

# Local NOW Chapter Continues Fight for Equality

By BETTY WINGROVE  
The Star's Women's Editor

Three years ago today — Aug. 26, 1970 — the Muncie chapter of NOW, the National Organization for Women, joined in sisterhood with chapters all over the country to observe the 50th anniversary of the day women got the vote in America. The Muncie chapter, first in Indiana, was only five months old at the time. movement, participants used Aug. 26 to call attention to the fact that the hands that rock the cradle intend to rock the boat until women have equal status with men in society.



THIS YEAR, as in years past, events are scheduled around Aug. 26 to call attention to unfinished business and the Muncie chapter is not to be forgotten.

The Muncie group now joins more than 14 chapters around the state to fight discrimination on account of sex. In terms of its population, Indiana now boasts the highest percentage of chapters and is second in percentage of membership, according to Betty Newcomb, founder of the local group.

Their major emphasis has been and will continue to be the ERA, (Equal Rights Amendment), says Mrs. Newcomb, who was the main force behind the establishment of the state Equal

Rights Coordinating Committee.

ALTHOUGH THE pro-ERA forces experienced defeat in the state legislature this past year, the coordinating committee has now been "reformed, re-structured and renamed" ... Hoosiers for the ERA (HERA) ... and plans are underway to reintroduce the amendment again in 1974.

"We must have a massive educational program," says Mrs. Newcomb, "because most people don't even know about ... don't even know what it is."

Responding to reports that the legislature intends to review and revise all Indiana statutes taking out all references to discrimination based on sex, thereby making it unnecessary to vote again on the amendment, Mrs. Newcomb said "Ratification is much broader than Indiana alone. We might stop it (discrimination) in the state, but we'll be powerless to stop it by the federal government within the state."

BUT THE ERA hasn't been the only concern of NOW. In the past three years, the local group, in conjunction with state and national projects, has worked in the following areas:

— Participated in a television listening analysis to pinpoint discrimination in advertising and programming. Although they did not file suit against stations because licensing was not coming up, they did call on television stations encouraging them to alter discriminatory practices.

— Fought along with the national organization for sexual equality among employees of AT&T. Visits to telephone company offices throughout the country resulted in the return of back pay to employees who were not receiving equal pay for equal work.

— NOW claims the Supreme Court decision on abortion as a victory.

— Lobbied for new legislation such as the higher Education Act of 1972 and the new minimum wage law, which for the first time will include domestic workers.

During the Aug. 26 observance the local and state groups are making their primary emphasis the ERA. During the Indiana State Fair, which concludes today, each chapter manned a booth to distribute ERA material.

WHERE DOES NOW go from here?

There's still a lot of unfinished business in the fight for equality. NOW members say. In the future, members will be concerned with such issues as rape and abortion and will continue to fight discrimination in such areas as credit, employment and education.

Presently, NOW is boycotting General Mills. The Twin Cities Urban League of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., asked NOW's support in fighting racial and sexual discrimination. Although women comprised the majority of blue collar workers for General Mills, few women were being considered for management positions. Local NOW members are refusing to buy Betty Crocker products distributed through General Mills.

## Sample of NOW Media Promotion



"Hire him. He's got great legs."

If women thought this way about men they would be doubly silly. When men think this way about women they're silly too.

Women should be judged for a job by whether or not they can do it.

In a world where women are doctors, lawyers, judges, teachers, economists, scientists.

political candidates, professors and company executives, any other viewpoint is ridiculous.

Think of it this way: When we need it, they help us. When we don't need it, they waste it.

Homemakers. It's much too good to waste.

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THE GROUP is also supporting the national NOW campaign to support the Farah Company strike because of discrimination against chicano women.

The Muncie chapter, now more than 40 members strong, has set up task forces for each project ...

ERA, credit, compliance, education and employment.

"The only way we can get things done is through task forces," says FTC Compliance Task Force chairman Bliss Gawlikowski. "But we need more woman power for more task forces."

THE NATIONAL organization, through the Legal Defense and Education Fund, is

currently activating a public service promotion spot campaign in radio and television. "It will show women in their own right and not as stereotypes," says Bliss. The group will follow-up this campaign locally to see if women are being shown in the right image.

Through the Credit Task Force, members, under the direction of Sue Errington, chairman, will investigate local stores and businesses to see if they discriminate against women in approving credit.

Bliss also said the group hopes to form a task force to check into existing child care facilities and the need for

more and free facilities in the community.

GLORIA WELCH will coordinate the Task Force on Employment. She is now familiarizing herself with the Equal Education Opportunity Commission and the State Commission for Equal Opportunity and studying present laws and their effects. Mrs. Welch and her task force "hope to help individuals who are being discriminated against." One area of help would be women who are not being granted a leave of absence or who lose their job due to pregnancy.

"If we can't personally go to bat for a person, we will help direct them to the proper agency which can,"

says Gloria.

Mrs. Welch became interested in NOW last January after reading several articles on the women's movement. It was evident to her that women were being kept down

## Women Shouldn't Sleep in the Nude?

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (WNS) — Local ladies have protested against a medical report advising women not to sleep in the nude because they are more easily disturbed by changes in bedroom temperatures, lose electrical energy and wake up feeling irritable in the morning.

"Nonsense," said spokeswoman Helga Johnson, 28. "The doctors say that men can sleep in the raw without any ill effects, but my two husbands went sleepless whenever we tried it. Many of my lady friends get tangled up in nightgowns, and one broke her leg when she fell out of bed."

## Kennedy Kids Enroll In Paris School

Jackie Onassis, currently redecorating her plush apartment at 88 Avenue Foch, Paris, France, will shortly visit schools for Caroline and John, her two children by the late President Kennedy. She has decided they will be educated in Paris.

Arrangements are already being made for the two children to begin school at the start of the Fall term.

HUSBAND Aristotle has been in Paris advising on the choice of possible schools. Among them, of course will be the well-furnished establishments nestled in the sylvan setting of St. Cloud, the Paris suburb.

## Recipe Promises Sound Sleeping

PARIS, France (WNS) — Josette Lyon, author of "101 Tricks To Overcome Insomnia," gives this recipe for sound sleep: A large, fresh bed, blue sheets, little or no nightdres, and head to the north. "Walk your dog before going to bed," she advises.

"Eat some Swiss cheese, put herbs in your hot bath, massage your feet well, force yourself to yawn, undress in slow motion, and listen to the sleep music of Handel, Teichow, and Cesar Franck."

from higher employment positions. "Women have been conditioned to accept inferiority in employment and they won't fight," says Gloria. "But one woman can instigate action for change."

And to get the word out as to what NOW is doing, a Muncie speakers bureau will be reactivated this fall. Speakers will be available to talk on NOW or any particular project of the organization.

ANYONE WISHING further information on the NOW chapter can call Mrs. Craig (Winola) Richards, president; Mrs. Adam (Bliss) Gawlikowski, Mrs. Mike (Gloria) Welch, Dr. Christa Randolph or Mrs. Paul (Sue) Errington.

## Check Oven Before You Purchase It

When considering a new range, you need to know the difference between self-cleaning and continuous cleaning ovens.

In the former, the oven soil is reduced to a light ash during a separate high heat cycle. The remaining ash can be removed with a damp cloth.

In continuous cleaning, the oven soil is gradually reduced to a presentably clean condition on specially treated surfaces during normal baking or roasting operations. Any spillovers should be wiped away.



**NOW FUND-RAISING PARTY . . .** At a fund-raising party for National Organization of Women, chairperson Sue Errington and husband Paul (right couple) discuss NOW priorities with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Good

(left couple). Anyone interested in the women's right organization is invited to the next meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Grace Episcopal Church.—Evening Press Photo.



WOMEN AND CREDIT: IS THERE DISCRIMINATION?

## CREDIT SURVEY REVEALS

## Women have to work harder to get credit

By SALLY JONES

Hey ladies, did you ever try to buy your husband a surprise set of golf clubs or stereo on your own credit, or open charge accounts in your name or establish your own credit?

National Organization for Women decided to explore the credit situation to see if women were having a hard time at the credit bureaus. The answer, according to Sue Errington, NOW local coordinator of the taxes and credit task force who organized the investigation says, "Women can get credit, but we have to work harder and make a special effort."

After talking to a local credit bureau, Sue found that: 1.

There were no credit files for a married woman (she is listed under her husband's file), 2. A married woman can get her own file but only by going to the credit union and requesting it and 3. Single men and single women do have files at the credit bureau.

In a joint purchase such as a house or car, Ms. Errington reports that either by law or custom, the husband always signs first and the record goes into his file. In the case of a divorce, all credit — good and bad — goes to the husband unless the wife has made it a point to have her own files. Although not in Muncie, many credit bureaus record a divorced couple's bad credit files with both of them, but if that same couple's credit is good, it goes only in the husband's files.

When a husband dies, his widow inherits his credit file and rating until she remarries and then she is put in her new husband's file. Even if she and her first husband had a good credit rating, if her second husband has a bad rating, she gets it too, according to Ms. Errington.

In talking with several credit bureau managers, she found they agree that credit files are extremely important and influential (up to 50 per cent) on whether a person can get good credit.

When a woman obtains a divorce, Ms. Errington found that unless she has requested and received her own file, she is like an 18-year-old girl trying to establish credit for the first time. One advantage, perhaps, is a woman doesn't have to tell of her past bad credit

and chances are nobody will find out. But, she also must give possible creditors several references which the creditors must check themselves instead of just calling one credit bureau.

For both men and women, it was discovered the first credit transaction is based more on trust than anything else. Salaries and bank accounts are checked, but it is during the second transaction that a possible creditor will call the credit bureau and then the bureau begins a credit file on that person.

The files are open to the individual person or his spouse to see at anytime. There may be no charge if a person is checking to see why he was rejected for credit but there may be a charge if a person is just curious about what information is in his file. If a person has been rejected for credit, the rejector is obligated to tell him who gave the adverse recommendation.

Credit bureau records are kept for seven years unless a person has declared bankruptcy at sometime in his life. From then on his files are kept for 14 years and it will be at least two or three years after that that he can get small loans. But he will probably never receive credit cards again.

To find out how the situation is in Muncie, Ms. Errington sent out questionnaires to 22 stores in Muncie. Fifteen responded but seven did not — including The Fashion Shops, Hoyt Wright, J. C. Penney Co. (they said they never received

plied to the second), Wesley's Floor Fashions, Country House Interiors and Value City.

Those responding with filled-out questionnaires were Ball Stores, Britt's, Grant City, Mason's, Paul Harris, Zayre's, Cinderella Shoppes, Carpetland USA, Singer, K-Mart, Zales, Mangles, Goodman Jewelers and Steck's.

Sears, Roebuck Co. did not return the questionnaire, but did send a policy statement issued before the National Commission on Consumer Finance on May 23, 1972.

All the local stores which responded said they give credit accounts to 100 per cent of married and single men and women, 78 per cent of separated men, 85 per cent of separated women and 92 per cent of all divorced men and women. All indicated equal rights for both sexes in opening accounts and showed separated women have a slight advantage to opening credit accounts over separated men.

Six stores indicated they have no requirements for either sex by minimum salary, length of employment or initial credit line and six others had requirements not varied by sex. Mason's noted that they have no credit accounts and Goodman's use references.

In responding to whether credit reliability varies among categories of customers according to sex and marital status, the stores indicated it did. They responded that some of the better credit risks are married men and women, single women and widowed men and women. Separated and divorced men and women and single men appear to be considered more risky.

When asked if they require financial information regarding the spouse, 64 per cent did

require it of women, while only 28 per cent required it of men.

Fifty-seven per cent require a woman to inform them in a change of marital status, while only 35 per cent require the same of a man. When a woman marries, 76 per cent of the local stores solely change the last name on her account and 61 per cent require information about her husband.

Dick Houser of Home Credit Company told Mrs. Errington that young, single women are one of the best credit risks, while young single men are one of the worst. However, these women are discriminated against because the law doesn't protect creditors if and when that woman marries. She may not be employed any more and unable to pay her creditors but her husband is not responsible for her debts made before their marriage.

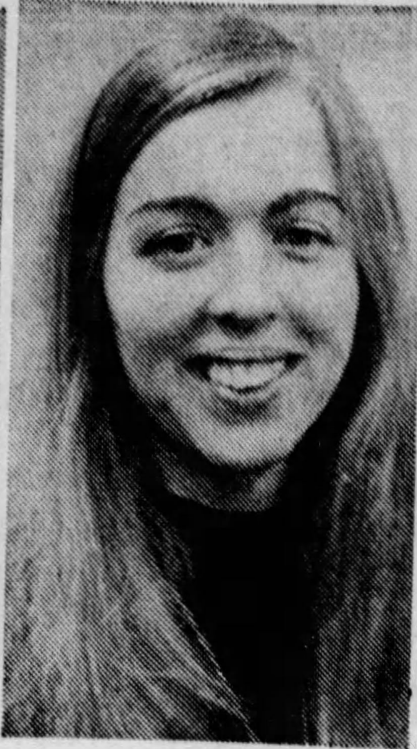
Right now there is legislation in the General Assembly in Indianapolis to prevent credit from being denied because of sex. Many persons also are working towards legislation that would make 50 per cent of a husband's income attachable to his wife if she is unemployed. This would enable a housewife who doesn't work outside the home to have an income for credit purposes.

The reason NOW wants credit ratings for gainfully employed women is to "establish ourselves in the eyes of the credit community as adult individuals, willing and capable of assuming our own credit responsibilities," says Ms. Errington.

NOW would like to know of experiences — good or bad — women have had with creditors. For a questionnaire and/or information, contact Sue Errington, 3200 Brook, or phone 282-3581.



MS. JUDY APPLE



MS. SUE ERRINGTON



MS. GLORIA WELCH



MS. BLISS GAWLIKOWSKI

OFFICERS NOW — Recently-elected officers of the Muncie chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) are Bliss Gawlikowski, president;

Gloria Welch, vice president; Judy Apple, secretary, and Sue Errington, treasurer. (Star Photos)



DRISTAN® MIST

# These people work toward equal rights for women — NOW

By SALLY JONES  
Press Staff Writer

It could be a meeting for any women's group—a committee of the PTO, a local garden club, sorority or neighborhood ladies planning a block picnic. Beside a young woman with long blonde hair and wide-rim glasses in an older woman with graying hair.

One observes spring dresses, blue jeans and pantsuits. Some are housewives, but others are students, professors and professional women.

It's a meeting of NOW—National Organization for Women which meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month in local churches. NOW has both pleased and irritated local residents, has worried and frightened citizens as well as made subtle but noticeable changes in the Muncie community.

NOW was born in 1966 out of the fury and frustration of 28 women attending the Third National Conference of Commissions on the Status of Women in Washington, D.C. Although the conference admitted that women were discriminated against in virtually every aspect of life, conference delegates were prohibited from passing resolution urging an end to sex discrimination.

Betty Friedan, author of the then radical "The Feminine Mystique" and a guest of the conference, invited a group of women to her hotel room to plan alternative strategies. They decided to form a separate civil rights organization dedicated to

achieving full equality for women and Friedan christened it NOW.

One of the local founders, Betty Newcomb, says she and Virginia Jackson Adams, another founder, talked about forming their own women's rights group and looked over different groups to find one they believed in.

"Some were a little too anti-male and many were composed of high school students or people in their early 20s," says Betty. "but NOW is an intellectual community, a formal national organization which is definitely working with all women's groups and welcomes male and females alike to join it."

During the informal coffee hour before the business meeting, a petition from the League of Women Voters concerning contributions to political campaigns and another concerning a woman's right to choose abortion are passed around. One woman from Ball State University passes around a questionnaire from "Psychology Today" on the roles of men and women. As NOW members sign or reject these papers, they chat with each other and drink coffee or hot tea.

At 7:30, Bliss Gawlikoski brings the meeting to order. An anti-Right to Life rally is discussed, and Sue Errington, treasurer and head of the task force on reproduction, discusses a recent interview with a doctor at Ball Memorial Hospital concerning abortion.

At present, Sue reports, an abortion is

given at Ball Hospital only to save the mother's life. About two abortions a year take place at the local hospital, although a doctor may perform one if he wishes, by going to a committee of two physicians and asking permission.

The policy is about to be revised, explains Sue. Whatever the 70 doctors on the Ball Hospital staff decide must be okayed by the board and NOW decides to make its move now—before the new policy is set instead of complaining afterwards.

They encourage members and local residents to make their opinions clear to their doctors by writing letters, calling or discussing it at their next appointment. NOW will take a telephone opinion poll on the right for women to choose abortion.

Next, Judy Walsh, treasurer and Gloria Walsh, vice president, discuss their meeting with Junior League officials before the announcement last week that girls may now try out for local baseball teams. They both admit some officials were hostile when they inquired about publicizing new policy change. Fearing that the news might not be publicly announced, the two NOW members called the local newspapers and offered to make the press release themselves.

Whether or not one agrees with the goals and ideals of NOW, one cannot help but be impressed with the enthusiasm of the equal rights-pushing ladies. The hours members have spent talking with store managers, senators, officials, reporters and local citizens have been many. They cannot be justifiably called radicals, and laugh when they recall meeting members of the public who say, "Why you're just like normal woman," or "Hey, you're not so weird after all."

The local chapter of NOW is a serious and proud group. They are pleased with every small step they take and proud of every change they make. However, the road of the NOW ladies is a long and hard one with results and triumphs often difficult to distinguish.

They discuss the fact that NOW won't be able to have a booth at the fair this year because it is "too controversial an organization."

They worry about being able to continue to meet in an off-campus church. A recent letter to the editor in a local newspaper denounced NOW for accepting anyone as members including lesbians and prostitutes. Copies of that letter were sent by local residents to the pastor of the church, but he, as Bliss announces with relief, didn't take the letters too seriously.

"NOW is very flexible," says Bliss. "We're the oldest chapter in Indiana and doing really well. Women are beginning to look around and put things together. When you get to that point, you start looking around for others with your viewpoint."

"I'm delighted to see so many young faces," says Ida Goad, a charter member. "When we first started, it was all older women. I guess it took a lot to prove to

the younger ones that they were being discriminated against."

NOW has task forces which volunteer to research and investigate such topics as education, rape, taxes, older women, marriage and divorce, religion, sports, image of women and child care. Task force heads are to keep informed on their topic and report any local progress or problems to the entire group.

At each meeting there is a program and, although the one tonight is on "The Future of Feminism" by Gail Heiland, a local astrologer, the topic might have been on using the new voting machine, rape, Equal Rights Amendment progress or the history of NOW.

During the past year, accomplishments of the local NOW group include: a survey of selected Muncie retail stores examining their credit practices, helping secure a maternity leave which had been denied to an employee of the Delaware County Department of Public Welfare, consulting with officials of Merchants National Bank concerning its credit and employment practices regarding women.

Sponsoring a weekly radio program, "Spotlight: Women Today," on WMDH at 10 a.m. Saturdays, co-sponsoring a three-day Rape and Assault Prevention Conference at BSU, establishing a speaker's bureau with programs available on topics pertinent to women participating in boycotts to protest discrimination.

Cooperating with other NOW chapters in creating a profile of all state senators and representatives in regard to their positions on legislation affecting women and helping to inform, raise funds and lobby for the passage of the era in Indiana General Assembly.



Local founder

Betty Newcomb, a founder of the local chapter of NOW, says she became interested in NOW in 1970 because it is "an intellectual community, a formal national organization which is definitely working with all women's groups and welcomes male and females alike to join it."

May 4, 1974

Just a  
normal  
woman



Bliss Gawlikoski, president of the local chapter of NOW, says she often meets members of the public who say, "Why you're just like a normal woman," or "Hey, you're not so weird after all."



NOW discussion

Discussing the progress of women's rights in the Muncie community are NOW members (left to right) Sue Errington, treasurer; Maggie Monk, chairperson of the

speakers' bureau, and Judy Apple, secretary.—Evening Press Photos by Ron Coppock.



**THE LADY IS AN UMP . . .** Sue Errington, a housewife and mother of two, rests between a double-header. "Because of me," she says, "they have to think of new cat calls for the umpire—"Hey ump, go home and do your

housework,' and 'She can't see the ball because her eye shadow's in her eye.'"—Evening Press Photos by Jerry Burney.

## 'Hey ump—I mean, hey lady ump'

By SALLY JONES  
Press Staff Writer

She had thought about getting a part-time summer job. With two small daughters and a working husband, it might be good to get out of the house.

So, when the subject of girls playing junior baseball in Muncie came up at a party, Sue Errington was all ears. Somebody challenged her to get a job as an umpire and she did just that.

Why a job as an umpire? "Besides the challenge," says Sue, "I never had much of a chance to play sports in my hometown. To be interested in watching a game, you have to know how to play. Until now I haven't been a good spectator because I didn't understand the rules. Now I really enjoy learning and watching."

Although she had no experience in baseball, Sue was called several weeks after she applied and was offered a job. At the general meeting for umpires, she was given a shield, mask, shin guards and the rule book.

Sue admits she's had more acceptance than she expected, but there have

been a few problems. "Sometimes I forget things, but my partner umpire (the best in the city program) has been a really good teacher and most of the coaches are helpful!"

"One coach gives me a hard time and I've been told it's because I'm a woman, but the others treat me well."

**What do the players think?** "The kids are great," says Sue. "Because of me, they have to think of new cat calls for the umpire. I hear things like, 'Hey ump, go home and do your housework,' or 'She can't see the ball because her eye shadow's in her eye' or even 'Hey ump! I mean, Hey lady ump!'"

"Once we had a terrible game," recalls Sue. "We still don't know who won — there were some problems with the scoring. I made a wrong call. I knew afterwards it was wrong and during a consultation with the other ump, he agreed the player was safe. We reversed the call. After the game and all its problems, this (Sue's wrong call) was the only thing one mother was mad about. She took it all out on me but most of them are perfectly nice."

Another problem Sue's boss and partner were worried about was her getting hit by a foul tip ball behind the plate. "They said to just 'stand there if a ball comes at you. With all that padding, you won't get hurt.' Well, I did get hit — the ball came so fast I didn't even know it, and they were right. It didn't hurt. Afterwards, all the kids wanted to know if I was hurt."

**To be a good umpire,** Sue says you need "to know the rules, be able to make snap judgments and keep your cool. After my first time behind the plate, I came home, ate and went to bed for two hours!"

She may be the only woman umpire in Muncie's Buddy League (for kids sixth grade and younger), but Sue Errington isn't the only woman on the field. "Some girls are playing — they're not first rate players," she laughs, "but they're playing. With the haircuts, sometimes it's hard to tell if the players are boys or girls. I'll hear one team yell, 'Hey, they got a girl on their team,' but most don't really care. When the other team is up, the kids will yell, 'Hey, you

can't let a girl get a hit.' The most pressure is on the pitcher."

Since Sue's new career began, she's become interested in the major league baseball teams and admits she's now a fan of the Cincinnati Reds. "My partner is encouraging me to umpire for the high school teams — the pay is even better. I'm thinking about it."

"Part of it's the challenge," says Muncie's first woman umpire, "but I'm also setting an example for girls. I want them to know that girls can play and officiate in sports — and, at \$6 or \$7 a game, it sure beats slinging hash!"



## Woman at the plate

Sue Errington, Muncie's first woman umpire, shows her prowess at the plate in these two action photographs taken at yesterday's game. Sue applied for the job after she decided to get a part-time summer job.

# Sears

Sears Store Open Every Night and Sunday Afternoon

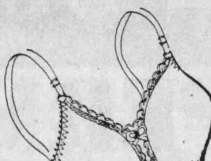
## LADIES' FASHION VALUES

contour bra

Regular \$1.50

**2 for 6<sup>50</sup>**

Molded polyester tricot cups for a smooth polyester line. Stretchy, secure.



# This Ump Is No Gentleman

By NICK ROMANO

With her long, blonde hair tucked under a blue cap, she stands behind the plate at Mitchell Diamond.

At 32, Sue Errington has picked up her chest protector and the challenge of being Muncie's first woman umpire in the city's baseball program. Both seem to have accepted each other, so far.

"I WAS AT a party recently and one of our friends, who's a team manager, asked why I hadn't got involved in umpiring," the Atwood native said. "Before I knew it, I'd applied."

Breaking man's long blue line is indeed different for this mother of two, but she enjoys it and the job that goes along with it. Sue admits there's a lot to learn and she's nervous.

In high school, Sue claimed girls never had much of a chance to compete since Atwood's most active women's sport was cheerleading.

"WHEN I was in school, I never really was too crazy about watching others in sports. I thought then, as I do now, that everyone should have an opportunity to play," noted Sue.

Being the greenest rookie in the Buddy Closed league, hasn't slowed down the Indiana University grad any. "Calling balls and strikes is the toughest for me. At first, I hesitated, but I'm calling them a lot quicker now."

Having two young daughters of her own, four-year-old Sara and two-year-old Amy, Sue hopes that her current vocation will encourage the offspring into participation later in their lives.

**SPEAKING ON** today's obvious consciousness with women's sport, Sue felt that if her sex sees her involved in umpiring, this will bring a lot more interest to the distaff side.

The initial reaction of managers, players and fans that Sue works with has been favorable, although, things are returning to normalcy.

"My first week in the league, everyone was polite and nice, but now, since I'm generally accepted, they just think of me as an ump, not a woman."

**RIDING FROM** the bench has been modified somewhat, though.

Instead of telling her she needs glasses, Sue recently heard a player yell she couldn't see because her eye makeup must be running down in her eyes.

More common was the upset batter who turned around after one decision and said, "It's not because you're a girl I'm saying this, but that was a stupid call." At least, this ump doesn't battle too many miniature chauvinists.

**BESIDES HER** friends who've become interested in umpiring since Sue's start, many of the players' moms are wondering how to get behind a mask.

Paired with 53-year-old Utah Dockery for her first games, Sue learned much from the vet.

"He gave me a lot of tips that have helped me. With his aid and my continuing experience, I feel I know what I'm doing," stated Sue.

**FINDING HERSELF** watching more TV baseball, the lady ump checks her male counterparts around the diamond to make sure she would have called it the right way.

Happy with her present position, Sue has no eyes on the majors, but with a few more seasons, she might try her

hand in the high school ranks.

Earlier this year, Muncie Junior Baseball was one of the early pioneers in the nation to accept girls into its leagues, but more recent was the fact that the national Little League threw off the last real wall to gals.

**SUE THOUGHT** it was high time that girls be allowed in on a first class basis.

"For too long, the money in sports has been invested in the boys. Allowing the girls to play in the same sport gives an opportunity for women to take advantage of the best facilities," Sue expressed.

Backing their local star are Sue's husband, Paul, and the local chapter of the National Organization of Women, of which she's a member.

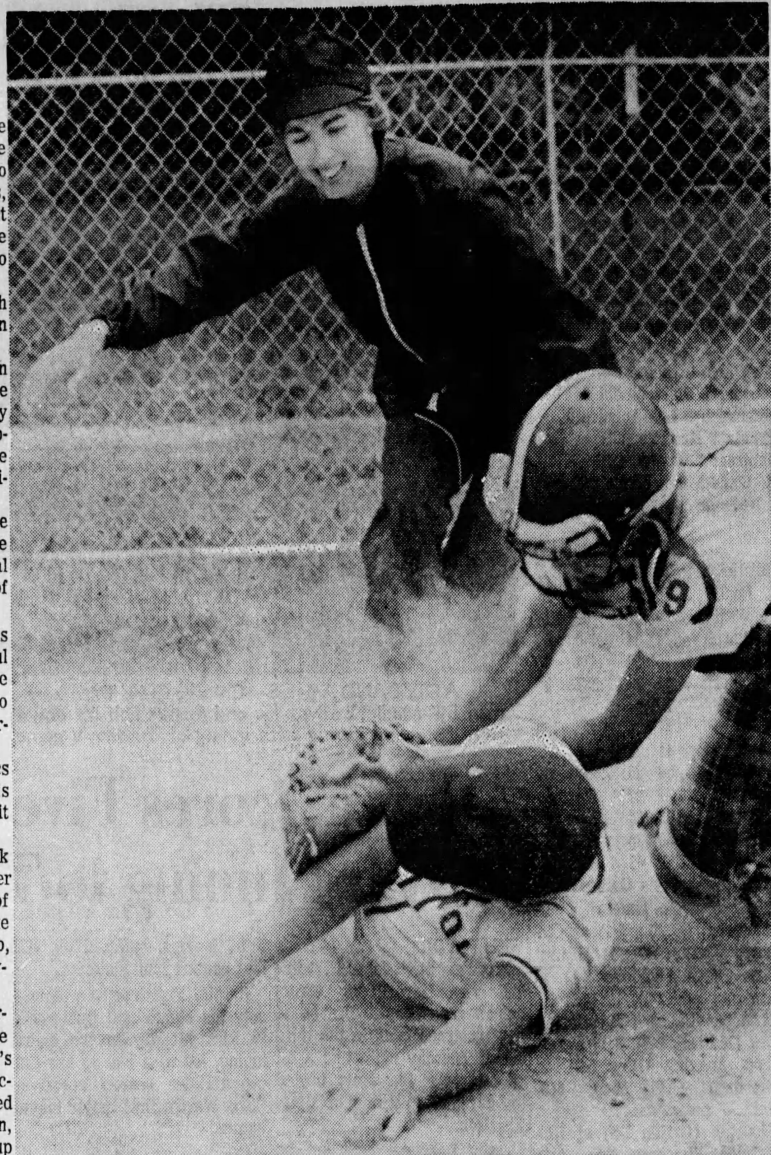
**HAULING OUT** some of his old umpiring knowledge, Paul coached his wife on the game and always reminds her to keep her elbows behind the protector.

A prof in Ball State's physics department, Paul prodded his wife on the idea, but warned it would be a lot of hard work.

Umping eight games a week at Mitchell, Sue parlayes her time into a weekly paycheck of around \$50, but adds, "I like the authority part of the job, you can hardly get that anywhere else."

As far as the NOW membership is concerned, the Muncie chapter is all for their sister's latest accomplishment and according to Sue, have promised to come out and cheer her on, although no one has showed up yet.

American baseball still won't love its umps, even if they're women.



**SAFE WITH SUE**—Sue Errington, Muncie Junior Baseball's first woman umpire, flashes the safe sign to baserunner Jerry Barlow, as catcher David Wells

tries to put on the tag at a recent Buddy Closed game at Mitchell Diamond. (Star Photo by Keith Hitchens)



SUE ERRINGTON



GAIL AUSLANDER



CHI CHI HARMON



VICKI MCGUIRE

**NOW OFFICERS** — Sue Errington has been elected president of the Muncie Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) for the 1975-76

year. Other new officers are Gail Auslander, vice president; Chi Chi Harmon, secretary, and Vicki McGuire, treasurer. (Star Photos)

## Issue 1976: Abortion

# 'Women Should Be Allowed the Right to Choose'

*What is your stand on abortion and why?*

ERRINGTON: We believe the abortion decision should be made by the person who's pregnant with her doctor, rather than leaving it up to legislators or a group of doctors making rules that this sort of pregnancy can be terminated and another type can't. In other words, we don't think a person's motives for getting the abortion should enter into the decision. We think the individual herself is the best judge of her own situation.

*How do you refute the argument you are, in effect, taking a human life?*

ERRINGTON: Well, we don't refute it because it is life, but we don't see it as that type of life as being the same as say, a baby. We feel as long as the fetus is entirely dependent on the woman's life support system and body, just as if the woman were the incubator, then that woman ought to be able to have a say over what happens to her body, whether she will or will not continue to be a life support system. Particularly, with modern technology an early abortion is much safer for the woman than a full-term pregnancy and child birth. I believe its eight times safer. In effect, if there are laws that say a woman cannot have an abortion then we're forcing this woman to take a risk that's eight times greater than if she were allowed to make her own decision and get an abortion. If she wants to take that risk and go ahead and have a child, well then she, at least, has made the decision herself.

*What is NOW doing to support its stand on abortion?*

ERRINGTON: Locally, we're not doing much at present. Mainly we're watching what's happening on the national scene. While back we were more active because the Senate was having subcommittee hearings on the proposed constitutional amendments on abortion. We were, of course, writing to Senator Birch Bayh who was the chairman of the subcommittee, bringing to his attention facts about why we think it should be a woman's choice and why we felt it should not be a constitutional amendment.

Locally, we are continuing with our speakers bureau available to any group or organization who wants to hear the pro-choice side of the abortion question.

*How do the amendments stand now?*

ERRINGTON: The Senate subcommittee had, I believe, 15 months of hearings on the issue. They brought in legal and medical experts, people in religious fields, women's rights activists and the Right To Life people as well, to give testimony. And after

hearing it, they voted against recommending to the full Senate any of the proposed amendments. So, as it turned out, they've been defeated in the Senate, for now. It could be brought up again in the next Congress. It was definitely a victory. Now, the anti-abortionists are concentrating on the House where, I believe they're having hearings now. However, the chairman of the house subcommittee is known to be pro-choice (that is women's right to choose) so we have felt there has not been as much a threat as there was in the Senate. We're watching very closely the Presidential primaries. President Ford's statement the other day was distressing, although I'm glad to see Mrs. Ford is standing firm on her position.

*Are you doing anything to combat the new impetus the Right to Life groups seem to have in their effort to get commitments from presidential candidates?*

ERRINGTON: I think locally, again, we'll be writing letters. Nationally, I'm sure our lobbyists will be working. NOW isn't the only organization that's concerned with women's right to choose. There's another organization called NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League) which is concerned specifically with abortion issues. NOW has other issues (with which we're concerned) so our efforts are diffused over other issues. Whereas they can concentrate specifically on abortion. There's another group called the Religious Coalition for Abortion which is also exclusively abortion (Choice) oriented. Another is called Catholics for a Free Choice.

*Do these groups and NOW work together on the national level?*

ERRINGTON: Yes. The main way is exchange of information. They coordinate they're lobbying efforts. Since the Supreme Court decision, the opposition has tried to undermine it by passing riders on other types of legislation, usually appropriation bills, saying none of this money, say for health services, can be used in any way related to abortion. Any what that would do, we felt, was only cut off the money that would go to poor people who need to use federal money, say on Medicare, for their abortions. Whereas, the middle class and upper class women can go ahead with their own money and get their abortions. So we felt it was a type of discrimination against the poor. And nationally our group and others would talk to the legislators, present this type of argument and then we, back home, would be writing letters, often with the same point of view.

EDITORS NOTE: Because abortion is becoming an issue during this presidential election campaign, and is in the news again with the start of the House of Representatives subcommittee hearings, Eileen Joschko, reporter for The Muncie Star, interviewed spokeswomen for both the pro-choice and pro-life sides of the question. Sue Errington, coordinator of the reproduction task force for the Muncie chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), spoke on the pro legal abortion side. Below is the interview with Right to Life representatives.

*How available are abortions to women in Indiana?*

ERRINGTON: I know of two clinics in Indianapolis and I think the people in southern Indiana go to Louisville or Cincinnati. In fact, I think sometimes people here have gone to Cincinnati. And then I have heard there is a doctor in Fort Wayne who performs abortions but I really don't know much about him. As I understand it, he was doing it in his office. And then, of course, the people up in the northern part of the state go into Chicago, although, there may be some places in Gary or Hammond.

*Can you get an abortion in Muncie?*

ERRINGTON: No, unless it's a life or death case. At one time the hospital had a committee, I believe it was called the Abortion Study Committee to determine whether they should liberalize their policy and it came to a vote among the staff and they voted not to.

*Do you think it could come up again?*

ERRINGTON: If there was enough public demand. There are definitely women in the Muncie area who are getting abortions. At present, they have to go out of town. If the public felt they ought to be able to get them here and made it a public issue, then I think it might come up again.

*Does NOW support any particular presidential candidates?*

ERRINGTON: We won't. Because of our tax exempt status we do not support any particular candidate. We support issues or oppose issues, and

only do our lobbying that way. We can point out that so and so has this position, which we favor, and someone else does not.

*Which candidates share your views on abortion?*

ERRINGTON: Since the opposition is so vocal and abortion is becoming a very volatile election issue, it seems many of the candidates are not coming out with a statement that we support the Supreme Court decision. I think they're afraid to. However, so long as they do not say we support a constitutional amendment, then we can go along with that decision. For example, Birch Bayh has said he personally opposes abortion. We have no complaint with that. What people feel personally is their own business. He's also said he believes it's a personal thing and doesn't support any of the constitutional amendments (proposals). We're satisfied with that type of stand. Several others have also taken that stand.

*Why has the question of abortion again recently resurfaced in the news?*

ERRINGTON: I'd say because there has been a recent change in the status of abortion with the Supreme Court decision, which was in January of '73. Before that, each state had their own laws regarding abortion and most of them were very restrictive. Indiana's, for example only permitted abortions in cases when the woman's life was at stake. But the Supreme Court overturned this type of law and said that under the 14th amendment, a woman's privacy in this sort of deci-



SUE ERRINGTON

sion is protected by the constitution, and therefore, this type of law is unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court decision struck down really restrictive state laws. The decision was actually two decisions. One dealt with the Texas law which was like Indiana's, very restrictive, and the other one dealt with the Georgia law, which was more modern and considered much less restrictive because it permitted abortion in cases of rape, incest and fetal deformity as well as life and death situations. However, it too, was declared unconstitutional because it again was placing certain reasons as being more valid than others for getting an abortion. Plus, it also stated a woman had to have her case reviewed by the hospital and a panel of doctors and it was felt these people are not any better judge of her moral reasons for getting an abortion than legislators are. So, it was really a sweeping change. It surprises, not only the anti-abortion people, but the pro-choice people as well.

And I think because it was so sweeping, that's what's caused the uproar. The polls that have been coming out since the Supreme Court decision have been rather surprising.

There's one in 1974, commissioned by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, which found that 65 per cent of the Catholics, 73 per cent of Protestants and 91 per cent of Jewish people believe abortion should be allowed under certain circumstances. And considering the Catholic church's position that abortion should not be allowed at all, except possibly in the case of the woman's life being in jeopardy, it's surprising to see that 65 per cent of Catholics interviewed did not go along with the church's stand.

*Are more women getting abortions now?*

ERRINGTON: Not as many as might be expected. Dr. Christopher Tietze, senior consultant with the Population Council, is an expert on statistical information about abortion. According to him, two-thirds of the women who are getting legal abortions now would have gotten illegal abortions in the past. So really, there's only about a one-third increase. It's been estimated there were about a million abortions per year performed before the Supreme Court ruling. And now it's a little over a million. In the past most of that million was illegal and the maternal death rate has taken a big change (Continued on Page B-3)

Women's Articles • Lifestyle • Features and News

## Perspective '76

Pages of THE MUNCIE STAR

Section B

Page One

# Issue 1976: Abortion

## 'Women Should Be Allowed...'

(Continued from Page B-1)

since the Supreme Court ruling. In the past there were about 200 women dying each year from illegal abortions. Whereas, in 1974 (which is the latest statistic I've seen) there were only 47 women who died from abortion complications, and 25 of those were from illegal abortions. You might wonder why are people still dying from illegal abortions, if abortions are legal. Mainly, it's because not everybody realizes it is legal and some women, as in Indiana, who have to travel to get one, may not have the funds to get there. Some states are even worse than Indiana as far as the availability is concerned. So they (some women) may not have access to a legal abortion. All the organizations that I know of that are pro-choice, view abortion primarily as a back up measure for when there has been contraceptive failure. By this, I mean they were using a contraceptive that didn't work, or they weren't using one out of ignorance. We all believe, that if you can use a contraceptive it's much better than just using abortion as your main means of contraception or birth control. Although the emphasis of our reproduction task force has been on abortion, we're not limited to that. We also are interested in sterilization policies and birth con-

trol. We'd like to see a greater educational push on birth control and make it available through Planned Parenthood and agencies like that.

*When does life begin?*

ERRINGTON: There has been some interesting research come out recently on the question of when life begins. And that's what the anti-abortion people are concerned about. They, in general, believe it begins at contraception. As a legal question, it's very difficult to say life begins at one point or another. Last year a researcher gave a paper in New York showing brain development does not occur to the point where the brain is active, (to the point where the fetus is not just a vegetable), does not occur until the third trimester of the pregnancy. So up to that point, the fetus really, as far as brain development is concerned, is a vegetable just like these cases where a person has been in a coma for months and months. As far as when life ends, people are beginning to shift. Maybe it's not the heart, but it's the brain that is the center of life. In fact in one or two states (I think Colorado is one of them) there is already legislation that says life ends with cessation of the brain wave. If this were to become a nationally accepted norm then it seems sensible the legal time to determine life's beginning would be the commencement of brain waves.

*Earlier you said President Ford's statement was "distressing?" Would you comment?*

ERRINGTON: He said he favors giving states the right to make their own abortion laws and mentioned legal abortions for "unfortunate cases." Who's to determine what's an "unfortunate case" I feel anyone who wants an abortion is an "unfortunate case." How can we draw the line? I think it's best left in the private sector. I feel it's a moral question as what kind of reasons are valid for getting an abortion.

It's my view the choices we have are not between abortion versus no abortion, because we've always had abortion. The choice is between legal abortions and illegal, unsafe abortions. Also it's not a case where abortions will be denied altogether. Someone is going to make the choice, and who is the one who should make that choice? Is it the individual who is faced with an unwanted pregnancy or is it a group of legislators or a group of medical men who should determine whether a person should get an abortion or not? I feel that it's the individual.

# NOW's accomplishments sprinkled with disappointments

By SALLY JONES

Assistant Life/style Editor

Ten years ago, it was made up of 28 frustrated and angry women who met in a hotel room during the third National Conference of Commissions on the Status of Women held in Washington, D.C.

Today, it is 70,000 strong and found in every state of the union. It is the National Organization for Women, and it has made a difference.

Officers of the Muncie chapter (the first chapter in Indiana and founded in 1970), met recently to discuss NOW's past triumphs and future goals.

Sue Errington, president; Gail Auslander, vice president; Peggy Schemenaur, secretary, and Vicki McGuire Rose, treasurer, all agree NOW is actually a conservative women's liberation organization today — compared to other women's groups.

"It's very conservative now," says Gail, "compared to other groups. But when it started, it was considered radical."

"And it had more professional women as members when it started," adds Sue. "At first the image was for women who worked outside the home. Now it's diversified with programs for women of all sorts."

Although that first meeting — in the Washington hotel — was June 30, 1966, NOW was incorporated officially Feb. 10, 1967, after finalization of its national constitution and bylaws. "The watch word was 'action' as NOW waged war on all aspects of sex discrimination. Task forces were set up to deal with the problems of women in employment, education, religion, poverty, law, politics and their image in the media," reads a national NOW pamphlet, "NOW Origins."

With only one paid staff member and no budget, NOW flourished its first year. At its second national conference in November, 1967, membership was up to 1,200. NOW startled the public and some of its members with its support for repeal of all abortion laws and passage of the ERA.

In 1970, NOW came to Indiana with its first chapter being formed in Muncie by Betty Newcomb and Virginia Jackson-Adams.

At the time, Betty described her reasons for wanting to start a local NOW chapter as opposed to other women's liberation groups. "Some were a little too anti-male and many were composed of high school students or people in their early 20s," she said in 1970. "But NOW is an intellectual community, a formal national organization which is definitely working with all women's liberation groups and welcomes male and female alike to join it."

Although membership in the Muncie chapter is currently 40 persons,



## 'We've learned a lot of lessons'

Current officers of the local National Organization for Women (counterclockwise from the right) Sue Errington, president; Gail Auslander, vice president; Peggy Schemenaur, secretary, and Vicki McGuire Rose, treasurer, discuss the group's six-year local history and 10-year national history. Although the group has many achievements, it still

has one major goal — passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. "We have learned a lot of lessons," says Sue. "Our approach hasn't gotten across." For information concerning NOW, contact Sue Errington, 282-3581, or Barbara Kadinger, 282-6774. — Evening Press Photo by Jerry Joschko.

Sue says, "Membership fluctuates. Last year we had 50 to 55 members, but some moved and many — who weren't extremely active — didn't renew their membership. They just wanted to give support, but with the economic crunch, they dropped membership."

Continuing, Sue says there is a large turnover in the local chapter. "Some people are looking for something and hoping NOW can fill that, but it doesn't always work that way."

Another factor is the recently founded chapter at Ball State University which has taken some of the Muncie members. "They're concerned with different issues — student issues," says Gail. "But we will be working close together on some issues — like the Equal Rights Amendment," says Sue.

Although the ERA was first presented to Congress in 1923 and has been introduced in every session since then, it still hasn't passed, and it re-

mains the number one concern of NOW.

"Our priority here," says Sue, "is the ERA. The national office has targeted Indiana, Illinois, South Carolina, Missouri, Florida and Nevada this year. The policy is the individual states will decide what help they need, and the national office will supply what help and money it can."

"We have learned a lot of lessons," continues Sue. "Our approach hasn't gotten across. We haven't convinced people the ERA will end sex discrimination. We need to spell out what it will do for women."

An example of what good the ERA would do if passed is "the farm woman who has worked beside her husband all her life," says Sue. "Upon his death, she is being taxed as if she'd done nothing all her life. The IRS (Internal Revenue Service) doesn't see marriage as an equal partnership. The wife's unpaid labor doesn't count in the eyes of the government."

The ERA, adds Gail, "is designed

helped a local woman secure a maternity leave she was previously denied, helped eliminate a sexually-biased portion of the unemployment benefit forms used by the Indiana State Employment Service.

Cosponsored or presented many community programs on subjects such as rape, the mature women and women in education, raised money and public awareness of the Joanne Little case and organized bus transportation to Indianapolis for ERA hearings in the Indiana Senate.

Nationally, NOW takes credit for being instrumental in many changes in employment, family life, laws and politics and government concerning women including revision of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines to include prohibitions against sex discrimination in classified advertising, increasing programs of women's studies in high schools and colleges, encouraging more women candidates for public office than ever before, formation of the National Women's Political Caucus, repeal of restrictive protective labor laws which prevented women from holding many jobs and elimination of salary differences and retirement benefits based on sex.

Much of NOW's effect on society, both locally and nationally, cannot be measured or listed. Consciousness raising — changing attitudes and ideas — cannot be determined. Aileen Hernandez, former national NOW president, says, "This movement is the last stage of the drive for equality for women. We are determined that our daughters and granddaughters will live as free human beings, secure in their personhood, and dedicated to making this nation and the world a humane place in which to live."

"Anger is the first step in having a person's consciousness raised. Something concrete happens to a person and then they seek out others," says Vicki.

"And," adds Sue, "when a woman from the outside gets a good job in a factory and is paid more, others are more likely to apply after that."

Although there have been many accomplishments, the national NOW organization has weathered a few mishaps as well.

One great NOW bomb was "Alice Doesn't" Day. Organized by the national NOW office, women were to strike one day last October to show the nation how much it depends on womanpower.

"Locally, we thought it was a mistake," says Sue (who with other Muncie NOW members ignored the strike). "The problem was it was originated in California and the national

board thought others would support it. It taught them the lesson that they need to keep in touch with grass-roots chapters."

Another very controversial move was when the national NOW office decided to support pro-lesbian legislation. "We can't say we don't support the right of the lesbian as much as any other person," says Sue, "but pushing lesbian legislation isn't an issue locally — and we tend to deal more with local issues."

And although considered a conservative women's liberation group these days, NOW still is radical to some. Other local women's organizations have dropped support of certain projects once they learned NOW also was involved in the project.

"A lot of things NOW is doing other women can support, but they don't want to be identified with NOW," admits Sue.

And there have been problems within the NOW organization.

"NOW became political at the national level," says Sue. "And it was a shock to many who thought, 'We're sisters, we don't do that kind of thing!' The president was from one party and the majority of the board was from another. We had to decide if NOW should be a national organization with local people just carrying out the national policy decisions — or if we should emphasize local chapters' activities and issues. Often a group is more efficient at the national level, but members then feel alienated."

There was much politicking at the recent national convention in Philadelphia until Karen DeCrow was finally reelected president and emphasis was decided to be put on grass-roots chapters.

Another change is the fading of such women's lib superstars as Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug and Germaine Greer. "That's a good sign," says Sue. "They never were made superstars by women — just by the media. We never said they were spokeswomen."

One interesting footnote is NOW may be the only organization to have another organization formed just to oppose it. Phyllis Schlafly, who heads Stop-ERA, also started the national Eagle Forum to oppose other NOW goals such as abortion and free child care centers. Recently a chapter of Eagle Forum organized in Muncie.

Will there ever come a day when NOW is obsolete? "We're working toward the day when we don't need NOW," says Sue. "We have the same goal as religious movements — equality for all. It's just that more women are treated unfairly than men."

dictating events in Chile."

# NOW Expects Indiana to Ratify ERA During General Assembly Session

Sept. 27, 1976

By KATHY SCOTT

Star Staff Reporter

Sue Errington, president of the Muncie chapter, was named state coordinator of the National Organization of Women (NOW) at the state convention Saturday and Sunday at Ball State's Kitzelman Conference Center.

Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment was the main thrust of the convention, and guest speakers included Mary Anne Sedey, St. Louis, the midwest regional director of NOW; Jane Wells Schooley, president of the LeHigh Valley, Penn., chapter of NOW, and Charley Llewelyn, coordinator of the Kentucky ERA Coalition.

Indiana, which has approximately 500 NOW members, has been selected as one of five or six states most likely to ratify ERA in the next legislative session, because the amendment passed the house, but failed the senate in 1975. The deadline for ratification is January 1979 with four more states needed to pass the amendment before it becomes law.

Indiana NOW will be working toward the election of legislators who support ERA.

A drive for a larger and stronger state organization is underway. An ERA caravan recently visited over 30 Indiana towns where contact persons are working to form local chapters.

The goal of NOW in Indiana is to become an effective voice for feminist issues, according to Sue Errington. She feels that there is a great potential for highly developed feminist movement.

NOW chapters in states which have already passed ERA are beginning to become involved in the thrust to get four more states to ratify, says Mary Anne Sedey. For a time there was the general feeling that they'd done their job and it was up to the other states to do theirs.

Both women feel the need for the amendment is particularly strong, because the Supreme Court has taken a wait and see what happens to ERA stand on many sex discrimination cases. They also feel that there are thousands of discriminatory state laws still on the books, and it would be a long and costly process to challenge each one.

The overall goal of NOW is to raise the status of women. Errington and

Sedey believe there is nothing wrong with what is termed women's work, but that women shouldn't be looked down on because they are housewives. A future project of the organization is creating a different view of occupations, one which will raise the esteem of women particularly in jobs which are female dominated.

Other newly elected officials include Denise Walderich, associate state coordinator; Barb Albert, state legislative coordinator; Carol Jones, secretary, and Sharon Boothby, treasurer. All are from the Indianapolis area.

Future activities include a state council meeting November 6, in Terre Haute; a national By-Laws Convention Oct. 8-9 in Kansas City, and the National Convention in April in Detroit.

A meeting of the local chapter will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at the YWCA. A panel of child care experts will be present, and the public is invited.

For additional information, contact Sue Errington, 282-3581, or Vickie McGuire Rose, publicity chairman of the local chapter, 747-9806.

# Women organize here in fight against rape

By SALLY JONES

and

SUE SCOTT JOHNSON

A group of Muncie women has begun organizing a rape crisis center, a result of articles about the subject carried this week in The Evening Press.

The women, all member of the National Organization For Women (NOW), are in touch with rape centers in other cities throughout the country getting information on how to organize it.

Karen Crane, chairperson of the group, says the center will serve two purposes — to educate the public about rape prevention and to work with local police and hospital officials

to possible counsel victims.

The group has already contacted congressman Phil Sharp's office to get information about applying for a grant from the National Council for the Prevention and Control of Rape, under the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Already, the group has received \$200 in donations from anonymous persons to help set up the center. Ms. Crane stressed that although the center is being set up by members of NOW, any organizations or individuals who would like to volunteer their services are welcome to join in the local fight against rape.

It was NOW President Sue Errington who first alerted an Evening Press reporter that five rapes had occurred on the northwest side in the past seven months, apparently by the same man. Ms. Errington had been contacted by the daughter of one of the victims who was seeking help in finding her mother's attacker.

Eventually, the group hopes to have a 24-hour hot line to provide information and counseling on rape and to establish a speaker's bureau to speak to area clubs and schools about ways of preventing rape and what to do if a person has been raped.

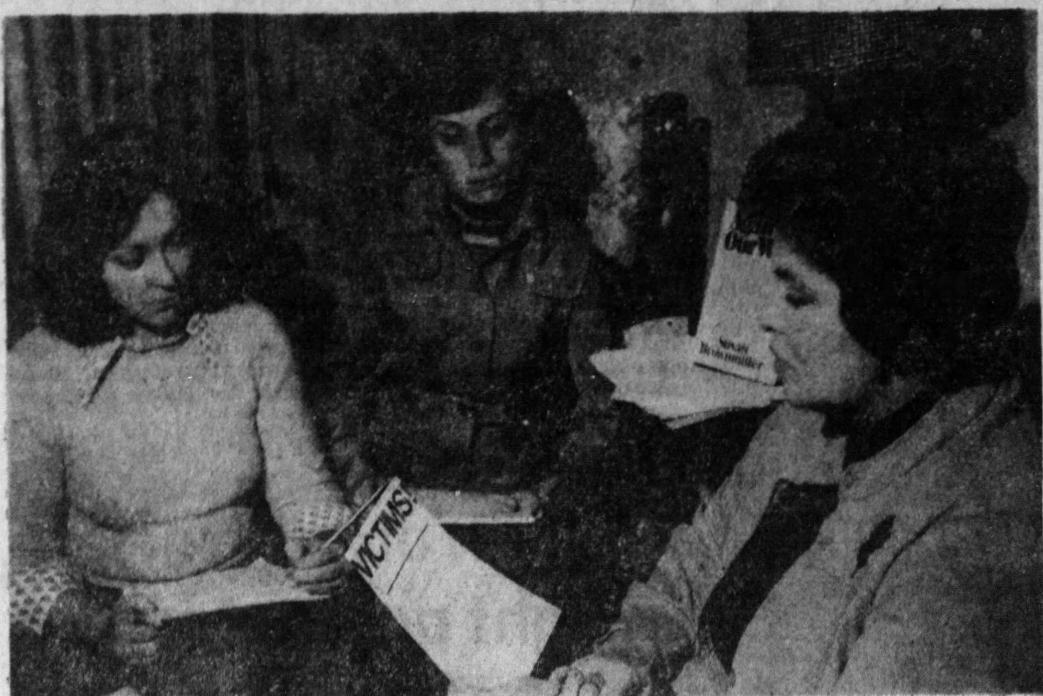
The group will meet with Mayor Robert Cunningham Friday to offer its assistance to police.

"We don't want to hamper investigations," said Ms. Crane. "We just want to help victims."

The first public meeting of the group will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10 in Rooms 307 and 308 of the Ball State University Student Center. Bernice Eger, director of the Marion County Victim Advocate, will speak.

Betsy Poland, a member of the group, stressed that "The purpose of the center is not to scare women into their homes, but to scare rapists off the streets. We have to get women to be assertive without being aggressive."

The group believes that women can do much on their own to avoid being rape victims. They stress that porch lights should be on, doors locked securely, that women should lock their cars and have their keys ready when they return to their cars, that mailboxes of women should have the only last name printed on them, that single women should be listed in the telephone book by initials rather



**RAPE FIGHTERS . . .** Working to establish a rape crisis center in Muncie are (from left) Vickie McGuire Rose, Betsy Poland and Karen Crane,

chairperson. — Evening Press Photo by Jerry Burney.

### More About:

## Rape crisis center

Continued From Page 1

than first names, that windows should be locked, that women should get to know their neighbors and their habits and that whenever possible, women should not be out alone at night.

Ms. Errington suggested that women not wear clothes that would hamper them from possibly getting away from an attacker — such as high heels or clogs. She also stressed that slacks are not as accessible as skirts.

Ms. Crane urged both men and women to be alert to a possible attack. To men, she says, "If you see something strange, check it out." To women, she says, "Be polite but distant with any male you don't know."

Vickie McGuire Rose, a group member, said, "It's important that people know there is someone they can get in touch with and it will be absolutely confidential." She also urges that men too, could help in the rape center, especially in counseling the husbands or boyfriends of rape victims.

Police Chief Richard Heath pointed out that a rape conviction is extremely difficult to obtain, and that the only way to prosecute an accused rapist is by positive identification or by confession.

The NOW members added that, in the event of an attack, a woman should try as hard as possible to get a good look at her attacker and to have all possible evidence reported to police. Ms. Rose urged women who have been raped to not bathe, use mouthwash, douche or change clothes before reporting the attack to police and

being checked at the hospital. She suggested women take an extra outfit of clothing with them to the hospital so that police can keep the original clothing to check for possible clues.

According to national statistics from the Marion County Victim Advocate, only 2 per cent of all rapes reported to police are false; 82 per cent of all rapes are planned, 50 per cent of all victims know their attacker, and that "Where, when and what a woman is doing has nothing to do with whether she is raped."

Until the center is established, persons seeking information about rape or the center should telephone Ms. Rose, 747-9806, or Ms. Crane, 288-8201.

EQUALITY OF RIGHTS  
UNDER THE LAW  
SHALL NOT BE  
DENIED OR ABRIE  
BY THE UNITED STATES  
OR ANY STATE  
ON ACCOUNT OF



## *ERA Vigil*

Sue Errington, National Organization for Women state coordinator, speaks in the statehouse rotunda at Indianapolis during a vigil by Equal Rights Amendment proponents. The vigil is to continue until the ERA is passed.

# *Sue Errington Slated Delegate to National Convention of IWY*

One Muncie woman has been slated by the nominating committee from the Indiana Coordinating Committee on the Observance of International Women's Year to be a delegate to the national convention in Houston, Tex. Nov. 18 to 20.

Sue Errington, 3200 Brook Drive, is among 32 delegates and five alternates who will be proposed at the Indiana meeting Saturday, July 16.

Also announced were three keynote speakers for the Indiana meetings. They are Patricia Schroeder, Democrat representative to Congress from Colorado; Cathy Douglas, attorney, and wife of former Supreme Court justice William O. Douglas; and C. Delores Tucker, secretary of state for Pennsylvania.

Nine other Muncie women have been selected to provide leadership in workshop discussions at the Indiana meeting Saturday.

They include Kay Stickle, coordinator of the education workshop, Eileen Keener, Jeannine Harrold, Carol Fisher, Betsy Poland, all of Ball State, Pat Sparks, dean of women, Central High School, Rita Winters, women's editor of *The Muncie Star*; and Diana Hayer. All will participate in education. Dorothy Rudoni, Ball State, will be a presenter in the rape discussion workshop.

The official list of delegate nominees is Donna M. Agness, Bunker Hill; Graciela F. Beecher, Fort Wayne; Phyliss A. Benn, La Porte; Betty F. Blumberg, Terre Haute; Norma Card, Columbus; Sister Suzanne Dailey, Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods; Bette Ann Bishopp Derrick, Evansville; Betty R. Dickhart, Evansville; Sue E. Errington, Muncie.

Also, Linda H. Ewing, Lafayette; Jane Stout Fribley, Indianapolis; Rose Marie Seitz Hengesbach, South Bend; Margaret C. Hill, Bloomington; Julia A. Holmes, Columbus; Gloria Kaufman, South Bend; Virginia Dill McCarty, Indianapolis; Becky Meier, Bluffton; Jackie Miller, Indianapolis; Sita Keith Miller, Anderson and Hazel M. Minnefield, Anderson.

Other nominees are Dianne Momon, Gary; Shirley A. Mull, Denver; Lola

Nelson, Auburn; Doris S. Parker, Indianapolis; Lois Patricia Philon, Crawfordsville; Hattie Pierce, Valparaiso; Yvonne Porter, Gary; Frances Dodson Rhome, Bloomington; Vivian G. Schmidt, Fort Wayne, Marjorie A. Slabach, Fort Wayne, Cora A. Smolinske, Kendallville; Amanda L. Strong, Indianapolis; Donna M. Thornberry, New Albany; Gertrude Warfield, Indianapolis; Betty Watkins, Lafayette; Betty Williams, and Barbara Zimmer, both of Indianapolis.

July 9, 1977

# Muncie Woman Elected to National NOW Board

Sue Errington, 3200 W. Brook Drive, state National Organization for Women coordinator and former Muncie chapter president, has been elected to the national board of NOW, an organization of 95,000 members.

Her election came during the Great Lakes Region meeting April 7-9 at Dayton, Ohio, where 260 delegates convened from Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana.

Accompanying the new national officer to the event were Sue Wilson, Karen Crame, Deborah Counts, Mary Lee Richeson, Betty Newcomb and Maggie Lehr, who represented Muncie-Delaware County Chapter of NOW.

According to Mary Lee Richeson, the emphasis of the workshops dealt with the Equal Rights Amendment and ways to support the legislation in a Congressional attempt to extend the deadline for ratification of the ERA.

Persons working in behalf of the ratification have only until March 22, 1979,

when the deadline will expire, NOW representatives point out.

The conference re-emphasized that the U.S. Constitution does not require proposed amendments to be ratified by the states within seven or any number of years. However, since Congress first attached a seven-year limitation provision to the 18th Amendment, it has been customary for the seven-year period to be used in connection with other amendments.

Several state legislatures are still considering the Equal Rights Amendment, conference delegates were reminded.

Those present for the three-day event also learned about a massive march scheduled in Washington July 9 - 10 which will involve all sections of the country, Mary Lee Richeson says. Persons in the Muncie area who are interested in participating can call her, 747-0647 or 285-7492, or Sue Errington, 282-3581.

Both women said that widespread misunderstanding about ERA legislation, concerning the social and legal areas, has necessitated extra time to permit debate; therefore, the reconsideration for longer than the designated seven years is imperative, they say.



SUE ERRINGTON

# ERA Won't 'Go Away' If Efforts For Extension Fail, Backers Vow

More than 100 state and local organizations reaffirmed their support for the Equal Rights Amendment Monday and called upon Senators Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) and Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) to vote for the ERA ratification deadline extension passed by the United States House of Representatives and pending in the U.S. Senate.

In a press conference in the Indiana State House, Betty Packard Voris, president of the Greater Indianapolis Women's Political Caucus, explained the consensus of the 100 organizations:

"THIS IS TOO critical an issue to see it fail now simply because three states have not ratified the proposed constitutional amendment. Failure to extend the deadline will not make ERA go away; the amendment simply will be reintroduced in the United States Congress and then we will have to start the ratification process all over again.

"For those of us in the state who have worked hard to obtain ratification, it appears to be a wearying proposition. All the polls have shown that Americans, including Hoosiers, are in favor of ERA.

"The latest Gallup Poll revealed that 69 percent of those queried favored ERA ratification. Let's lessen the burden by extending the time limit set for ERA and thereby saving those of us who have worked hard to achieve state ratification the time and effort inherent to 'doing it all over again.' "

The local ERA supporters will continue their efforts if the extension is not granted. According to Mrs. Voris, if the amendment has to be reintroduced and the ratification process started all over again, "This time it wouldn't take Indiana five years to ratify the amendment. Women's groups have banded together and have shown legislators that we are serious about the amendment.



Leaders of local and state organizations reaffirmed their support for the Equal Rights Amendment Monday. Gathering after the press conference to exchange ideas are (left to right) Sue Errington of Muncie, president of the Indiana Chapter of National Organization for Women; Becky Meier of Bluffton, League of Women Voters' president; Jane Fribley, Indiana Religious Coalition For ERA; Peg Edwards Porter of Fort Wayne, Fourth Congressional District Women's Political Caucus president, and Betty Packard Voris, Greater Indianapolis Women's Political Caucus president.

# Assembly participants seek new hope for families through positive ideas, actions

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** On Nov. 19, 1979, over 2,000 persons gathered in New York for a National Assembly on the Future of the Family.

Sponsored by the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund, the assembly was convened in order to "develop innovative and practical solutions to problems confronting American families as we enter the 1980s."

The following is a summary of some of the ideas and opinions voiced at the assembly, as related to the Evening Press by Sue Errington, a Muncie resident and member of NOW's national board of directors. Sue was a special guest at the assembly.

**By VICKI DEAN**  
Life/style feature writer

Although the participants in the National Assembly on the Future of the Family represented widely differing points of view, all agreed that "ways must be found to help American citizens preserve the one most essential element in all families — mutual support based upon a caring and sharing relationship."

According to Muriel Fox, president of NOW's Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDEF), "The old structures for such support have been changing rapidly in the past two decades, and in the decade ahead we must replace them with new structures that are more varied, more flexible, more dynamic — but strong. Our assembly seeks to blueprint a variety of workable foundations for those new structures."

In Muriel's opinion, families today are dominated more by external factors such as government, community, the media and peer groups, while they are influenced less by traditional factors such as parental authority and religion.

"Discussion leaders in our assembly accept the fact that 93 percent of American families today fit patterns other than the traditional one of a breadwinning father, a homemaking mother and two or more dependent children," said Muriel. "They accept the inevitability of continuing future change in the relationships and roles of men, women and children within families. And they seek new responses to the conditions that are causes and effects of such change."

Described as leading thinkers and doers from government, education, the professions, business, religion and a broad spectrum of public service activities, the discussion leaders addressed the many problems arising from divorce, including inequities in child custody, property settlements

and the efforts of mothers and fathers to preserve family values when one parent is absent from the home.

The leaders also proposed new contractual agreements for marriage partnership, studied guarantees for the rights of children and looked ahead to formulas for improving the quality of life and work in an "era of equality."

Isaac Asimov, associate professor of biochemistry at Boston University School of Medicine and author of over 200 books, was a keynote speaker, along with Betty Friedan, author, NOW founder and convenor of the National Women's Political Caucus; and Alvin Toffler, world-wide lecturer and author of "Future Shock," of which more than six million copies are in print.

All three speakers discussed "families of the future," noting that too often in the past families have been viewed in a vacuum, as a realm unto themselves. Only now are we beginning to consider how public policy and such institutions as employing organizations may be responsible for what happens in family life," they said.

All three agreed that structural rearrangements that provide people with more flexibility and options may be a first step in helping families.

These would include the use of more flexible leaves and sabbaticals, greater availability of day care, income supports, explicit focus on communication about work events and work culture to workers' families and reduction in the number of low opportunity jobs that create emotional tensions at home.

Major changes in the world of work and the structure of work organizations may turn out to have more profound effects on the quality of family life than all the attempts to influence individual behavior, according to the three speakers.

Asimov said he foresees three possibilities for society: nuclear extinction, over population or a low-birth rate society. He listed the latter possibility as the one we should strive for, pointing

out that if adults outnumber children, they (the children) will become more valuable.

"If gold were as common as clay, no one would bother with it at all," he said. "If children became like gold, society undoubtedly would treat them like gold instead of like clay."

Citing the industrial revolution as having "the biggest impact" on family life because it took the breadwinner out of the home, Toffler stated that change within the family, although sometimes painful, is not negative.

"We now have multiple family forms in addition to the traditional family form," he said. "This is the beginning of something new, not the decay of something old."

Betty Friedan stated that families which value females as much as males have a better chance of surviving in today's world.

One seminar during the assembly program was entitled "With All My Worldly Goods — Marriage as an Economic Partnership." Panel members included Phyllis Segal, legal director of the NOW LDEF; Gene Boyer, a founder of NOW and member of the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on the Status of Women; Judith Areen, a member of the White House Task Force on Regulatory Reform and a professor at Georgetown University Law Center; Carlyn McCaffrey, Adjunct Professor of law at both New York University Law School and the University of Miami School of Law; Sylvia Roberts, general counsel of the NOW LDEF; June Weisberger, associate professor of law at the University of Wisconsin Law School and Lenore Weitaman, a sociologist who specializes in family law.

The panel members agreed that most couples enter marriage in total ignorance of marriage laws. Husband and wife agree privately to divide responsibilities for income, child rearing, recreation and basic services in the hope that their family can achieve a satisfying life, but all too often existing laws invalidate these private understandings, with the tragic results

that the partner who did not earn income outside the home is often denied ownership or control of the fruits of their collaboration.

"As things stand now, the law does not protect the female homemaker if something happens to her husband," said the panel. "Unless there is equal management and control, the wife is at the complete mercy of her husband. If she happened to marry a bad apple, the results could indeed be tragic."

In an effort to combat this problem, the Wisconsin Commission on the Status of Women has proposed a "Marital Partnership Property Bill," which would reflect the concept that marriage is an economic partnership, with partners contributing to acquisition of assets during the life of the marriage.

Ellen Goodman, prize-winning syndicated columnist, was the moderator for another seminar, entitled "Helping the Homemaker — New Needs, New Problems." She stressed her opinion that, like other working people, full-time homemakers must have long-range legal and economic protections. "The job of homemaker must be available and attractive to men as well as women," she said.

Ellen also addressed the image of the women's movement. "In the early 60s extremists in the women's movement were reacting against the past," she said. "They brought out the bad points to such a degree that feminists appeared to be totally opposed to the traditional role of women."

"The women's movement has the image of being opposed to homemakers, but when you look under the surface, it's the feminists who are promoting changes that would benefit the homemaker," she commented.

Muriel Fox was in complete agreement, stating that she believes the future of the family is "an overriding feminist issue."

"Through freeing men and women from old sex-stereotyped roles, feminism seeks to help all people achieve their full potential individually and in responsive relationships with others," she said. "Therefore we are confident that feminism will ultimately lead to stronger, more varied, more nurturing and loving families."

Muriel concluded that participants in the assembly "do not share the frequently voiced opinion that American families are in a state of hopeless collapse. We seek instead to offer new hope for families through constructive ideas and actions," she said.

## Life/style

Ellen Ball, Editor

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Sept. 5, 1980

**SUE ERRINGTON OF MUNCIE** has been named the recipient of the 1980 Margaret Sanger Woman of the Year award by the Indiana National Organization for Women (NOW).

Mrs. Errington, who recently completed a term on the NOW national board of directors representing the Great Lakes Region, also serves as chair of the Human Rights Committee. She will be honored at a dinner Saturday, Sept. 13 at Unitarian-Universalist Church, 1900 Morrison. A cash bar is scheduled for 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 and a program. Sandra Roth, national NOW secretary, will be the featured speaker.



Sue Errington

The Sanger award is presented annually to a Hoosier feminist who best typifies the spirit and examples of Margaret Sanger, pioneer in the reproductive rights movement. The 1979 award was presented to Helen McCalmet for her years of service as executive director of the Indianapolis Planned Parenthood.

Mrs. Errington has been affiliated

with NOW since 1973 and locally has served as president and treasurer of the chapter. At the state level, she served as state NOW coordinator and coordinator of the Reproductive Rights Task Force. Currently, she serves as state legislative coordinator.

The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person, and reservations should be sent in care of the local chapter to 210 S. Hutchison, Muncie, 47303, by Tuesday. A vegetarian dinner option is available for those desiring it. For information, call Charlotte Creech, 289-2749, or Sue Wilson, 759-8886.

**THE ANNUAL PICNIC** for members of Selma United Methodist Church is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday at the Ball State University west campus shelter house. Lunch will be served at noon with a program and games to follow.

**THE FIRST MEETING** of the year for members of Muncie Business and Professional Women's Club is set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, not this