kent State University and served her internship as a dietician at Cook County

Hospital, Chicago.

Her husband, Dr. Thomas O. Miyata, is a surgeon in St. Joseph. They have three children.

The eighth annual state NOW convention highlighted "Politics in the '80s" by offering 150 participants workshops on lobbying, campaign coordination and the mechanics of state politics. The Michigan chapter has an estimated 5,000 members, according to a spokesman.

Among the lawmakers addressing the workshops were Rep. Debbie Stabenow, D-Lansing; Rep. Barbara Rose-Collins, D-Detroit; Rep. Mary Brown, D-Kalamazoo; and state Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park.

Two major resolutions called for increased minority membership and support of Juanita Thomas, a Lansing woman convicted on Friday of first-degree murder in the July 1979 stabbing death of her boyfriend.

Miss Thomas had contended she killed Willie Hammond in self-defense because he physically abused her.

Also elected at the convention were Nancy Zebko of Grosse Ile, administrative vice president; Susan Wagner of Lansing, legislative vice president; Vicki Ferguson of Jackson, secretary; Lanyce Mills of Grand Rapids, treasurer; and Jackie Washington of Detroit, chapter developer.



**BARBARA MIYATA**

# NOW — 'Equal power to women'

10.5.1980

By SUE MORRIS

Tribune Berrien County Bureau

ST. JOSEPH — Mrs. Barbara Miyata of St. Joseph, president of the Michigan National Organization for Women (NOW), said she became involved in the organization when she had her first child and realized how powerless married women are.

She said that although "we" (she and her husband Dr. Thomas Miyata) had moved to Chicago together, they had done so because of his career as a surgeon and she had no say in the matter.

She said she could not blame him personally, just the circumstances in which most married women live.

Mrs. Miyata said after her "awakening" she joined NOW in Chicago and then joined the Berrien County chapter after she and her family moved to St. Joseph in 1973.

She and her husband have three children, Sarah, 8, Tommie, 7, and John, 5. Mrs. Miyata is a dietician who works part-time at Unity Hospital in Buchanan.

She became involved in NOW on the state level because she said in a small, conservative town in a conservative part of the state there is little she could do.

She explained that although women in the local chapter are supportive of her work, the chapter never attracts many women.

In fact, Mrs. Miyata said she and one other woman are the only ones she would describe as permanent, hard-core members. She said most of the others become active because of one or two issues, but do not get involved in the women's movement overall.

Mrs. Miyata said NOW is strongest in larger cities where there is a larger, more cosmopolitan population to draw from. The group traditionally struggles in small towns.

Although NOW tries to encompass women of all races and socio-economic groups, she said it has been labeled a white middle-class movement.

In a town like St. Joseph, she said,



BARBARA MIYATA

not so much the attitude toward women as the attitude of women themselves keeps the women's movement on a low key.

She described St. Joseph as an upper-upper middle-class town and said women whose husbands make large sums of money are usually comfortable with their lives and don't want the changes which the feminist movement calls for.

One of her concerns for Berrien County is in the area of education. She said over half the teachers in the area are women but there are few woman principals and, to her knowledge, no female superintendents.

Mrs. Miyata said she also does not think there has been any real move to eliminate sexism in textbooks.

Another of her local concerns is her congressman. She said U.S. Rep.

Dave Stockman, R-St. Joseph, did women a disservice when as a member of the Republican platform committee he did not speak out against eliminating passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as a plank in the platform. Mrs. Miyata, a registered Republican, said Stockman's actions were painful to her.

She said she agrees with Stockman that sound fiscal policy is necessary, but she feels that he forgets or disregards the needs of people in his quest for sound fiscal policy.

She said ideally the elimination of social programs is fine but she does not think "the world will work that way." Not all people have the advantages that have been available to Stockman, she said.

Although NOW has not made local political endorsements, Mrs. Miyata said she personally feels that Larry Nielsen, Democratic candidate for the 44th District state representative seat, is an excellent choice.

She spoke favorably of Berrien County Sheriff Forrest "Nick" Jewell, saying he seems to have a good deal of empathy for the victims of sexual assault.

According to Mrs. Miyata, Jewell supports a bill now in the legislature which would prohibit rape victims from being required to take lie detector tests.

She said rape is traditionally a crime where the victim is presumed guilty until proven innocent but public views in the local area have changed "astronomically" over the past five to 10 years.

Some of the national goals she sees for NOW include ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). She said it has been clouded by so many peripheral things that people do not know that the amendment is only about 26 words long.

She said it is an economic issue which would guarantee that women have the same economic advantages as men.

Mrs. Miyata said passage of the ERA would increase the economic worth of the homemaker as well as

the working woman.

Another national priority is reproductive freedom. Mrs. Miyata said decisions about reproduction are private and should not be interfered with.

She said when a woman has an abortion everyone loses. It is a painful decision but should be an alternative for women.

She said ground has been lost on reproductive freedom in the past couple of years, including the U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing Congress to block use of federal aid for abortions.

One of her greatest concerns for the women's movement in Michigan is the future loss of Gov. William Milliken.

Mrs. Miyata said Milliken has been women's "ace in the hole" on reproductive freedom issues, vetoing anti-abortion legislation.

She said she sees no one on the horizon who might be able to take Milliken's place in protecting women's issues when he steps down.

Employment and affirmative action are other national and state priorities. Mrs. Miyata said that unless NOW and other organizations spearhead the drive for affirmative action women will continue to be at the bottom of the totem pole.

She said women are going into a lot more fields of employment now but they and minorities only rise to a certain level.

"The process of keeping women and minorities out of higher management is extremely sophisticated and unique," she added.

On the state level, Mrs. Miyata said a political action committee has been instituted into which she hopes money will be put over the next couple of years so that by 1982 women can elect feminists themselves or others who consider women's issues to be top priority to government on all levels.

Until that can be done, she said, women will be told that energy, unemployment or some other issues are more important.



# NOW Convention June 12-14

6.4.1981

**KALAMAZOO** — Sonia Johnson, fifth generation Mormon who was excommunicated from her church for her support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), will address the annual Michigan NOW (National Organization for Women) conference Saturday, June 13.

The conference, to be hosted by the Kalamazoo Area Chapter of NOW, will be held June 12-14 at Western Michigan University.

Johnson, who supports the ERA because she believes that women should be included in the United States Constitution, according to Maria Weaver, co-chairman of the convention. She was excommunicated from the Mormon Church Dec. 5, 1979.

Johnson co-founded Mormons for ERA in order to reveal the secretive political and financial empire operated by the Mormon Church to oppose women's rights, Weaver continues.

Headlined in almost every American newspaper and magazine because of the dramatic picture of one woman confronting her church over the issue of equality, Johnson has written a book about her experiences which will be published by Doubleday, Weaver says. She says Johnson has sold the option to her story to Norman Lear, who, with 20th Century Fox, plans to make it into a

feature movie.

Sixteen workshops will also be offered at the convention and new officers will be elected, according to Barbara Miyata of St. Joseph, president.

There will also be elections for the newly formed NOW Political Action Committee (PAC). Formed under Mrs. Miyata's leadership, PAC will work to elect feminist candidates and replace those elected officials who do not support women's rights and

equality for women. She said, "Instead of contributing money to the parties, we are encouraging women to contribute to the Michigan NOW PAC where their money is guaranteed to be invested in women's best interest, not the interests of the parties." The goal is to raise \$40,000 this year and in 1982.

The workshops to be offered in the afternoon of June 13 are open to non-members and will include such topics as sexual harassment, sex discrimination

on the job, the new right and the women's movement, family rights and the women's movement, women's images in the media and unions, pornography, sex bias in local schools, stress management, egalitarian relationships, organization leadership skills, sexuality as a political issue and the history of NOW.

Cost is \$5 per workshop or three workshops for \$10. Non-members may register at the registration table at the Student Center at WMU.

## BHHS Class Seeks Classmates

Benton Harbor High School class of 1961 will hold its 20-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 1, at the St. Joe Kickers Sport Club in Arden.

An evening of dinner and dancing will begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. Cost for the event is \$30 per couple or \$15 per person.

Mrs. Irvin (Diane Kirshenbaum) Hudak, chairman, requests that class members return their reservations by July 1.

Class members who have not as yet been located by the committee include Sharon Barnett, Marvin Brown, Roy Casey, Peggy Coffman, Jacqueline Couch, Jean Davis, Ruthie Dickerson, Janell Dixon, Sarah Eagler, George Fast and Linda Fisher.

Also Beverly Gipson, Jane Grossnickle, Janice Hill, John Hornack, Donna Johnson, Ralph Johnson, Bernice Keeton, Janice Kimball, Francys Lanham, Darrell Lefon, Mary Lewis, Joann Mills, Joyce Moneyham, Robert Morrow, Glenda Noack, Lorene Price, Kenneth Pullins and Donald Scroggs.

Also Bertha Searcy, William Searcy, Sharon Shriner, Rodney Spears, David Swander, Carol Teska, Gene Turner, Rachel Watson, Virginia Whitcomb, Elizabeth Wilkett and Willie Wilkins.

Persons with information regarding these classmates are asked to contact Mrs. Loren (Kathryn Johnson) Kushman of Stevensville, or Mrs. Anthony (Phyllis Boone)

Little of Berrien Springs.

Others serving on the committee are Mrs. Georgia Holt Blough, Sherry Conybeare, Mrs. William (Beverly Larson) Harman, Mrs. Richard (Geneva Moltimore) Isom, Mrs. Allen (Mary Jane Hetherington) Johnson, Mrs. Sylvia Taylor Lieberg, Loren Kushman, Bob Miller, Mrs. Robert (Jane Mitchell) Miller, Jesse Spiker, Tom Tokarz and Mrs. Fred (Lilli Friede) Zehm.

Even Small Ads



CATCH  
THE  
EYE!

# St. Joe Rally Attacks Foes Of Equal Rights Amendment

By STEVE PEPPLER  
Staff Writer

Some 75 supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment gathered for a noon rally Tuesday at Lake Front Park in St. Joseph to mark the beginning of the final year in the campaign to ratify the constitutional amendment.

Joan Walker, president of the Berrien County chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), said she felt the turnout was good, considering the political nature of the area. The rally was sponsored by NOW.

"St. Joe is the heart of conservative land," Mrs. Walker said. "We're also dealing with working women, very few of whom are able to get away from their jobs."

U.S. Congressman Mark Siljander, R-Three Rivers, considered an ERA opponent, was a favorite target at the rally, which included a march to Siljander's St. Joseph office. The group also stopped at the former office of his predecessor, David Stockman,

now federal budget director.

"He's against women, so we're against Mark Siljander," Barbara Miyata, immediate past president of the state NOW organization, told the group of mostly women, which responded with chants of "ERA today, Mark Siljander go away."

Mrs. Miyata of St. Joseph said the conservative movement is eating away at the gains women and minorities have made in the past two decades, and the current overriding concern for the economy has thrown a

"blanket" on women's issues.

Tuesday's demonstration was part of a series of rallies held nationwide to try to gain support for the passage of the ERA. Supporters at the rally wore buttons proclaiming: "I'm a member of the unlunch bunch. I skipped lunch for the ERA."

Thirty-five states, including Michigan, have ratified the amendment and three more must do so by June 30, 1982, for it to become law.

"We intend to make every day count," Mrs. Miyata told

the rally. "There is no question the battle for the ERA ratification will be an uphill fight."

Christopher DeWitt, a member of Sen. Carl Levin's staff in Grand Rapids, read a statement from Levin expressing his support for the ERA. "Equal rights in this country are long overdue," the Democratic senator said in the statement.

After the speeches, about 40 people, carrying signs and chanting pro-ERA slogans, marched through downtown

St. Joseph to Stockman's former office at 421 Main St. and to Siljander's local office in the Fort Miami Professional Building, 815 Main St.

There was no one at either office to meet the marchers, and Mrs. Walker said the march was "symbolic" to demonstrate what NOW feels is Siljander's and Stockman's lack of concern for women's issues.

The marchers wore buttons saying "59 cents," which is what they said a woman averages for every dollar a man makes on the job.

## d Under Estimate

WILLIAMSON  
Writer

ner Otto Grau said Tuesday he ly bid submitted for remodeling e county jail was less than an- 90 was submitted by Holland Grau said the work will include ices in the old wing of the jail conditioning system for the ad- t was anticipated the cost would he hopes the county board will dsday to award the contract to e general contractor for a \$7 l building a new wing at the jail remodeling of the old jail area to



**COUNTDOWN RALLY:** Joan Walker (left), president of the Berrien County Chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW), leads pro-ERA chant at noon rally Tuesday at Lake Front Park in St. Joseph. Also pictured are

Barbara Miyata (center), of St. Joseph, immediate past president of the state NOW organization, her daughter, Sarah, 9, and Sue Wagner, a representative from the Kalamazoo area NOW group.