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*Women cannot have equality without the ERA*

*(Another Viewpoint is* a *column The   
News-Herald makes available to its   
readers so all sides of issues may be   
aired .. Free expression, we believe, is   
essential to democracy. May* C.   
*Bana, president of the Ohio State   
Division of the American Association*

*University Women, lives at 671   
Walnut Drive in Euclid.)*

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Should I, as a wife, mother,   
grandmother and homemaker, be   
seeing that my copper-bottomed pans   
gleam and that my kitchen floor has a   
mirror-like polish or should I be   
reponding to the challenge of Ted   
Diadiun's asinine article, "Only the   
politicians benefit from ERA" in the   
Jan. 30 edition of The News-Herald?   
Fortunately, as a woman, I can do   
both!

As the elected president of the Ohio   
State Division of the American   
Association of University Women   
representing over 7,250 women in   
Ohio, and the official representative of   
190,000 members in the United States, I cannot just let that article go with a slow burn" on my part.

Certainly, I will defend Mr. Diadin’s   
right to speak his mind (which he

is more privileged to do as the   
managing editor of The News-Herald)   
than I am, as a subscriber and the   
signer of the vouchers that pay The   
News-Herald for the printing of our   
AAUW Quarterly Ohio State Division   
bulletins,

The American Association of   
University Women is the oldest (100   
years) and largest organization work-   
ing for the advancement of women.



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**Another Viewpoint**

By May C. Bana

Along with numerous other reputable   
and highly-respected organizations in   
their communities, AAUW has long   
supported with time and money the   
ratification of the Equal Rights   
Amendment.

Diadiun's tunnel vision description of ERA supporters reflects the same  
category of stereotyping common  
to all other biased journalists.   
I won't even argue the point that there   
are some as he described just as there   
are extremists on both sides of other   
issues. However, he needs to realize   
that there are thousands of men and   
women who know that to have   
equality, the Equal Rights Amendment   
must be in the Constitution.

Is he a constitutional scholar? If he   
were, he would realize that when the   
Constitution was written (although it   
said "People") it referred to the men   
not the women of this country. Women   
hold a "separate place" in the   
Constitution, defined as "the domestic

sphere properly belonging to the   
domain and functions of   
womanhood." The courts in interpret-   
ing the Constitution have consistently   
concluded that a woman was   
"properly placed in a class by herself."

Even though I agree with Mr.

Diadiun that in essence the 5th and   
14th Amendments should take care of   
any possible abridgement of woman's   
rights, in fact, it does not. Courts   
interpret the laws passed by legislative   
bodies in the frame of reference of   
social values and customs and attempt   
to reflect the intent of the lawmakers at   
the time the laws were enacted. Therein   
lies the fallacy of equality. It does not   
exist.

That is the reason the Constitution   
needs the Equal Rights Amendment   
because as it now stands, it does NOT   
guarantee equality to all people.

It was my privilege along with the   
State Division presidents of the other   
states to meet and talk with Senator   
Paul Tsongas and other senators on   
Capitol Hill last June. I take exception   
to Diadiun thinking for the con-   
gressmen and ascribing motives to their   
action in introducing the Equal Rights   
Amendment in the House of Represen-   
tatives and the Senate. 217 Represen-   
tatives, both Republican and Demo-   
crat, joined to co-sponsor the introduc-   
tion of the proposed amendment (H.J.   
Res. 1) on January 3. Senator Tsongas   
co-sponsored with 55 other Senators   
S.J. Res. 10 in the Senate on January   
25. Others have done so since and there   
is no "allegedly" about it.

Eleven Ohio Representatives includ-   
ing Reps. Dennis E. Eckart, Edward F.

Feighan, Mary Rose Oakar and Louis   
Stokes from this area did so, as did   
both Senators from Ohio, John Glenn   
and Howard Metzenbaum.

Believe me none of us that are pro-   
ERA have been "sold a bill of goods"   
and to say so indicates that Diadiun   
has sorely missed the point and   
purpose of ERA. The example of the   
5-foot, 2-inch, 110-pound woman   
firefighter further illustrates his hang-   
up. You see, I have much more   
confidence in those who hire   
firefighters than he has and the   
qualifications they require. We can be   
certain that if this mythical woman was   
hired and she appeared at the top of   
that building, she would be capable of   
rescuing him and he would be glad to   
accept her assistance. Just as my petite   
5-foot, l-inch, 90-pound daughter   
could rescue a 200-pound man from   
drowning.

Although my first inclination was to   
drop my subscription to The News-   
Herald, persuade other AAUW mem-   
bers to do so, and withdraw our   
business from The News-Herald, I will   
not do so because in working closely   
with other members of the staff, my   
bulletin editor and I have found and   
are sure, that they do not share the   
managing editor's opinion of ERA.

It remains to be seen, now, if this   
letter is printed in its entirety so that its   
meaning and intent is not   
misrepresented and whether or not The   
News-Herald defends my right to be   
heard. Your motto, I believe is:

"Search for the truth is the noblest   
occupation of man; it's publication is a   
duty." Prove it!

