

etCetera

April 5, 1982

States squeeze out ratification



Art by Sharon Jones

Sharon Jones '82

Students shrug shoulders at ERA

By Darrell Hofheinz

Years after it was first proposed, the Equal Rights Amendment seems dangerously near death.

With time running out on the two-year extension Congress gave states to ratify the controversial document, and with several states now trying to rescind their ratification, it seems improbable that the ERA will be accepted by the two-thirds majority of states necessary for its inclusion into the Constitution.

At the beginning of the 1970s, a TCU yearbook capsuled the first events of the "Women's Liberation Movement," a forerunner of the recent campaign to ratify ERA. On page 319, the 1970 *Horned Frog* records, "The Women's Lib did not evade TCU. Though not too many TCU coeds jumped on the bandwagon, it was a much discussed movement."

Twelve years later, one thing that the women's movement (symbolized by the ERA) is not, is a "much discussed movement."

Some TCU students, in fact, say they don't really care whether the amendment passes or fails.

"It doesn't bother me if it passes or if it doesn't," says Craig Partridge, a 20-year-old sophomore. "But I think it's time for it to end, one way or another."

"Congress keeps giving them extension after extension, and people should just realize that it's not going to pass right now. Maybe in 10 years, but not right now," he says.

Partridge, a transfer student from Indiana State University, says ERA is discussed more in the North. "Nobody seems to really care one way or another around here. You know, we don't sit around and talk about it," he says.

Walter Kiefer, 19, another sophomore, says he thinks the ERA is misunderstood by many people.

"I've heard about polls where they ask people if they are in favor of the ERA, and most of the people say 'No.' Then, when they show people the actual statement and they read it, people say, 'Oh, yeah. That's fine,'" says Kiefer.

The proposed amendment is simply worded. The main clause states, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

"It's really an innocuous little statement," Kiefer says. "I don't see anything wrong with it myself. I just don't think that most people on campus really care about it in any active way."

"They probably have things that seem more immediately important to them—like tests and food," he says.

Junior Christie Truly, 20, says she supports the ERA mainly because of the people who are against it. She says she once watched a television

talk show featuring a debate between an attorney for the National Organization for Women and Phyllis Schafley, a leader against the amendment.

"That was the first time I'd really seen Phyllis Schafley, though I'd heard about her. Frankly, she appeared a little ridiculous to me, even though she feels that what she's doing is right."

"Most of the stuff she was talking about didn't even relate to the amendment. The other lady made much more sense and was really logical," says Truly.

Does Truly consider herself an ERA supporter?

"I think I do, I really do—from my reaction to the negative side presented on the television show. I don't see how I couldn't be for it."

"I think the amendment would be a good idea because you would know you were on the same par with a man. And vice-versa," she says.

Some at TCU don't believe the amendment would have any tangible effects if passed.

Junior Rich Glenn, 20, says that any positive effects the ERA might have are already taken care of by existing laws.

"I'm not convinced that things right now are as bad as some people would have us think. The equal employment opportunity laws are really strong right now. People are better educated about discriminatory practices."

"I don't think women have been given equal opportunities in the past, but I really don't see how they could be in our culture."

"Congress keeps giving them extension after extension, and people should just realize that it's not going to pass right now. Maybe in 10 years, but not right now."

"All the new laws in the world won't stop people from treating women as they always have—unfairly," says Rich.

On the other hand, some think that the present system is not working and that ERA could be the solution. One of these is senior Kit Klein, 21.

"I think it (ERA) is necessary because the other amendments aren't doing the job," Klein says. "Women are discriminated against. I've just known too many people who have not gotten equal treatment in their jobs or whatever."

Klein also believes there are misconceptions about ERA, par-

ticularly at TCU. "Most people, when they think about it, immediately come up with images of women in the army or unisex bathrooms. I think they really miss the whole point."

Rick Miller, a 22-year-old senior, agrees that the ERA would help alleviate discrimination, mainly in job situations.

"If this were constitutional, I

think it would make more employers aware of what serious problems exploitation and discrimination can cause. I don't think they are aware now. In the long run, it ends up hurting an industry," Miller says.

He says, however, that he believes many women at TCU are not really interested in equal rights. "From what I see on our campus, a lot of the women don't want to be treated equally. They like being deferred to. They're still southern belles."

Miller's girlfriend, senior Debbie Beltzer, 21, feels that on many levels most women at TCU don't want to

See Students page 4

On both sides of the broom

By Diane Crane

They both wanted their opinions printed. All similarity between the two stopped there.

Making himself at home in his kitchen, leaning back in his chair and drinking coffee, history major Greg Olson, 23, spoke about the Equal Rights Amendment.

"ERA people are really radical and don't voice what the average American woman wants," he said. "She wants security, whether she works as an executive or a housewife."

"I think that's basic to woman's nature. She wants to be cared for and loved and things like that. I don't care what the more avid believers say. I think she'd like to be dependent on a man and have a man care for her," he said.

Terry Colgren, a 20-year-old political science major, sat up straight in a new green-and-black chair in the Moody Building. Although the interview was spontaneous, Colgren had with him a notebook full of ERA information. The day before he had taped a segment of a student radio program called "Politically Speaking." On it he argued in favor of ERA.

"I support ERA because I don't believe the 14th Amendment is truly working," he said.

Colgren was concerned about how the equality of men and women was defined in law. Olson, however, didn't say that equality existed.

"Men are not equal to women and

women are not equal to men," Olson said. "That doesn't mean one is inferior to another. Women think they have to be like men to not be inferior. I don't think that's true at all."

Olson's was a social argument. He said he worried about how the amendment would affect society, because it's men who hold the social fabric together.

"One of the things that in the Roman Empire was decisive in its fall, well, one... was a growing sense of women's lib."

Colgren pointed to other cultures that had not fallen after acknowledging equality of the sexes.

"The Federal Republic of West Germany in their constitution of 1949 said all men and women shall have equal rights," he said. "Egypt, India and the People's Republic of China also recognize equality of the sexes."

"I don't see why people are afraid. People say it'll open up a Pandora's box of evils—lesbian marriages, homosexuality. I don't think it will do that," said Colgren.

Olson referred to the present state of American society to support his fear.

"You can't tell me it has not contributed to social chaos when you have so many divorces and people living together," he said. "You can just tell it by what our society is going through."

Homes in which women dominate their husbands demonstrate this, he said. The husband is miserable, the wife is miserable and the children

are emotionally unstable because they don't have an authoritative father figure.

To counteract problems stemming from the ERA campaign, Olson said, men need to be "real men" so that women will rely on them to maintain social order.

"Most women I meet are not like ERA supporters. Perhaps I read between the lines there, but I think women want to be tamed," he said. "One reason for ERA and all the hollering and carrying on is just that women don't have that many real men around."

"If women could respect men, I think they'd be more likely to assume traditional roles."

"No one wants to marry a woman who henpecks him. A man wants to marry a woman who respects him, who is at his side to support him and make him great, be his encourager and a challenge," Olson said.

He said he wouldn't want to return to the oppression of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. That situation was no better than the present one, he said. The answer is to avoid the other extreme in supporting ERA.

"One (sex) has got to be submissive because we just are not the same," he said.

Olson sat forward. "I hope you print that," he said.

Colgren, when asked if men and women were equal said, "Before the Law, yes."

As he left the room, Colgren turned. "Thank you. I hope you can use it."

Buck and me—the tow job

By Linda Flood

That morning was especially gray—an adjective left over from the night before spent studying between intervals of the Phi Kaps stereo speakers that chanted, "Ooga-Chugga, Ooga-Chugga," some sort of rock and roll release, I suppose, that released itself from the Phi Kap third floor and barged in through the screen like the soundtrack of a Tarzan capture scene.

Still I'd tried to study, but somehow ended up in the morning with Modern American Poetry lost somewhere in the covers, a couple of its pages bent diagonally through the middle. I woke up, my head still steeping Eliot and Roethke poems, and shuffled out to class.

It's a tradition. At the top of the stairs in the morning I sling my backpack over my left shoulder and mouth, "I'm walking to school. This time I'm really walking to school," and by the time I get to the foyer my body walks to the car and I drive two blocks to class wondering how you really spell schizophrenia, and who that wierdo is that always wants to walk to school and miss 30 seconds of the Beatles for Breakfast.

At class I realized that my head was still asleep and that I obviously looked illiterate. I was unstarved and weary, lead-eyed and limp. I felt like a sea hag. My face was 40. All I could think about was how I'd like to push all of the desks together on the back row and lie on them, or ask Betsy Colquitt if the class would mind moving to my dorm room so I could go back to bed but still not get counted absent.

So I was daydreaming. I bit my lip and stared out the window of the Religion building toward Moudy. That's when I saw it. As I looked on, my car floated weightlessly past the window attached to a wrecker that was driven by a man who looked like Groucho Marx in overalls. At first it was amusing, but then it wasn't and all I could think of to say was, "It was only modestly a car."

After class I went out to the spot where my car had been and briefly mourned. So next I got on the phone. My voice was friendly on the wire as I inquired very femininely to the TCU Police about the whereabouts of my car. I purposefully tried to sound like a cross between Little-Bow Peep and Sandy Duncan, hoping they'd feel sorry for

me. But I knew that wouldn't happen. I knew they'd been trying to catch me illegally parked since February when my deck of parking tickets reached double digits.

I was right. They knew me, and they also knew I wasn't any Little-Bow Peep. They told me that I couldn't get my car back until I'd talked to someone named "Buck" Beneze, and that to get it back "Buck" had to release it.

I slammed down the phone and instantly changed into the combination of Ethel Merman and Jane Fonda, perturbed and loud. "BUCK Beneze! Who is BUCK Beneze? I don't have time to talk to anyone out of Star Wars! Is that a real person, BUCK Beneze?"

Next I fumbled frustrated through the Frog Calls ("Frog Calls? Who made that up?" I smirked, feeling legitimately snide, "BUCK" Beneze?) and called the man at home. When he got to the phone I'm not so sure how it happened, but I turned meek. I reminded myself of Eddy Haskell. I called him sir, I "set up" an appointment with him and caught myself before I offered to cut his grass and wash his dog. I wasn't even sure he had a dog.

I showed up at his office the next

day at the pre-arranged time. In the mean time, I had found out that Beneze is assistant dean of students and that part of his job is to deal with students who partake in deviant behavior and to direct students to or dole out disciplinary procedures.

Waiting in the lobby of the Student Life office, I looked at my thumbs, and contemplated filing my prints off before they could find out who I really was. But, "Buck" Beneze stuck his head out of his office and motioned for me to come in.

I looked at him. What I had imagined to have been a decendant of Daniel Boone, unshaven and wearing deerhide with fringes, was actually a man that more resembled Ward Cleaver. He held my deck of parking tickets. He was nice. He acted like Ward Cleaver. He was fair. He explained that he always makes appointments with people like me before he releases their cars.

After fifteen minutes he had me convinced that parking was easy and scientifically possible. I think he's right, but I also think that parking is an art—a performing art like singing. The truth is I can't sing either.

'Annie' not just 'pure and wholesome'

By Liz Lambert

"Annie," the long awaited screen version of the Broadway hit musical, will surely earn its place among musical classics.

The Ray Stark Production of a John Huston Film for Columbia Pictures brings to mind those thrilling old movies that one will sacrifice hours of sleep to catch on late night television, with the added layer of expertise.

The film, starring Albert Finney, Carol Burnett, Bernadette Peters, Ann Reinking, Tim Curry, Geoffrey Holder, Edward Herrmann, and Aileen Quinn in the title role is a return to the optimistic American dream of "Tomorrow."

The motion picture version of "Annie" draws on the tradition of one of America's favorite comic strips, and the major award-winning, long-running Broadway musical. The movie, however, takes the humor, warmth and basic theme of the tale a step further—a step towards reality. "Not realism, but reality," producer Ray Stark points out.

"Basically, our film is a love story," Stark says, "between a little girl with nothing but the courage to dream and an adult (Daddy Warbucks) with everything except someone to share it with. She opens him up to human emotions, and he becomes the father she has been looking for all her young life."

"Annie," budgeted at over \$35 million dollars, and two years in the making, dazzled the spectator with

a lavish million-dollar set, 1,000 extras, 117 dancers, 82 actors, a captivating Radio City Music Hall stage filled with music and Warbucks' mansion built in the manner of Versailles.

A massive talent search, reminiscent of the Scarlett O'Hara quest some 40 years earlier, produced Aileen Quinn, a 10-year-old resilient, resourceful moppet who outsang, outdanced, and outacted 8,000 other hopefuls. The heroine is a plucky little red-haired

orphan who is America's kind of heroine—not a martyr, not merely a survivor, but a winner!

"Annie" is one of the most refreshing and most ambitious film projects of recent years. All too often movies labeled as "pure wholesome entertainment" are appreciated solely by the short-legged G crowd and matinee groupies, but this film with all of its truly talented acting, elaborate production numbers, and powerful song and dance is a milestone film

for anyone who loves to dream.

"It certainly has a universal story... a dream, and I think it'll appeal to people throughout the world," said cinematographer Richard Moore.

Over dinner last week at a Dallas restaurant, Moore laughed when asked if there exists any moral message or social comment in "Annie."

"Yes . . .," he said, "that whether you're rich or poor, it's nice to have money."



Ten-year-old Aileen Quinn was chosen from 8,000 hopefuls to play the part of Annie in the motion picture version of the cartoon strip. Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

The joy of incompetence

By Gregg Franzwa

I used to hate incompetence. Now I expect it. And in terms of the overall positive consequences for my insides I take this to be at least equivalent to ingesting vitamins, granola and soybeans every day. Back when I used to get upset at incompetence I was tense and I smoked too much. Now I'm definitely less tense.

When I say I expect incompetence I don't want to suggest some cheap cynicism about the human condition. I think incompetence is healthy and natural—like sex—from which it would seem to follow that incompetent sex is about as healthy and natural as humans ever get. And surely that's a reassuring conclusion.

In what follows, then, I would like to share a few tips and anecdotes from my new book, *Winning with Incompetence*. I hope that the reader will be able (as I have) to mellow out in the face of the world's screw-ups, as well as his own.

Granted, incompetence can be unsettling at times—even for those of us who are healthy and well-adjusted about it. If, for example, you're lying on an operating table under a local anesthetic, and you hear your surgeon say, "Oops," you may very well lapse into a temporary state of incompetence anxiety (or an I-A State as I like to call them).

But even in such instances of near catastrophic screwing-up, you can maintain your composure. The first rule: don't assume the worst. The fact that you are still alive indicates at least that those around you are not bungling to their maximum

potentials. Remember, everyone is competent at something some of the time. You may be lucky; the situation may not deteriorate further.

The second rule for coping with incompetence: don't let it surprise you. Learn to recognize situations with a high *Incompetence Potential Rating* (the number of various possible screw-ups multiplied by the number of people involved.)

For example, situations that involve a change of routine are likely to have high IPR's. Driving into San Francisco for my first day of graduate school, I managed to back into someone on the Bay Bridge. It wasn't the first day I'd ever driven a car, mind you. Incompetence can bleed from one area to another. It was how to go to graduate school to get a degree in philosophy that I didn't have a handle on.

My apprehension about that showed up in forgetting how to drive. It was also a valuable lesson for the woman in the new Oldsmobile behind me, who learned that incompetence can turn up completely without warning and from totally unexpected sources. There isn't even a word for what I did to her (a backwards front-end collision).

On the first day of classes at another university, incompetence struck the fellow sitting next to me. There were 12 of us nervously situated around a seminar table (also used for ping-pong during off hours) listening to a famous old scholar rhapsodize about Kant. This intimidating old gentleman was in the midst of his 37th perfectly formed sentence when the poor soul sitting next to me attempted to

empty his pipe and inadvertently ignited a ping-pong ball in the ashtray. It burst dramatically into flame, whereupon he followed that opening gambit with an even more adroit maneuver, leaning over and blowing the tray full of smoldering ashes onto the vest, shirt and tie of the closest living replica of Immanuel Kant. (The student later left graduate school and joined his father in the damaged freight business.)

Some among us seem to be especially gifted in specific areas of incompetence. One friend of mine has been involved for years in what could accurately be described as all-out war with inanimate objects. He's a very bright fellow, who somehow manages to forget what he's doing at crucial moments of object-interaction. The cumulative damage he has inflicted to washing machines alone—on one occasion neglecting to remove the hangers prior to inserting the clothes—has been substantial.

Needless to say, driving with this individual compares unfavorably with leaping from a burning building as a means of transportation. His personal automotive history is a saga of twisted steel. It almost seems that each morning when he wakes up he has completely forgotten how to drive, painstakingly relearning on the way to work.

On the bright side, this makes his days positively ripe with the joy of discovery. But the hapless passenger, who has managed to recall overnight that red means stop, will find his whole life flashing before him six or eight times in as many blocks.

The most important thing to

remember in such instances is not to scream. A person in the midst of a fit of incompetence does not respond well to screaming. In fact, he's likely to panic and blow it on an even grander scale. Nor is it productive to hit the incompetent over the head with a shovel—the basic corporeal approach.

Rather, you should show the person that you understand—by laughing at him. Sincere, hearty laughter, accompanied by phrases like "you mindless buffoon," relieve whatever self-consciousness he may be feeling.

And this brings me to the third rule for coping with incompetence: don't encourage it. For example, when riding with the incompetence-prone driver, don't point out any landmarks but those that are, or are about to be, dead ahead of you. Don't bring up stressful topics such as ex-wives, death, gambling debts or pending legal actions. Don't induce performance pressure with remarks like "Are you sure you know where you're going?" or "Did you get your license in this country?" or "They'll still sell you insurance?" And don't under any circumstances allow such a driver to talk to people riding in the back seat.

In short, an overall rule for dealing with the incompetence-prone is: Don't distract them unless it would be fun to watch.

So, with these few simple rules in mind, you too can begin coping better with incompetence—even without quitting your present job. (For more tips on coping with incompetence, see my forthcoming book, *How to Profit from Other People's Screw-ups During the Coming Economic Downturn*.)

events etc.

Monday 5

Films Committee 6 p.m. Student Center Room 202.
Campus Crusade 8:30 p.m. Student Center Room 205.
ORL 9 a.m. Student Center Room 211.
Forums 4 p.m. Student Center Room 214.
International Students 6 p.m. Student Center Room 214.
Housing Reservations 8 a.m. Student Center Room 215.
Panhellenic 3:30 p.m. Student Center Room 218.
IFC 3:30 p.m. Student Center Room 222.
Advance Registration 8 a.m. Student Center Lounge.

Tuesday 6

TCU Today 4 p.m. Student Center Ballroom.
Traffic Appeals 11 a.m. Student Center Room 202.
Campus Chest 6 p.m. Student Center Room 202.
Creative Programming 5 p.m. Student Center Room 203.
Academic Affairs 6 p.m. Student Center Room 203.
Permanent Improvements 6 p.m. Student Center Room 204.
Student Affairs 5:30 p.m. Student Center Room 214.

University Ministries 7:45 a.m. Student Center Room 214.
Housing Reservations 8 a.m. Student Center Room 215.
Political Science 1 p.m. Student Center Room 218.
BSU 6 p.m. Student Center Room 218.
Travel Program 7:30 p.m. Student Center Room 218.
House of Reps 5 p.m. Student Center Room 222.
Advance Registration 8 a.m. Student Center Lounge.
Sigma Delta Chi 6 p.m. Moudy Bldg Room 264S.

Wednesday 7

Circle K Club 6 p.m. Student Center Room 202.
Parents' Weekend 4 p.m. Student Center Room 203.
Angel Flight 6 p.m. Student Center Room 203.
BSU 12:15 p.m. Student Center Room 204.
Homecoming Committee 4 p.m. Student Center Room 204.
Bible Study 8 p.m. Student Center Room 207.
Programming Council 5 p.m. Student Center Room 211.
Housing Reservations 8 a.m. Student Center Room 215.
Intercomm 2:30 p.m. Student Center Room 214.

Students

From page 2

be treated as equals to men.

"They're not for ERA. They're too used to being pampered and getting what they want," says Beltzer.

But she firmly disagrees with Miller on whether the ERA could ease discrimination in the job market.

Beltzer's roommate, sophomore Cathy Wuller, sees the ERA as more of a philosophical question.

"I think women are just using this amendment to fight against the males. And then, after they get it, they'll say they don't really want it. They'll say, 'We're still just girls.'"

"I don't know any woman—when it gets down to it—who doesn't like to be treated like a woman. I don't see why so much time is being spent on this legislation. People need something to fight for, and ERA's what women see as important to fight for now."

Regardless of whether or not they want the amendment passed, people seem to believe that the ERA, if nothing else, has prompted them to think about women and discrimination.

"If it doesn't pass," Miller says, "I

won't be upset. I'll be a bit disappointed, but I think the ERA has made people consider accepting the fact that they're going to have to face these problems. The times, they are a-changing."

Partridge says the amendment's best feature is its controversial nature. "It's made people think. They may not be ready to accept it now, but they probably will in the future."

And Glenn concurs.

"I would hope that through the ERA and the issues it brings up, we've formed opinions about discrimination against women in hiring, paying or general treatment."

Women's Lib may not be openly discussed much at TCU—and certainly not as much as it was in 1970—but students seem to have views on the ERA and its implications, even if these views are no more than gut feelings.

Indeed, something Wuller said sounds almost as if it could be a line lifted out of an early '70s protest song. She said:

"I can go for equal pay—But I sure don't wanna go to war."