

# Marsh says ERA is necessary tool for women

By Leslie Boellstorff

If the Equal Rights Amendment is not ratified not all 50 states will examine their laws for sexual bias, State Sen. Shirley Marsh said Tuesday.

Speaking to the Lincoln chapter of the National Organization of Women, Marsh said that outside pressure is needed in those states unwilling to formally discuss the ERA and women's rights. Without the amendment, governments at all levels — federal, state and local — have not yet taken appropriate steps to ensure equality for women, she said.

"The ERA is one of the tools we need. It is not a magic answer, but it will help with some of the hurdles before us," Marsh said.

Thus far, 35 states have ratified the ERA. This total includes Nebraska, which later rescinded its ratification. Marsh said that rescision will probably be disallowed

because states in the past tried to rescind ratification of two different amendments which are not part of the constitution.

Though she did not identify the source of the statistic, Marsh said that 63 percent of the American public now favors the ERA. If three more states ratify within the seven months remaining for ratification, bringing the total to the minimum requirement of 38, the courts will decide the matter. If five or six ratify, it will be a moot question, she said.

It will be easier to ratify the amendment within the next seven months than to get another extension of the June 30, 1982 deadline, or start all over again in Congress, Marsh added.

Marsh said she often is asked why she favors the ERA, because people say as a state senator, she "has it made." She explained that she achieved what she has through the assistance of men and women. She credited her success to her education,

supportive family and friends, as well as helpful members of the Nebraska Legislature.

She said she wants to pass on the "chain of helpfulness" to women who don't have such advantages.

"Not all states are as progressive as Nebraska," Marsh said. She briefly described the status of the ERA in states which have not ratified the amendment, such as Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina and South Carolina.

She attributed the problems in several states to balking senates. In the Illinois Senate, which requires a three-fifths majority to pass legislation, ERA has failed eight times, she said. Because of a few

powerful senators in strategic positions, the amendment has not passed in either Florida or Virginia.

Marsh said that passage in one of these states could create a snowball effect, encouraging other states to ratify the amendment. But she said money is probably the biggest problem ERA supporters have to face.

"Money has kept the ERA from being passed already," Marsh said. She urged ERA supporters to devote time and money to promoting the amendment. She suggested supporters call friends and relatives in states where the ERA has not been ratified to ask them to contact their state representatives. She also encouraged pro-ERA notes be sent in Christmas cards.

## short stuff

The Health Center Board will meet today at 11 a.m. at the University Health Center. All are welcome.

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There will be a meeting of the Undergraduate Sociology Association today at 4 p.m. in Oldfather Hall 707.

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Student Recreation Association will meet tonight at 6 in the South Conference room of Mabel Lee Hall.

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New Student Orientation Student Host applications are due Friday, Dec. 4.

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Information about summer 1982 internships in the physical sciences, life sciences, environmental science, computer science and science writing at Argonne National Laboratory is available from Coordinator for Experiential Education Oldfather Hall 1218, 472-1452. Application deadline is Feb. 1, 1982.

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The UNL Wildlife Club will hold elections and a wild game feed Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the University Lutheran Chapel, 16th and Q streets.

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