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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!

